



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

APRC/18/REP

# REPORT

Nadi  
Fiji  
9-13 April 2018

## **Thirty-fourth Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific**



The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by FAO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.

The views expressed in this information product are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of FAO.

© FAO, 2018

FAO encourages the use, reproduction and dissemination of material in this information product. Except where otherwise indicated, material may be copied, downloaded and printed for private study, research and teaching purposes, or for use in non-commercial products or services, provided that appropriate acknowledgement of FAO as the source and copyright holder is given and that FAO's endorsement of users' views, products or services is not implied in any way.

All requests for translation and adaptation rights, and for resale and other commercial use rights should be made via [www.fao.org/contact-us/licence-request](http://www.fao.org/contact-us/licence-request) or addressed to [copyright@fao.org](mailto:copyright@fao.org).

FAO information products are available on the FAO website ([www.fao.org/publications](http://www.fao.org/publications)) and can be purchased through [publications-sales@fao.org](mailto:publications-sales@fao.org).



*FAO Member Nations in the Asia and the Pacific Region*

Afghanistan	Kazakhstan	Philippines
Australia	Kiribati	Republic of Korea
Bangladesh	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Russian Federation
Bhutan	Malaysia	Samoa
Brunei-Darussalam	Maldives	Singapore
Cambodia	Marshall Islands	Solomon Islands
China	Micronesia (Federated States of)	Sri Lanka
Cook Islands	Mongolia	Thailand
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Myanmar	Timor-Leste
Fiji	Nauru	Tonga
France	Nepal	Tuvalu
India	New Zealand	United States of America
Indonesia	Niue	Uzbekistan
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Pakistan	Vanuatu
Japan	Palau	Viet Nam
	Papua New Guinea	

*Date and place of the Sessions of the FAO Regional Conferences for Asia and the Pacific*

First	- Bangalore, India, 27 July – 5 August 1953
Second	- Kandy, Ceylon, 20-25 June 1955
Third	- Bandung, Indonesia, 8-18 October 1956
Fourth	- Tokyo, Japan, 6-16 October 1958
Fifth	- Saigon, Republic of Viet Nam, 21-30 November 1960
Sixth	- Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 15-29 September 1962
Seventh	- Manila, Philippines, 7-21 November 1964
Eighth	- Seoul, Republic of Korea, 15-24 September 1966
Ninth	- Bangkok, Thailand, 4-15 November 1968
Tenth	- Canberra, Australia, 27 August – 8 September 1970
Eleventh	- New Delhi, India, 17-27 October 1972
Twelfth	- Tokyo, Japan, 17-27 September 1974
Thirteenth	- Manila, Philippines, 5-13 August 1976
Fourteenth	- Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 25 July – 3 August 1978
Fifteenth	- New Delhi, India, 5-13 March 1980
Sixteenth	- Jakarta, Indonesia, 1-11 June 1982
Seventeenth	- Islamabad, Pakistan, 24 April – 3 May 1984
Eighteenth	- Rome, Italy, 8-17 July 1986
Nineteenth	- Bangkok, Thailand, 11-15 July 1988
Twentieth	- Beijing, China, 23-27 April 1990
Twenty-first	- New Delhi, India, 10-14 February 1992
Twenty-second	- Manila, Philippines, 3-7 October 1994
Twenty-third	- Apia, Western Samoa, 14-18 May 1996
Twenty-fourth	- Yangon, Myanmar, 20-24 April 1998
Twenty-fifth	- Yokohama, Japan, 28 August-1 September 2000
Twenty-sixth	- Kathmandu, Nepal, 13-15 May 2002
Twenty-seventh	- Beijing, China, 17-21 May 2004
Twenty-eighth	- Jakarta, Indonesia, 15-19 May 2006
Twenty-ninth	- Bangkok, Thailand, 26-31 March 2009
Thirtieth	- Gyeongju, Republic of Korea, 27 September-1 October 2010
Thirty-first	- Hanoi, Viet Nam, 12-16 March 2012
Thirty-second	- Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 10-14 March 2014
Thirty-third	- Putrajaya, Malaysia, 7-11 March 2016
Thirty-fourth	- Nadi, Fiji, 9-13 April 2018



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Pages</b>
<b>SUMMARY OF MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS</b> .....	iii
	<b>Paragraphs</b>
<b>I. Introductory Items</b>	
Organization of the Conference.....	1-2
Senior Officers Meeting and Inaugural Ceremonies.....	3-4
Election of Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteurs.....	5-8
Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable.....	9
Statement by the Director-General.....	10
Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council.....	11
Statement by the Chairperson of the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific.....	12
Statement by the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) .....	13
Statement by the Spokesperson of the Civil Society Consultation.....	14
<b>II. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Issues</b>	
A. State of Food and Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific Region, including Future Prospects and Emerging Issues .....	15-17
B. Climate Action for Agriculture: Strengthening the Engagement of Agriculture Sectors to Implement the Climate Change Elements of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific.....	18-20
C. Accelerating Action on Food Security and Nutrition in Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) .....	21-23
D. Addressing Food Safety Challenges of the Asia-Pacific Region.....	24-26
<b>III. Programme and Budget Matters</b>	
A. Results and Priorities for FAO Activities in the Region.....	27-29
B. Decentralized Offices Network.....	30-31
C. Prioritization of Country and Regional Needs.....	32-43

#### **IV. Other Matters**

A. Celebrating 40 years of FAO's country Representations in Asia and the Pacific.....	44-45
B. Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2016-2019 for the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific.....	46-47
C. Ministerial Round Table on Zero Hunger.....	48
D. Date and Place of the 35 <sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific.....	49
E. Concluding Items	
Adoption of the Report.....	50
Closure of the Regional Conference.....	51-52

#### **Pages**

#### **Appendices**

A. Agenda.....	11
B. List of Documents.....	12-13



## SUMMARY OF MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

### SUMMARY OF MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

#### *MATTERS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL*

- *Results and Priorities for FAO Activities in the Region* (Paragraphs 28 ii, iii, iv, vi, vii and 29 i to vii)
- *Decentralized Offices Network* (Paragraphs 31 ii to v and viii)
- *Prioritization of Country and Regional Needs* (Paragraphs 33 to 38, and 40, 41)
- *Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2016-2019 for the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific* (Paragraph 47)
- *Date and Place of the 35th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific* (Paragraph 49)

#### *MATTERS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF THE CONFERENCE*

- *State of Food and Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific Region, including Future Prospects and Emerging Issues* (Paragraphs 16 iii, iv, vi, vii, and 17 iv, v, vii, viii)
- *Climate Action for Agriculture: Strengthening the Engagement of Agriculture Sectors to Implement the Climate Change Elements of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific* (Paragraphs 19 i, iii, vi, vii, and 20 iii, iv, v)
- *Accelerating Action on Food Security and Nutrition in Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS)* (Paragraphs 22 iii, iv, v, and 23 i, ii, iii)
- *Addressing Food Safety Challenges of the Asia-Pacific Region* (Paragraphs 24, 25 ii, iii, iv, and 26 iii, iv, v and vi)



## I. Introductory Items

### **Organization of the Conference**

1. The 34th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC) was held in Nadi, Fiji, from 9 to 13 April 2018. The Conference was organized in two parts: a Senior Officers Meeting from 9 to 11 April and a Ministerial-level Meeting from 12 to 13 April.
2. Representatives from 35 Members participated in the Regional Conference. Observers from one non-Member, 14 international non-governmental organizations and four intergovernmental organizations were in attendance. Representatives of five other United Nations organizations also participated.

### **Senior Officers Meeting and Inaugural Ceremonies**

3. Ms Kundhavi Kadiresan, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative of FAO, and the Honourable Inia B. Seruiratu, Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management of the Republic of Fiji, presented opening addresses to the Senior Officers Meeting. Ms Kadiresan expressed her appreciation for the excellent support from the Government of Fiji in hosting the meeting. She reflected on the impressive progress made in the Asia-Pacific region in dramatically reducing extreme poverty and reducing hunger, and while noting the many challenges that remain, pointed out the opportunities presented by the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Honourable Inia B. Seruiratu welcomed delegates and participants to Fiji and formally opened the Senior Officers Meeting. He highlighted the importance of regional cooperation and partnership in enhancing food security and nutrition throughout the region. He also stressed the need to build resilience and implement strategies for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and mitigation.
4. The inaugural ceremony of the Ministerial Meeting was held on 12 April. His Excellency Jioji Konousi Konrote, President of the Republic of Fiji, stressed that the achievement of SDGs 1 and 2 should be on the top of the agenda for FAO and countries in the region. His Excellency noted the challenges to achieving food and nutrition security, including the necessity of providing access and availability of healthy diets to combat the triple burden of malnutrition. President Konrote highlighted the adverse impact of climate change and of frequent natural disasters, and urged increased investment through effective partnerships in agriculture, building resilience to climate change through sustainable agriculture, and effective use of biodiversity for reducing poverty.

### **Election of Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteurs**

5. Delegates unanimously elected Mr David Kolitagane, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture of the Government of the Republic of Fiji, as Chairperson of the Senior Officers Meeting. Delegates also elected all of the other Heads of Delegation as Vice-Chairpersons of the meeting.
6. Delegates unanimously elected the Honourable Inia B. Seruiratu, Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management and Meteorological Services of the Republic of Fiji as Chairperson of the Ministerial meeting. All Heads of Delegation at Ministerial level were elected as Vice-Chairpersons of the Ministerial Meeting.
7. Delegates unanimously elected Mr Rapibhat Chandarasrivongs, Assistant Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Government of the Kingdom of Thailand, to serve as Rapporteur of the Senior Officers Meeting.
8. Delegates unanimously elected Mr M. Badrul Arefin, Director-General, Food Planning and Monitoring Unit, Ministry of Food, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to serve as Rapporteur of the Ministerial Meeting.

### **Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable**

9. The Meeting adopted the Agenda which is provided in *Appendix A*. Documents submitted to the Meeting are listed in *Appendix B*.

### **Statement by the Director-General**

10. Mr José Graziano da Silva, Director-General of FAO, delivered his statement to the Regional Conference, outlining the progress that had been made in reducing hunger in the region, while stressing that the Asia-Pacific region was still home to the largest number of hungry and malnourished people in the world. He highlighted that the elimination of hunger alone was not enough, all forms of malnutrition needed to be eradicated. He stressed that adaptation and resilience were vital for sustainable development and especially for rural communities and family farmers where poverty and hunger were still concentrated. He also emphasized FAO's efforts to support Members in implementing effective social protection programmes, climate smart agriculture practices, strengthening the capacities of family farmers and adaptation of food systems to climate change and natural disasters. He also emphasized the importance of the Global Action Plan (GAP) on Food Security and Nutrition in meeting the needs and priorities of the Pacific countries and the Green Climate Fund in realizing the 2030 Agenda. The Director General emphasized two main topics during his speech: overweight and obesity, and climate change.

### **Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council**

11. The statement of Mr Khalid Mehboob, Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council was delivered in his absence by Mr Jong-Jin Kim, Conference Secretary, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. Mr Mehboob's statement emphasized the unique role of the Regional Conference in defining FAO policies and priorities for the region, and the opportunity for enhancing the quality and effectiveness of FAO's decentralized offices within the framework of the Organization's Strategic Objectives and the SDGs. He also urged countries to deliberate carefully and in detail on key issues so that the FAO Council and Conference could accord due consideration in the subsequent meetings.

### **Statement by the Chairperson of the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific**

12. Mr Mohd Sallehuddin Hassan, Deputy Secretary-General, Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry of Malaysia, representing the Chairperson of the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, reminded the Conference of the recommendations of the previous session, and briefed delegates on subsequent activities to bring these recommendations to the attention of the FAO Conference and Council.

### **Statement by the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)**

13. His Excellency Mario Arvelo Caamaño, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to FAO reported on the accomplishments of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) over the past two years and the relevance of this work to the FAO Regional Conference, particularly noting the endorsement of proceedings of the 44th session of the CFS (<http://www.fao.org/3/a-mv030e.pdf>). He stressed that the CFS was the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to work together to ensure food security and nutrition for all. The CFS was actively working with countries on important issues that affected food security and nutrition through the development of key knowledge products such as the voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security and the principles for responsible investment in agriculture and food systems.

### **Statement by the Spokesperson of the Civil Society Consultation**

14. Ms Maria Linibi, President of Papua New Guinea Women in Agriculture, summarized the views of the civil society organizations for the Regional Conference. She emphasized the need to respect the rights and interests of small farmers, landless peoples, rural women, fishers, agricultural workers, pastoralists and herders, indigenous peoples, consumers and youth in all aspects of agricultural development.

## **II. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Issues**

### **A. State of Food and Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific Region, including Future Prospects and Emerging Issues**

15. The Regional Conference reviewed the state of food and agriculture in the region and considered future prospects and emerging issues within the framework of the SDGs.

16. The Regional Conference:

- i. Recognized that the Asia and Pacific region had achieved rapid growth in food production that has significantly reduced hunger and malnutrition in the last three decades;
- ii. Acknowledged the role being played by Her Royal Highness Princess Mahachakri Sirindhorn of the Kingdom of Thailand as FAO's Goodwill Ambassador for the Zero Hunger Challenge in many countries of the region;
- iii. Appreciated the progress made in the region in reducing hunger and malnutrition but expressed concern over continued high levels of undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies as well as the rising incidence of obesity and overweight;
- iv. Noted that a key challenge for the region's governments was to bring about sustainable intensification of agriculture in order to feed the growing population and that agro-ecological methods, agricultural diversification, reduction of food loss and waste, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) tools were some of the relevant strategies;
- v. Highlighted the importance of a food systems approach to tackle the triple burden of malnutrition involving multiple stakeholders and sectors;
- vi. Acknowledged the efforts made by several governments in the region to put in place national nutrition strategies and investment plans, and emphasized the need for stimulating investment in agriculture research and agricultural and rural infrastructure through public-private partnerships and South-South and Triangular Cooperation;
- vii. Underlined the need to ensure that food system interventions were gender-sensitive, taking women's and men's different needs and opportunities into account.

17. The Regional Conference recommended that FAO:

- i. Support governments in developing policy instruments that bolster agriculture growth through sustainable practices and drive innovation, productivity and profitability;
- ii. Assist governments in the development of tools and practices for better management of natural resources, including soil and water;
- iii. Provide assistance to support rural households, especially smallholders and family farmers, to increase their incomes and enhance their well-being;

- iv. Support governments in strengthening comprehensive policies for family farmers, in the context of the UN Decade of Family Farming, and help harness their full potential to contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda;
- v. Develop nutrition-sensitive food systems approaches that foster an enabling environment for mainstreaming nutrition through agriculture and food chain actions;
- vi. Provide assistance on improving social protection, nutrition planning and nutrition education;
- vii. Assist countries in identifying partnership opportunities between the public and private sectors, including South-South Cooperation and other mechanisms;
- viii. Support countries on sustainable fisheries and other actions to prevent illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

## **B. Climate Action for Agriculture: Strengthening the Engagement of Agriculture Sectors to Implement the Climate Change Elements of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific**

18. The Regional Conference reviewed the paper on climate action for agriculture.
19. The Regional Conference:
  - i. Recognized the importance of enhanced climate action in the agriculture sector in order to strengthen the resilience of food systems and moderate sector-specific drivers of anthropogenic climate change;
  - ii. Highlighted the role of the 2030 Agenda, including the SDGs, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, as a basis for action at national and global levels;
  - iii. Underlined that countries from Asia and the Pacific have prioritized actions, including disaster risk management, climate change adaptation as well as mitigation in the agriculture sector as core elements of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and implementation plans under the 2030 Agenda;
  - iv. Acknowledged that as countries move to implement the 2030 Agenda there are a number of strategies available to enhance sector-based action in addressing climate change risks and opportunities in agriculture;
  - v. Noted the importance of promoting sustainable agricultural production through agro-ecological methods, increasing biodiversity, and supporting Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) as well as biotechnologies;
  - vi. Supported the efforts of FAO, including the FAO Strategy on Climate Change and the Regional Initiative on Climate Change, to assist Members to scale up climate action for agriculture;
  - vii. Noted the establishment of the Special Fund for Development Finance Activities (SFDFA) as a tool to enable the Organization to engage proactively with global funds and International Financial Institutions (IFIs), including regional development banks, to meet the growing technical assistance needs of Members;
  - viii. Noted that the 2018-2019 biennial theme *Climate change and its impact on the work and activities of FAO* was timely in light of recent global developments, particularly the decision on the Koronivia joint work on agriculture, a key milestone for FAO's future work resulting from the 23rd Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
20. The Regional Conference recommended that FAO:
  - i. Assist countries in strengthening sector-specific contributions under the 2030 Agenda;

- ii. Assist countries in enhancing systems for monitoring and reporting sector activities in a transparent manner;
- iii. Work with countries to develop public and private sector partnerships and collaborate in the design, financing and implementation of sector-specific activities;
- iv. Facilitate access of countries to climate finance for investment in national priority actions to address risks and opportunities for agriculture identified in NDCs, agri-Sendai implementation plans and other climate change policies and strategies;
- v. Continue to support countries in integrating agriculture into their national policies, strategies and programmes for climate change and disaster risk reduction and management.

### **C. Accelerating Action on Food Security and Nutrition in Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS)**

21. The Regional Conference reviewed the nutrition situation and deliberated on the elements of accelerating action on food security and nutrition in the Pacific SIDS.
22. The Regional Conference:
  - i. Welcomed the joint communiqué of the First Joint FAO and SPC Pacific Week of Agriculture comprising Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry held in Port Vila, Vanuatu on 20 October 2017;
  - ii. Recognized the efforts made to accelerate the implementation of the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition (GAP) in SIDS in the Pacific through the development of a Pacific Framework for the GAP;
  - iii. Recognized the important role the Pacific Framework would play to promote the mobilization of financial resources through mechanisms focused on adaptation to climate change and economic shocks, improvement of agricultural production and market development, and improvement of food security and nutrition;
  - iv. Acknowledged FAO's initial programme support under the Interregional Initiative (IRI) for SIDS and encouraged FAO to sustain the momentum built through this initial support and to look beyond 2018, while ensuring alignment of the IRI activities with joint efforts of governments of Pacific Members and partners;
  - v. Welcomed efforts made through South-South Cooperation and other modalities of collaboration, and encouraged FAO to continue to work closely with regional and international actors, and operationalize a robust and inclusive coordination mechanism in order to realize the goals of the Pacific Framework.
23. The Regional Conference recommended that FAO:
  - i. Provide technical assistance to develop specific solutions customized to the Pacific SIDS;
  - ii. Establish a regional network within the IRI in partnership with other agencies and development partners to effectively implement actions for food security and nutrition derived from the GAP;
  - iii. Deliver coordinated multisectoral actions through a sustainable food systems approach for healthy diets.

### **D. Addressing Food Safety Challenges of the Asia-Pacific Region**

24. The Regional Conference reviewed the challenges to food safety in the region, its strong links to nutrition and trade and its importance in the context of the Regional Initiative on One Health.

25. The Regional Conference:
- i. Recognized that ensuring food safety was essential for safeguarding public health, improving nutrition and vital for the well-being and productivity of populations in the region;
  - ii. Supported the focus of FAO's programme assistance to strengthen national food safety control systems to ensure safe food for all consumers and facilitate national and international trade;
  - iii. Acknowledged the diverse nature of food safety hazards and risks among countries of Asia and the Pacific and the need for programmes that were tailored to the country and the subregional context;
  - iv. Emphasized the importance of increasing public and private partnerships and investments for enhancing food safety in domestic markets;
  - v. Welcomed FAO's assistance to countries to modernize food safety systems consistent with a risk-based approach;
  - vi. Noted that the roll-out of the 2018-2019 Regional Initiative for One Health was opportune and its approach to complex and multisectoral issues would ensure that effective and harmonized controls could be put in place across local, national, regional and global chains.
26. The Regional Conference recommended that FAO:
- i. Integrate and mainstream food safety and nutrition in agriculture and food systems work;
  - ii. Strengthen tripartite collaboration between OIE, WHO and FAO, and reinforce capacities of countries to implement arrangements consistent with Codex Alimentarius and International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) standards;
  - iii. Provide guidance on the design, develop capacity and modernize regulatory and control frameworks for food safety in the region and continue work on the development of food safety indicators;
  - iv. Use One Health strategies to reduce food-borne illnesses, transboundary animal and plant diseases, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and chemical residues and foster an enabling environment for voluntary standards and codes of practice in the Asia region;
  - v. Expand food safety interventions and One Health approaches in the Pacific towards reduction of health risks from food-borne parasites, use of chemicals and effective risk-based import control;
  - vi. Encourage a milieu for research and innovation that empowers industry, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and smallholders, to incorporate best international practices and voluntary standards as well as securing food safety certification for improved market access.

### **III. Programme and Budget Matters**

#### **A. Results and Priorities for FAO Activities in the Region**

27. The Regional Conference considered the report on results and priorities for FAO activities in Asia and the Pacific, covering achievements in 2016-2017 and proposed actions in 2018-2019 and beyond.
28. The Regional Conference:
- i. Recognized the importance of the Strategic Framework in providing direction for FAO's technical work to address priorities in the region and in ensuring effective delivery of results at country level;



- ii. Welcomed the actions taken and the results achieved in 2016-2017 in addressing regional challenges, through more focused Country Programming Frameworks and through the Regional Initiatives contributing to achievement of FAO's Strategic Objectives and supporting Members to achieve their SDGs;
  - iii. Supported the important contribution of the Strategic Programmes to the delivery of normative products and services, such as standards, voluntary guidelines and legal instruments, at country and regional levels;
  - iv. Welcomed FAO's adoption of a food system approach when addressing the food security and nutrition challenges in the region;
  - v. Acknowledged the activities implemented through programmatic and multisectoral approaches and their impact on tackling complex nutrition and food security matters;
  - vi. Underlined the need for continuity in the strategic direction of the Organization and welcomed the alignment of FAO's Strategic Objectives with the 2030 Agenda indicators;
  - vii. Urged countries to take over key regional platforms such as Dairy Asia and the Soil Partnership that are currently being sustained through FAO's assistance.
29. The Regional Conference recommended that FAO:
- i. Accelerate the implementation of the five Regional Initiatives on Zero Hunger; Blue Growth; the Interregional Initiative on Small Island Developing States for the Pacific; Climate Change; and One Health to place food security and nutrition, the reduction of rural poverty, and sustainable agriculture and food systems at the centre of FAO's agenda in the region for the 2018-2019 biennium;
  - ii. Continue to emphasize the priority areas recommended by the previous Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, including nutrition and food safety; inclusive value chain development; food waste and loss; transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases; sustainable production and resilience in the context of climate change; and data and analysis for decision-making, monitoring and evaluation;
  - iii. Support countries in other identified priority areas: agricultural productivity and diversification; GIAHS; ecosystem services and biodiversity; risk reduction and resilience building; innovation and technologies; sustainable soil and water management; empowerment of rural women and girls; capacity development for statistics collection, SDG monitoring and reporting; and the Port State Measures Agreement and the combating of IUU for sustainable fisheries;
  - iv. Ensure its technical expertise is in line with the needs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, also in order to achieve the FAO Strategic Objectives, including rejuvenating and re-profiling its workforce in terms of skills, gender parity and geographical representation. This should not impact the immediate capacity of decentralized offices to meet the needs of countries and should be consistent with relevant United Nations guidance as well as its specific requirements as a United Nations specialized agency;
  - v. Accelerate the integration of the GAP into key Pacific regional fora and introduce new/enhanced collaboration with partners for improving food security and nutrition in the Pacific;
  - vi. Implement analytical work to address the challenges of the triple burden of malnutrition in the Asia-Pacific region;
  - vii. Work with Members in collaboration and partnership with subregional, regional and international institutions to provide policy advice and capacity development as well as to build on FAO's normative and standard-setting work.

## **B. Decentralized Offices Network**

30. The Regional Conference considered the document on the Decentralized Offices Network.
31. The Regional Conference:
  - i. Supported the principles and general criteria for reviewing FAO's decentralized network coverage through the adoption of flexible arrangements as agreed by the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific and the 154th Session of the Council;
  - ii. Recognized the need to review FAO's global coverage to provide effective support to Members according to needs and in consultation with governments of concerned countries, recognizing the specific concerns of the Pacific and allowing sufficient time for consultations;
  - iii. Welcomed the review of country office staffing models to ensure adequate flexibility with adjustments to the emerging needs of countries;
  - iv. Noted an interest in addressing the language requirements that were in place for the recruitment of consultants;
  - v. Welcomed strengthening of the internal control systems and expressed appreciation for Management's efforts in this respect;
  - vi. Welcomed the efforts to seek efficiencies and savings, including in the area of administration and travel costs, and welcomed Management's commitment to continue to pursue such efforts;
  - vii. Acknowledged the efforts made to strengthen national and international partnerships with key stakeholders for more effective field support;
  - viii. Underlined the ongoing need to prioritize partnerships and increase resource mobilization at the decentralized level, with emphasis on South-South and Triangular Cooperation, and to continue close collaboration with Rome-based and other UN agencies.

## **C. Prioritization of Country and Regional Needs**

32. The Ministerial-level session of the Regional Conference, convened from 12 to 13 April, including 10 Ministers, 45 Vice-Ministers and other high-level delegates. Ministers and other high-level delegates highlighted the many challenges countries faced in achieving food and nutrition security for all people of the region and underscored the recommendations of the Senior Officers Meeting as elaborated in the respective sections of this report.
33. The Regional Conference underscored that food security and nutrition are fundamental requisites for national and global stability and the sustainable socio-economic development of every country. Ministers noted the role of traditional foods and balanced diets and their importance for indigenous communities.
34. The Ministers and delegates particularly highlighted the challenges related to the adverse effects of climate change, frequent natural disasters, environmental degradation, increasing demands on land and water resources, changing demographics affecting the agriculture sector and animal and plant pests and diseases.
35. The Ministers and delegates emphasized capacity-building, research and development technology transfer, robust data collection and analyses, agriculture statistics, sound agricultural policies and strategies, infrastructure development and increased investment in the agriculture sector as key needs.
36. The Ministers and delegates stressed the need to increase sustainable agricultural production and productivity, reduce food loss and waste, and facilitate transparent, open and efficient trade of food to accelerate progress towards food security and nutrition in the region. The importance of developing effective food value chains and enhancing food safety and quality were highlighted.

37. The Regional Conference emphasized the importance of the SDGs, the Paris Climate Change Agreement and the Sendai Framework in guiding future actions in agriculture, food security and nutrition, and welcomed alignment of FAO's Strategic Objectives with the SDGs.
38. The Regional Conference recognized progress made in implementing the five Regional Initiatives in the 2016-2017 biennium and expressed strong support for the Regional Initiatives on Zero Hunger; Blue Growth; the Interregional Initiative on Small Island Developing States for the Pacific; Climate Change; and One Health in the 2018-2019 biennium.
39. The Ministers and delegates recognized the important roles of smallholders, family farmers and fishers in contributing to food security and nutrition and called for efforts to enhance their capacity to more effectively link with modern value chains.
40. Mainstreaming of gender equality including greater recognition of the important role played by women in agriculture and fisheries and their further empowerment was encouraged. Ministers and delegates recognized that uplifting the quality of life in rural areas to retain youth in agricultural activities were also important.
41. Recognizing the evolving nature of agriculture and rural economies, Ministers and delegates highlighted the importance of expanding rural livelihoods by building capacity for increased value-added processing and distribution of agricultural products, rural tourism and other off-farm employment.
42. Ministers and delegates highlighted the importance of mobilizing investment and strengthening collaboration with partner organizations at global, regional and national levels, including with research institutions, multilateral development institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector and other regional and international organizations. The value of regional sharing of knowledge, experiences and expertise, including through South-South Cooperation, was particularly emphasized.
43. The Regional Conference appreciated the steps taken to decentralize roles, responsibilities, authorities and resources, and urged FAO to continue such decentralization efforts, whilst improving the technical capacity of the Organization.

## IV. Other Matters

### A. Celebrating 40 years of FAO's country Representations in Asia and the Pacific

44. The celebration of the 40th anniversary of FAO country offices in ten country representations in the region recognized the many achievements made through FAO's long-term presence in the field over the past four decades<sup>1</sup>. Looking forward, FAO's decentralized operations will continue to strengthen opportunities for resource mobilization and partnerships, including South-South and Triangular Cooperation, and to provide technical expertise in support of Members' achievement of the SDGs.
45. The Regional Conference:
- i. Appreciated the strong focus and work of the Organization at country level through achievements highlighted in the celebration of the 40th anniversary of many FAO Representations in the region;
  - ii. Welcomed the 40th anniversary initiative as an opportunity to renew the Organization's commitment to its long-term presence in the field.

---

<sup>1</sup> Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam.

## **B. Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2016-2019 for the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific**

46. The Meeting reviewed the draft Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2016-2019 for the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific.

47. The Meeting endorsed the MYPOW for the 2016-2019 period to frame the work of the Regional Conference, encouraged regular and systematic review of the performance and efficiency of the conference, and looked forward to receiving a report at its next session.

## **C. Ministerial Round Table on Zero Hunger**

48. An informal Ministerial Round Table on Zero Hunger including Rome-based Agencies was convened on 12 April.

## **D. Date and Place of the 35th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific**

49. The Meeting recommended the acceptance of the offer of the Royal Government of Bhutan to host the 35th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific in 2020.

## **E. Concluding Items**

### **Adoption of the Report**

50. The Regional Conference unanimously adopted the report as presented by the Rapporteur.

### **Closure of the Regional Conference**

51. On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Fiji, the Honourable Inia B. Seruiratu, Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management and Meteorological Services, thanked the participants for their positive contributions, which had led to the success of the Regional Conference. The Minister subsequently declared the Conference closed.

52. Participants expressed their appreciation to the people and Government of Fiji for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements in hosting the Regional Conference, and to FAO for the efficient preparation and organization.

**APPENDIX A****Agenda****I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS**

1. Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Appointment of Rapporteur
2. Adoption of Agenda and Timetable
3. Statement by the Director-General
4. Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council
5. Statement by the Chairperson of the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific
6. Statement by the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)
7. Statement by the Spokesperson of the Civil Society Consultation
8. Ministerial Round Table on Zero Hunger
9. Prioritization of Country and Regional Needs

**II. REGIONAL AND GLOBAL POLICY AND REGULATORY ISSUES**

10. State of Food and Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific Region, including Future Prospects and Emerging Issues
11. Climate Action for Agriculture: Strengthening the Engagement of Agriculture Sectors to Implement the Climate Change Elements of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific
12. Accelerating Action on Food Security and Nutrition in Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
13. Addressing Food Safety Challenges of the Asia-Pacific Region

**III. PROGRAMME AND BUDGET MATTERS**

14. Results and Priorities for FAO Activities in the Region
15. Decentralized Offices Network

**IV. OTHER MATTERS**

16. Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2016–2019 for the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific
17. Date and Place of the 35th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific
18. Any Other Matters

**Round Table on Imagining Future Healthy and Inclusive Food Systems in Asia and the Pacific**

**APPENDIX B****List of Documents**

<http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/regional-conferences/aprc34/documents/en/>

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Title</b>
APRC/18/1 Rev.1	Provisional Annotated Agenda
APRC/18/2	State of Food and Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific Region, including Future Prospects and Emerging Issues
APRC/18/3	Climate Action for Agriculture: Strengthening the Engagement of Agriculture Sectors to Implement the Climate Change Elements of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific
APRC/18/4	Accelerating Action on Food Security and Nutrition in Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
APRC/18/5	Addressing Food Safety Challenges of the Asia-Pacific Region
APRC/18/6	Results and Priorities for FAO Activities in the Region
APRC/18/6 Web Annex 1	Overview of FAO's Strategic Objective Programmes
APRC/18/6 Web Annex 2	Contribution of Results in the Asia and Pacific Region to FAO Strategic Objectives in the 2016-17 Biennium
APRC/18/6 Web Annex 3	Planned Contribution of Results in the Asia and Pacific Region to FAO Strategic Objective Output Targets in the 2018-19 biennium
APRC/18/7	Decentralized Offices Network
APRC/18/8	Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2016-2019 for the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific
APRC/18/9	Round Table on Imagining Future Healthy and Inclusive Food Systems in Asia and the Pacific

**INFORMATION DOCUMENTS**

APRC/18/INF/1 Rev.2	Provisional Timetable
APRC/18/INF/2 Rev.2	Provisional List of Documents
APRC/18/INF/3 Rev.1	Information Note
APRC/18/INF/4	Statement by the Director-General
APRC/18/INF/5	Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council
APRC/18/INF/6	Statement by the Chairperson of the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific
APRC/18/INF/7	Statement by the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)
APRC/18/INF/8	Statement by the Spokesperson of the Civil Society Consultation

---

APRC/18/INF/9	Report on the Outcome of the FAO Regional Meeting on Agricultural Biotechnologies in Sustainable Food Systems and Nutrition in Asia-Pacific
APRC/18/INF/10	Report on the Outcome of the Asia and the Pacific Symposium on Sustainable Food Systems for Healthy Diets and Improved Nutrition
APRC/18/INF/11	Ministerial Round Table on Zero Hunger
APRC/18/INF/12 Rev.1	Report on the Outcome of the First Joint FAO and SPC Pacific Week of Agriculture comprising Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry held in Port Vila, Vanuatu, on 20 October 2017

**WEB DOCUMENTS**

List of Delegates and Observers