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Food and Agriculture  
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Unies pour l'alimentation  
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Продовольственная и  
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Naciones Unidas para la  
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة  
الأغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

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# CONFERENCE

## Forty-first Session

Rome, 22-29 June 2019

## Report of the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Agriculture (Rome, 1-5 October 2018)

### Executive Summary

The 26th Session of the Committee on Agriculture brings to the attention of the Council and the Conference its findings and recommendations.

### Matters requiring the attention of the Council

The Council is invited to endorse the findings and recommendations of the Committee on Agriculture, and attention is drawn in particular to:

- *Sustainable pathways to engage food and agriculture for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, paragraph 7
- *Sustainable Food Systems*, paragraph 12
- *Agroecology: from advocacy to action*, paragraphs 13, 14 and 17
- *Revitalizing rural areas for youth*, paragraph 22
- *Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)*, paragraph 27
- *FAO's activities on livestock, including the proposal for a sub-committee on livestock*, paragraphs 29 and 30
- *Fall Armyworm in Africa: status, potential impacts and global response*, paragraph 35
- *Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG)*, paragraphs 44 and 45
- *Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform*, paragraphs 47, 48 and 49 d)
- *Implementation of the recommendations of the 25th Session of the Committee, including the outcome of the informal open-ended working group on food safety scientific advice programme*, paragraph 62
- *Proposal for an International Year of Fruits and Vegetables*, paragraph 67
- *Proposal for an International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste*, paragraph 68
- *Proposal for an International Year of Millets*, paragraph 69.

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**Matters requiring the attention of the Conference**

The Conference is invited to endorse the findings and recommendations of the Committee on Agriculture, and attention is drawn in particular to:

- *Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform*, paragraph 47
- *Update on the Global Soil Partnership, including the International Code for the Use and Management of Fertilizers*, paragraph 54
- *Proposal for an International Year of Fruits and Vegetables*, paragraph 67
- *Proposal for an International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste*, paragraph 68
- *Proposal for an International Year of Millets*, paragraph 69.

**Suggested action by Council and Conference**

The Council and Conference are invited to endorse the Report of the 26th Session of the Committee on Agriculture.

*Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:*

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## I. Introduction

1. The Committee on Agriculture (COAG) held its 26th Session at FAO Headquarters from 1 to 5 October 2018. Of the 125 Members of the Committee, 111 were present at the Session, including two Ministers. Seven Members of the Organization, the Holy See, Palestine, two intergovernmental organizations and 16 non-governmental organizations participated as observers. The list of participants and the list of documents are available at <http://www.fao.org/coag/en>.
2. Mr José Graziano da Silva, Director-General, addressed the Committee. H.E. Johann Schneider-Amman, Federal Counsellor, Head of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research of Switzerland, delivered a keynote address on innovations for sustainable food and agriculture.
3. The Committee was informed that the European Union was participating in accordance with paragraphs 8 and 9 of Article II of the FAO Constitution.
4. The Committee was assisted by a Drafting Committee composed of Australia, Austria, Brazil, Cameroon (chair), Canada, Chile, China, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Mexico, Russian Federation, South Sudan and Thailand.
5. The Committee adopted the Agenda and Timetable for the Session with one amendment proposed by Zimbabwe on behalf of the Africa Regional Group to include item 2.7 “Fall Armyworm in Africa: status, potential impacts and global response”.
6. The Agenda is reproduced in *Appendix B*.

## II. Sustainable Food and Agriculture

### A. Sustainable pathways to engage food and agriculture for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>1</sup>

7. The Committee welcomed the document prepared by the Secretariat and requested FAO to:
  - a) continue its support to countries in mainstreaming sustainable food and agriculture in the 2030 Agenda in an integrated way, e.g. through the related FAO guidelines to “Transforming food and agriculture to achieve the SDGs”;
  - b) reinforce its assistance to countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through integrated policy support, capacity building and strengthened collaborative multi-stakeholder partnerships;
  - c) enhance its support to smallholders and family farmers in adopting and scaling up productive and sustainable practices, particularly by promoting their access to resources, investment, decision making, technology and agricultural innovation;
  - d) develop a set of indicators and related statistics and tools relevant to sustainable food and agriculture and encourage their use by countries to measure and report on progress on SDGs implementation;

### B. Sustainable Food Systems<sup>2</sup>

8. The Committee welcomed FAO’s work on sustainable food systems. It acknowledged the need for a more integrated, multi-stakeholder approach to address the complex challenges of sustainable food systems development, taking into account the cultural dimension.
9. The Committee requested FAO to support governments, upon request, in adopting a sustainable food systems approach by strengthening capacities in the design and implementation of enabling policies, regulations and technological innovations

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<sup>1</sup> COAG/2018/3 Rev. 1 (English only)

<sup>2</sup> COAG/2018/4 Rev. 1

10. The Committee requested FAO to continue its support in strengthening strategic partnerships and platforms, notably the 10 YFP Sustainable Food Systems Programme.

11. The Committee encouraged FAO to increase its collaboration with other United Nations (UN) agencies and the Committee on Food Security (CFS) in supporting sustainable food systems development.

12. The Committee requested FAO, subject to resource availability, to take the lead in collaboration with relevant actors to develop voluntary codes of conduct on food loss and food waste to be submitted to the next session of COAG (COAG 27).

### **C. Agroecology: from advocacy to action<sup>3</sup>**

13. The Committee welcomed the Scaling up Agroecology Initiative and requested FAO to develop an action plan with partners, taking into account country needs and capacities.

14. The Committee supported the Ten Elements of Agroecology, as presented by FAO, as a guide to one of the ways to promote sustainable agriculture and food systems, as benefits each country's national context, and requested FAO to further revise them to reflect the discussions of this session (to be presented to the Council together with the COAG report).

15. The Committee requested FAO to continue applying agroecology as one of the approaches to implement the five principles of sustainable food and agriculture in support of the SDGs and to assist countries and regions to engage more effectively in the transition processes towards sustainable agriculture and food systems by:

- a) strengthening normative, science and evidence-based work on agroecology, developing metrics, tools and protocols to evaluate the contribution of agroecology and other approaches to the transformation of sustainable agriculture and food systems;
- b) catalysing scientific evidence and co-creation of knowledge and innovation to facilitate its dissemination; and
- c) providing policy and technical support to countries, upon their request, including capacity development of smallholders and family farmers.

16. The Committee requested FAO to continue exploring synergies and complementarities between agroecology and other approaches of sustainable food and agriculture.

17. The Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare, in collaboration with the Bureau, a draft resolution on the further integration of sustainable agricultural approaches, including agroecology, in the future planning activities of the Organization to be discussed in the next Council.

### **D. Revitalizing rural areas for youth<sup>4</sup>**

18. The Committee emphasized the importance of revitalizing rural areas for young women and men.

19. The Committee welcomed the document, noting the five action areas as strategic elements towards revitalizing rural areas for all youth.

20. The Committee supported greater leadership by the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) in assisting countries in creating decent rural employment opportunities and green jobs for youth through agricultural education systems, Information Communications Technology, training, and scaling up research and development.

21. The Committee stressed the need to strengthen the role of youth through education, entrepreneurship, access to markets and services, co-financing, capacity building and rural-based youth organizations.

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<sup>3</sup> COAG/2018/5

<sup>4</sup> COAG/2018/6

22. The Committee requested FAO in collaboration with the other RBAs and the International Labour Organization to develop a rural youth action plan, based on existing instruments, to be submitted to the next session of the COAG (COAG 27).

### **E. Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)<sup>5</sup>**

23. The Committee noted with appreciation the achievements of the GIAHS programme and acknowledged the work of FAO and countries on GIAHS while recognizing the role of the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) of GIAHS.

24. The Committee requested FAO and the SAG to continue developing and refining criteria and indicators for the designation of sites and the monitoring and evaluation of their Dynamic Conservation Plans, and ensure geographical expansion in a balanced manner, technical assistance, and the active participation of the private sector and local governments.

25. The Committee requested FAO, subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources, to strengthen its work on GIAHS, including its Secretariat, through its impacts on sustainable agriculture, conservation of biodiversity, food security, poverty eradication and environmental sustainability and in collaboration with other relevant organizations to contribute to the SDGs, also in the framework of the Decade on Family Farming.

26. The Committee requested FAO to invite countries to join the GIAHS programme and to support and strengthen economically and socially the existing sites through an integrated livelihoods support to the GIAHS farmers.

27. The Committee encouraged FAO to organize a GIAHS forum regularly, subject to availability of extra-budgetary resources.

### **F. FAO's activities on livestock, including the proposal for a sub-committee on livestock<sup>6</sup>**

28. The Committee acknowledged the key importance of the livestock sector for food security and nutrition, livelihoods and poverty eradication.

29. The Committee discussed the proposal for the establishment of the sub-committee on livestock and requested the Secretariat to prepare a report on administrative and financial implications and to develop terms of reference that include rationale, function, structure and implementation modalities to be considered by its Bureau for submission to the next session of the Committee.

30. The Committee decided that the special theme of COAG 27 in 2020 would be "sustainable livestock for SDGs".

### **G. Fall Armyworm in Africa: status, potential impacts and global response<sup>7</sup>**

31. The Committee expressed its concern about the devastation caused by the Fall Armyworm (FAW) to the livelihoods of millions of smallholder farmers in Africa and beyond.

32. The Committee acknowledged the work carried out so far by FAO and its partners and welcomed the prioritization of actions related to farmer education and communication, integrated pest management, as well as monitoring and early warning.

33. The Committee requested FAO to allocate more resources to plant protection, including through South-South Cooperation.

34. The Committee requested FAO to strengthen collaboration with partners and disseminate lessons learned from countries' experiences, in particular from Africa, Asia and Latin America.

35. The Committee requested FAO to prepare a report for the next COAG on the spread and assessment of the risks that FAW poses to the livelihoods of those affected.

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<sup>5</sup> COAG/2018/7

<sup>6</sup> COAG/2018/11

<sup>7</sup> COAG/2018/INF/5

### **III. Climate and Natural Resources (biodiversity, land and water)**

#### **A. Implementing the FAO Climate Change Strategy: driving a global transformation to sustainable agriculture<sup>8</sup>**

36. The Committee took note with appreciation of the report of FAO on the implementation of its climate change strategy including mobilization of financial resources.

37. The Committee requested FAO to continue assisting Members to promote coherence in domestic adaptation and mitigation policies and strategies in the agriculture, food and land use sectors, according to their needs, priorities and respective capabilities.

38. The Committee requested FAO to continue promoting the conservation and use of underutilized crop species.

39. The Committee requested FAO to assist Members to promote transformative and integrated approaches towards sustainable agriculture in its economic, environmental and social dimensions, such as climate smart agriculture, which would help farmers to increase sustainably agricultural productivity and incomes, adapt to a changing climate and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.

40. The Committee requested FAO to engage actively in national, regional and international discussions on how to implement the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture on the ground.

#### **B. Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture<sup>9</sup>**

41. The Committee recognized that the demand for water from all sectors is projected to increase, resulting in further competition and increased water scarcity.

42. The Committee supported the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG) as a key coordination mechanism to adapt water scarcity in agriculture due to climate change both at national and global levels, in sustainable and inclusive manners.

43. The Committee requested FAO to provide technical and policy assistance to countries, including through South-South Cooperation and innovative approaches, to enhance their involvement in WASAG activities.

44. The Committee requested FAO to report to COAG periodically on the progress of the partnership.

45. The Committee requested FAO to develop an umbrella programme, including a funding strategy.

#### **C. Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform<sup>10</sup>**

46. The Committee welcomed the convening of the Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors held on 29 to 31 May 2018 in collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

47. The Committee requested FAO to develop a strategy on biodiversity mainstreaming across agricultural sectors, ensuring consistency with other FAO strategies including the one on climate change, for consideration by the Programme Committee and Council, to be presented at the FAO Conference in 2019, in view of the preparation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework of the CBD.

48. The Committee requested FAO to organize electronic consultations on the draft strategy on biodiversity mainstreaming and, subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources, regional dialogues on mainstreaming biodiversity into the different agricultural sectors.

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<sup>8</sup> COAG/2018/8

<sup>9</sup> COAG/2018/9

<sup>10</sup>COAG/2018/10

49. The Committee requested FAO to continue to act as the Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform, and to:

- a) facilitate, in collaboration with its partners, such as the CBD and other UN organizations, the integration in a structured and coherent manner of actions for the conservation, sustainable use and management of biological diversity across agricultural sectors at national, regional and international levels;
- b) facilitate dialogue among governments, communities of practice and other stakeholders;
- c) facilitate the exchange of information and data on biodiversity and biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices and policies among stakeholders; and
- d) develop an action plan indicating the resources needed.

50. The Committee invited countries to mainstream biodiversity across their agricultural sectors.

#### **D. Update on the Global Soil Partnership, including the International Code of Conduct for the Use and Management of Fertilizers<sup>11</sup>**

51. The Committee noted with appreciation the reports of the 5th and 6th meetings of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) Plenary Assembly, and the progress made in the fight against soil degradation and in the promotion of sustainable soil management.

52. The Committee welcomed the draft International Code of Conduct for the Use and Management of Fertilizers as a useful tool to support sustainable agriculture and commended FAO and GSP for its drafting.

53. The Committee provided a number of comments, queries and suggestions for improvement to the document, in particular to better take into account regional specificities.

54. The Committee mandated its Bureau to undertake an inclusive consultation process to prepare a revised text to be submitted to the FAO Council at its next session.

### **IV. Other Matters**

#### **A. FAO's Programme of Work in Food and Agriculture under the FAO Strategic Framework<sup>12</sup>**

55. The Committee took note of the achievements and the new trends identified with respect to the food and agriculture sectors. It acknowledged the main priorities for FAO's work in food and agriculture to be taken into account in the review of the Medium Term Plan 2018-2021, including FAO's involvement in interdisciplinary activities and multistakeholder partnerships.

56. The Committee requested FAO to integrate all recommendations of COAG 26 in FAO's work in food and agriculture, in particular those on the promotion of sustainable food systems, sustainable funding of CODEX Alimentarius scientific advice and International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) standard setting activities, livestock production, GIAHS, the revitalization of rural areas for youth, SDG monitoring, water scarcity, agroecology, biodiversity and climate change.

57. The Committee recognized the importance of gender mainstreaming, innovation including biotechnology and investments for sustainable agriculture development.

58. The Committee invited FAO to explore ways to mitigate the challenge of sand and dust storms.

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<sup>11</sup> COAG/2018/12

<sup>12</sup> COAG/2018/2

**B. Implementation of the recommendations of the 25th Session of the Committee, including the outcome of the informal open-ended working group on food safety scientific advice programme<sup>13</sup>**

59. The Committee took note of the report and commended FAO on the implementation of the recommendations.
60. Recognizing the importance of regular reporting on COAG recommendations, the Committee requested FAO's continued reporting including on the 2030 Agenda, Innovation, Family Farming, Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), Agroecology and GIAHS.
61. Recognizing the importance of the standard setting work of FAO, the Committee requested FAO to ensure sustainable funding for the Joint FAO/WHO food safety scientific advice programme to the CODEX Alimentarius and for IPPC, including from the regular budget.
62. Given the importance of FAO's work and activities relating to Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), the Committee requested that reporting on the implementation of the AMR Action Plan become a standing COAG item.
63. The Committee appealed to its Members to participate in and support the PPR Global Eradication Programme and the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock.

**C. Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Committee (MYPOW)<sup>14</sup>**

64. The Committee took note of the 2016-2019 MYPOW report and welcomed the collaboration and coordination with the technical committees, which should be extended to the CFS.
65. The Committee invited the Bureau to explore the possibility of better involving Members during the intersessional period.
66. The Committee approved the MYPOW 2018-2021 taking into account the comments and guidance by Members on the working methods, and the issues to be addressed by the Committee.

**D. Proposal for an International Year of Fruits and Vegetables<sup>15</sup>**

67. Considering the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025, the important role of fruits and vegetables in healthy diets, an urgent need to raise awareness of the nutritional and health benefits of fruits and vegetable consumption, and the positive effects on income of smallholders and family farmers, the Committee endorsed the proposal by the Latin America and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) to establish the observance by the United Nations system of an International Year of Fruits and Vegetables on an exceptional basis in 2021 and the draft Conference Resolution to be submitted for the consideration of the 160th Session of the Council for adoption by the 41st Session of the FAO Conference. The resolution is reproduced in *Appendix D*.

**E. Proposal for an International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste<sup>16</sup>**

68. Considering the need to raise awareness and concerted attention at all levels to reduce food loss and waste and to promote global efforts and collective actions toward achieving the SDGs, the Committee endorsed the proposal by the Government of Argentina to establish the observance by the United Nations system, of an International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste, to be celebrated on 29 September each year, and the draft Conference Resolution to be submitted for the consideration of the 160th Session of the Council for adoption by the 41st Session of the FAO Conference. The resolution is reproduced in *Appendix E*.

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<sup>13</sup> COAG/2018/13/Rev.1

<sup>14</sup> COAG/2018/14

<sup>15</sup> COAG/2018/15/Rev.1

<sup>16</sup> COAG/2018/16/Rev.1

### **F. Proposal for an International Year of Millets<sup>17</sup>**

69. Considering a current need to promote the nutritional and ecological benefit of millets to consumers, producers and decision makers, and to improve production, productivity, quality and consumption of millets, and considering the UN Decade of Family Farming, the Committee endorsed the proposal by the Government of India to establish the observance by the United Nations system of an International Year of Millets on an exceptional basis in 2023, and the draft Conference Resolution to be submitted for the consideration of the 160th Session of the Council for adoption by the 41st Session of the FAO Conference. The resolution is reproduced in *Appendix F*.

### **G. Date and place of the next Session**

70. The Committee noted that the 27th Session of the COAG would take place in Rome. The date would be communicated by the Director-General of FAO at a later stage.

### **H. Election of the Bureau Members of the 27th Session of the Committee**

71. The Committee elected by acclamation H. E. Mohammad Hossein Emadi, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as Chairperson of the Committee.

72. The Committee elected by acclamation the following six members of the incoming bureau of the Committee: Australia (Southwest Pacific); Canada (North America); Cuba (GRULAC); Morocco (Africa); Romania (Europe) and Thailand (Asia).

### **I. Any other matters**

73. The Committee noted the proposal from the Government of Mongolia to establish the observance of an International Year of Pastoralism and Rangelands, and invited Mongolia to submit the relevant documentation to COAG 27 for consideration.

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<sup>17</sup> COAG/2018/17Rev.1

## Appendix A – Members of the Committee of Agriculture

Afghanistan	France	Oman
Algeria	Gabon	Pakistan
Angola	Gambia	Panama
Argentina	Germany	Paraguay
Australia	Ghana	Peru
Austria	Greece	Philippines
Azerbaijan	Guatemala	Poland
Bangladesh	Guinea	Portugal
Belgium	Haiti	Qatar
Benin	Hungary	Republic of Korea
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Iceland	Romania
Brazil	India	Russian Federation
Bulgaria	Indonesia	Samoa
Burkina Faso	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	San Marino
Burundi	Iraq	Saudi Arabia
Cabo Verde	Ireland	Senegal
Cameroon	Israel	Sierra Leone
Canada	Italy	Slovakia
Central African Republic	Japan	Slovenia
Chad	Jordan	South Africa
Chile	Kenya	Spain
China	Kuwait	Sri Lanka
Colombia	Latvia	Sudan
Congo	Lebanon	Sweden
Costa Rica	Lesotho	Switzerland
Côte d'Ivoire	Liberia	Thailand
Croatia	Libya	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Cuba	Lithuania	Tunisia
Cyprus	Madagascar	Turkey
Czechia	Malaysia	Uganda
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Mali	Ukraine
Denmark	Mexico	United Arab Emirates
Dominican Republic	Mongolia	United Kingdom
Ecuador	Morocco	United Republic of Tanzania
Egypt	Mozambique	United States of America
El Salvador	Myanmar	Uruguay
Equatorial Guinea	Netherlands	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Eritrea	New Zealand	Viet Nam
Estonia	Nicaragua	Yemen
Ethiopia	Niger	Zambia
European Union (Member Organization)	Nigeria	Zimbabwe
Finland	Norway	

## **Appendix B - Agenda**

### **1. Procedural Matters**

- 1.1 Opening of the Session
- 1.2 Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable
- 1.3 Nomination of Chairperson and Members of the Drafting Committee

### **2. Sustainable Food and Agriculture**

- 2.1 Sustainable pathways to engage food and agriculture for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- 2.2 Sustainable food systems
- 2.3 Agroecology: from advocacy to action
- 2.4 Revitalizing rural areas for youth
- 2.5 Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)
- 2.6 FAO's activities on livestock, including the proposal for a sub-committee on livestock
- 2.7 Fall Armyworm in Africa: status, potential impacts and global response

### **3. Climate and Natural Resources (biodiversity, land and water)**

- 3.1 Implementing the FAO Climate Change Strategy: driving a global transformation to sustainable agriculture
- 3.2 Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture
- 3.3 Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform
- 3.4 Update on the Global Soil Partnership, including the International Code of Conduct for the Use and Management of Fertilizers

### **4. Other Matters**

- 4.1 FAO's Programme of Work in Food and Agriculture under the FAO Strategic Framework
- 4.2 Implementation of the recommendations of the 25th Session of the Committee, including the outcome of the informal open-ended working group on food safety scientific advice programme
- 4.3 Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Committee
- 4.4 Proposal for an International Year of Fruit and Vegetables
- 4.5 Proposal for an International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste
- 4.6 Proposal for an International Year of Millets
- 4.7 Date and Place of the Next Session
- 4.8 Election of the Bureau Members of the 27th Session of the Committee
- 4.9 Any other matters

### **5. Adoption of the Report**

## Appendix C – List of Documents

COAG/2018/1/Rev.2	Provisional Agenda
COAG/2018/1 Add.1	Addendum to the Provisional Agenda as proposed by the Republic of India
COAG/2018/2	FAO's Programme of Work in Food and Agriculture under the FAO Strategic Framework
COAG/2018/3/Rev1 English only	Sustainable pathways to engage food and agriculture for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
COAG/2018/4/Rev.1	Sustainable food systems
COAG/2018/5	Agroecology: from advocacy to action
COAG/2018/6	Revitalizing rural areas for youth
COAG/2018/7	Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)
COAG/2018/8	Implementing the FAO Climate Change Strategy: driving a global transformation to sustainable agriculture
COAG/2018/9	Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture
COAG/2018/10	Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform
COAG/2018/11	FAO's activities on livestock, including the proposal for a sub-committee on livestock
COAG/2018/12	Update on the Global Soil Partnership, including the International Code of Conduct for the Use and Management of Fertilizers
COAG/2018/13/Rev.1	Implementation of the recommendations of the 25th Session of the Committee, including the outcome of the informal open-ended working group on food safety scientific advice programme
COAG/2018/14	Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Committee
COAG/2018/15/Rev1	Proposal for an International Year of Fruits and Vegetables
COAG/2018/16/Rev1	Proposal for an International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste
COAG/2018/17/Rev 1	Proposal for an International Year of Millets
COAG/2018/INF/1 Rev2	Provisional Timetable
COAG/2018/INF/2 Rev2	Provisional List of Documents
COAG/2018/INF/3	Statement of competences and voting rights submitted by the European Union and its Member States
COAG/2018/INF/4	Outcome of the informal open-ended working group on food safety scientific advice programme
COAG/2018/INF/5	Fall Armyworm in Africa: current status, potential impacts, and global response
COAG/2018/INF/6	United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025: Opportunities for agriculture to contribute to healthy diets and improved nutrition
COAG/2018/INF/7	Neglected and Underutilized Crop Species
COAG/2018/INF/8	Successes and challenges of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

## **Appendix D - Draft FAO Conference Resolution on the Proposal for an International Year of Fruits and Vegetables**

**Considering** the urgent need to raise awareness of the nutritional and health benefits of fruit and vegetable consumption and to advocate for healthy diets through the increased sustainable production and consumption of fruit and vegetables;

**Recalling** the UN General Assembly resolution proclaiming the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025, and the need to implement sustainable food systems that promote healthy diets, which include a variety of foods and the abundance of the consumption of fruits and vegetables;

**Recalling** recommendation 10 of the Second International Conference on Nutrition, ICN-2 that establishes, inter alia, the promotion of crop diversification and increased fruit and vegetable production;

**Recognizing** the important contribution of fruits and vegetables in the prevention of non-communicable chronic diseases, especially cardiovascular and cancer, obesity and diabetes;

**Noting** the importance of sustainable farming and production practices to the livelihoods of millions of rural farm families and small family farmers around the world;

**Cognizant** of the important contribution of fruits and vegetables, and particularly indigenous crops, to food security, nutrition, livelihoods and incomes of family farmers especially small family farmers;

**Concerned** over the high levels of losses and waste in the fruits and vegetable supply/value chains, and the negative economic, environmental and social impacts of these losses and waste;

**Recognizing** the need to empower women through education, to assure the quality of family diets;

**Recognizing** that the observance of an International Year of Fruits and Vegetables in 2021 by the international community would contribute significantly to raising awareness of the nutritional and health benefits of fruit and vegetable consumption and promote global attention to increasing healthy diets and lifestyles through fruit and vegetable consumption, while directing policy attention to addressing production issues and losses and waste;

**Stressing** that costs for implementation of the Year and the FAO involvement will be covered by extra-budgetary resources to be identified;

**Requests** the Director-General to transmit this Resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to having the General Assembly of the United Nations consider it at its next session, declaring 2021 as the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables.

## **Appendix E - Draft FAO Conference Resolution on the Proposal for an International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste (FLW)**

**Considering** the urgent need to raise awareness of the economic, social and environmental impacts of FLW and of the need for actions to stem the problem of FLW;

**Recalling** that SDG target 12.3 calls for halving per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reducing food losses along production and supply chains (including post-harvest losses) by 2030;

**Recognizing** that high levels of FLW reduce the efficiency of the value chain, and thus the sustainability of food systems;

**Recognizing** that high levels of food losses, negatively impact the availability of and access to food, as well as incomes in poorer segments of society in middle- and low-income countries;

**Noting** that FLW are drivers of climate change and environmental degradation;

**Noting** that reducing FLW will also directly impact a number of other SDG Goals;

**Cognizant** of the urgent need to raise awareness and to educate food supply chain actors and consumers in particular, in order to bring about behaviour change toward achieving the sustained reduction of food losses and waste;

**Expressing** concern that current efforts to address FLW reduction are highly fragmented;

**Cognizant** of the critical role of the private sector in bringing about a reduction in FLW at the global level;

**Recognizing** that the observance of an International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste would contribute significantly to raising awareness at all levels, of the need to reduce FLW and promote global efforts and collective actions toward achieving SDG target 12.3;

**Stressing** that costs arising from the implementation of the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste will be met by voluntary contributions, including from private sector partners;

**Requests** the Director-General to transmit this Resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to having the General Assembly of the United Nations consider it at its next session, declaring 29 September each year as the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste.

## **Appendix F - Draft FAO Conference Resolution for the Proposal of an International Year of Millets**

**Considering** the urgent need to raise awareness of the climate resilient and nutritional benefits of millets and to advocate for healthy diets through the increased sustainable production and consumption of millets;

**Recalling** the UN General Assembly resolution proclaiming the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025, and the need to implement sustainable food systems that promote healthy diets, which include a variety of foods;

**Recalling** recommendation 10 of the Second International Conference on Nutrition, ICN-2 that establishes, inter alia, the promotion of crop diversification to diversify diets;

**Recognizing** the important contribution of millets to the cultivation of nutritious foods in climate adverse environments;

**Noting** the importance of sustainable farming and production practices to the livelihoods of millions of rural farm families and small family farmers around the world;

**Cognizant** of the historical contribution of millets, to food security, nutrition, livelihoods and incomes of family farmers;

**Concerned** over the current need to invigorate market recognition of the benefits of millets and to promote efficient value chains;

**Recognizing** the vast genetic diversity of millets and their adaptive capacities to a range of production environments;

**Recognizing** the need to empower women through education, to assure the quality of family diets;

**Recognizing** that the observance of an International Year of Millets by the international community would contribute significantly to raising awareness of the nutritional and health benefits of millet consumption and their suitability for cultivation under adverse and changing climatic conditions, while directing policy attention to improving value chain efficiencies;

**Stressing** that costs for implementation of the Year and FAO involvement will be covered by extra-budgetary resources to be identified;

**Requests** the Director-General to transmit this Resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to having the General Assembly of the United Nations consider it at its next session, declaring 2023 as the International Year of Millets.

## Appendix G - The 10 elements of Agroecology, guiding the transition to sustainable food and agricultural systems

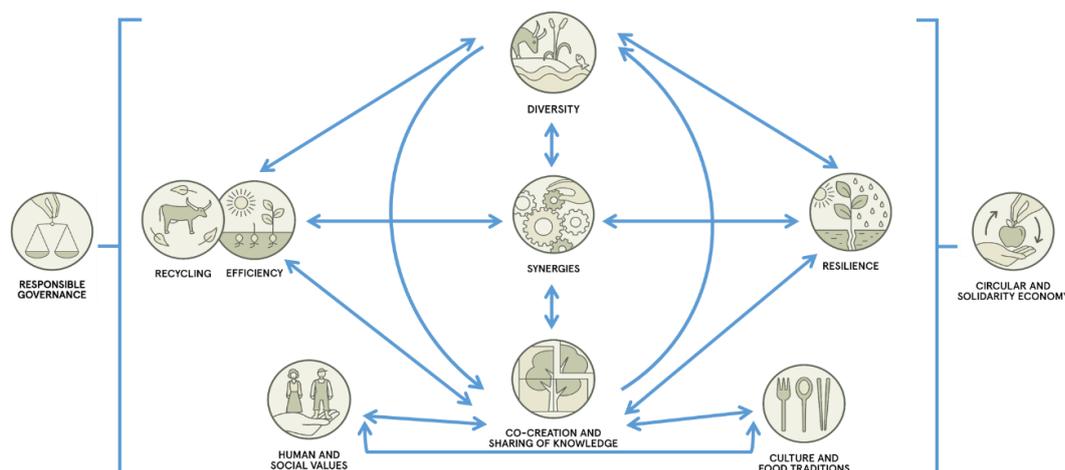
Agroecology considers the interactions among key environmental, social and economic characteristics, processes and an enabling environment that are typical of diversified agricultural systems. It also recognizes the great potential of collective action processes to foster knowledge sharing, and deepened understanding, that favour behavioural changes in food systems that are required for sustainable agriculture to become a reality.

In guiding countries to transform their food and agricultural systems, to mainstream sustainable agriculture on a large scale, and to achieve Zero Hunger and multiple other SDGs, the following 10 elements emanated from the FAO regional seminars on agroecology. The 10 elements characterizing agroecology were developed through a synthesis process. They are based on the seminal scientific literature on agroecology – in particular, Altieri's (1995) five principles of agroecology<sup>1</sup> and Gliessman's (2015) five levels of agroecological transitions<sup>2</sup>. This scientific foundation was complemented by discussions held in workshop settings during FAO's multi-stakeholder regional meetings on agroecology from 2015 to 2017, incorporating also aspects put forward by international and FAO experts.

The 10 elements are further described in an FAO publication made available for the 2nd International Symposium on Agroecology: "The 10 elements of agroecology, guiding the transition to sustainable food and agricultural systems"<sup>3</sup>.

As an analytical tool, the 10 elements can help countries to operationalise agroecology into concrete actions on the ground. By identifying important properties of agroecological systems and approaches, as well as key considerations in developing an enabling environment for agroecology, the 10 elements serve as a guide for policymakers, practitioners and stakeholders in planning, managing and evaluating agroecological transitions.

### The 10 elements of Agroecology



The 10 elements of agroecology are interlinked and interdependent.

<sup>1</sup> Altieri, M.A. 1995. *Agroecology: The Science of Sustainable Agriculture*. CRC Press.

<sup>2</sup> Gliessman, S.R. 2015. *Agroecology: The Ecology of Sustainable Food Systems*. 3rd Edition. Boca Raton, FL, USA, CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.fao.org/3/i9037en/I9037EN.pdf>

**DIVERSITY.** Diversification is key to agroecological transitions to ensure food security and nutrition while conserving, protecting and enhancing natural resources. Agroecological systems are highly diverse. From a biological perspective, agroecological systems optimize the diversity of species and genetic resources in different ways. Increasing biodiversity contributes to a range of production, socio-economic, nutrition and environmental benefits. By planning and managing diversity, agroecological approaches enhance the provisioning of ecosystem services, including pollination and soil health, upon which agricultural production depends. Diversification can increase productivity and resource-use efficiency by optimizing biomass and water harvesting. Agroecological diversification also strengthens ecological and socio-economic resilience.

**CO-CREATION AND SHARING OF KNOWLEDGE.** Agricultural innovations respond better to local challenges when they are co-created through participatory processes. Agroecology does not offer fixed prescriptions – rather, practices are tailored to fit the environmental, social, economic and cultural context. The co-creation and sharing of knowledge plays a central role in the process of developing and implementing agroecological innovations to address challenges across food systems including adaptation to climate change. Through the co-creation process, agroecology blends traditional, local knowledge including producers' and traders' practical knowledge, and global scientific knowledge. Producer's knowledge of agricultural biodiversity and management experience for specific contexts as well as their knowledge related to markets and institutions are essential elements in this process. Education – both formal and non-formal – plays a key role in sharing agroecological innovations resulting from co-creation processes.

**SYNERGIES.** Building synergies enhances key functions across food systems, supporting production and multiple ecosystem services. Agroecology pays careful attention to the design of diversified and synergistic systems, including the combination of annual, perennial and cover crops, livestock, aquatic animals and trees. It pays particular attention in the careful use of soil, water and other components of farms and agricultural landscapes to enhance resilience in the context of an increasingly changing climate.

**EFFICIENCY.** Innovative agroecological practices move from input-based systems to knowledge-based systems of food production aiming at further increasing productivity while using less external (including non-renewable) resources. Increased resource-use efficiency is an emergent property of agroecological systems that carefully manage diversity to create synergies between different system components. Agroecological systems improve the use of natural resources, especially those that are abundant and free, such as solar radiation, atmospheric carbon and nitrogen. By enhancing biological processes and recycling biomass, nutrients and water, producers are able to use available resources more efficiently, reducing costs and negative environmental impacts.

**RECYCLING.** More recycling supports an agricultural production with less waste and emissions and reduces economic and environmental costs. By imitating natural ecosystems, agroecological practices support biological processes that drive the recycling of nutrients, biomass and water within production systems, thereby increasing resource use efficiency. Recycling can take place at farm-scale and within landscapes, through diversification and building of synergies between different components and activities.

**RESILIENCE.** Enhanced resilience of people, communities and ecosystems is key to sustainable agriculture and food systems. Diversified agroecological systems are more resilient, i.e. they have a greater capacity to recover from disturbances including extreme weather events such as drought, floods or hurricanes, and to resist pest and disease attack. By maintaining a functional balance, agroecological systems enhance resilience to pest and disease attacks. Agroecological practices work with the biological complexity of agricultural systems promoting a diverse community of interacting organisms to increase buffer capacities when facing pest outbreaks. On a larger scale, diversified agricultural landscapes have a greater potential to contribute to pest and disease control functions building on ecosystem services (e.g. natural enemies for biological control). Agroecological approaches can also enhance socio-economic resilience. Through diversification and integration, producers can better manage risks and thus reduce their vulnerability should a single crop, livestock

species or other commodity fail. By reducing dependence on external inputs, agroecology can also reduce producers' vulnerability to economic risk.

**HUMAN AND SOCIAL VALUES.** Protecting and improving rural livelihoods is essential for sustainable food and agricultural systems. Agroecology emphasizes human and social values and inclusion of all contributing to the improved livelihoods dimension of the SDGs. Agroecology seeks to address gender inequalities by creating opportunities for women. By building autonomy and adaptive capacities to manage their agro-ecosystems, agroecological approaches empower people and communities to overcome poverty, hunger and malnutrition. As a bottom-up, grassroots paradigm for sustainable rural development, agroecology empowers people to become their own agents of change.

**CULTURE AND FOOD TRADITIONS.** By supporting healthy and diversified diets, agroecology contributes to food security and nutrition while maintaining healthy ecosystems. Agriculture and food are core components of the human heritage. Culture and food traditions play an important role in society and in shaping human behaviour. Cultural identity and sense of place are often closely tied to landscapes and food systems. As people and ecosystems evolve together, cultural practices and indigenous and traditional knowledge offer a wealth of experience that can inspire innovative solutions.

**RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE.** Sustainable food and agriculture requires responsible and effective governance mechanisms at different scales - local, national and global. Agroecology calls for responsible and effective governance to support the transition to sustainable food and agricultural systems. Transparent, accountable and inclusive governance mechanisms are necessary to create an enabling environment that supports producers to transform their systems considering also agroecological concepts and practices. Land and natural resources governance is a prime example. The majority of the world's rural poor and vulnerable populations heavily rely on terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity and ecosystem services for their livelihoods, yet lack secure access to these resources.

**CIRCULAR AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY.** Circular and solidarity economies that reconnect producers and consumers provide innovative solutions for living within our planetary boundaries while ensuring the social foundation for inclusive and sustainable development. Agroecological approaches help promote fair solutions based on local needs, resources and capacities, creating more equitable and sustainable markets. These include innovative markets, alongside more traditional territorial markets, where most smallholders sell their products. Social and institutional innovations play a key role in encouraging production and consumption based on agroecological approaches.