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# PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

## Hundred and Twenty-sixth Session

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**Follow-up report to the evaluation of FAO's contribution to reduction in rural poverty (SO3) (cf. PC 121/5; PC 121/5 Sup.1)**

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## **Executive Summary**

- The Evaluation of FAO's contribution to Rural Poverty Reduction (SO3) was considered at the 121st session of the FAO Programme Committee in March 2017. The Evaluation put forth six major recommendations for the Organization to improve its contribution to rural poverty reduction. These recommendations stressed the need to demonstrate the value-added of FAO's approach in a limited set of countries, to improve capacities within the Organization to undertake poverty analysis in its programmes, to deepen collaboration with resource and development partners and improve gender equality considerations in FAO rural poverty interventions.
- Management has made significant progress in all of the six recommendations and 17 related management actions identified in the Management Response to the Evaluation. FAO is working with governments in key, strategic countries to address rural poverty in a multi-sectoral manner and share experiences. Tools, methodologies and capacity development materials have been developed to ensure that FAO technical and country staff are able to mainstream poverty reduction across the Organization's interventions. Partnering has been expanded and deepened, including with resource partners, financing institutions and Rome-based agencies, but also with non-traditional partners working in poverty reduction. Finally, successful gender approaches have been identified and related capacity development materials developed to promote scale-up in country.
- Management is pleased to update Members on this positive progress, and has highlighted several on-going challenges. These include the need to: i.) ensure that FAO is solidly positioned as a key player in the poverty reduction agenda, in the context of the UN reform and new country arrangements; ii.) continue to promote mainstreaming poverty reduction and poverty analysis in FAO programmes and projects; and iii.) maintain the efforts to increase resource mobilization for the poverty agenda, in particular for areas of FAO work, such as social protection, decent rural employment and migration.

## **Guidance sought from the Programme Committee**

- The Programme Committee is asked to take note of and provide feedback on Management's progress in implementing the agreed Management Response actions. The Committee may also wish to comment on the desirability of reviewing the Organization's extreme poverty strategy, once completed, at a later session and provide guidance regarding the FAO strategic positioning under the new UN country arrangements.

## I. Overview/Highlights

1. Management is pleased to present the progress made in the actions outlined in the Management Response to the Evaluation of FAO's Contribution to Rural Poverty Reduction (SO3), considered at the 121st Session of the FAO Programme Committee in March 2017. The Organization has made significant progress in implementing the six major recommendations proposed by the Evaluation, aimed at enhancing FAO's role, visibility and effectiveness in addressing rural poverty throughout its work:

- a) Demonstrate in a limited number of countries how results can be achieved through FAO's approach to poverty reduction
- b) Ensure that poverty analysis and pro-poor approaches are built into country programmes and projects
- c) Develop a related capacity development programme for country offices
- d) Develop a resource mobilization strategy relevant for SP3
- e) Deepen collaboration with strategic partners
- f) Identify SP3-related approaches for impact on gender equality and ensure they are built into FAO's interventions

2. In doing so, Management has placed a major focus on deepening multi-sectoral work, both within SO3 and across other Strategic Objectives, and with development partners. This will promote interventions that increasingly address the interlinked issues of hunger and poverty, and their relationship to sustainable agriculture, sustainable food systems and climate change – across the spectrum of development and humanitarian contexts.

3. As was highlighted in the Evaluation, a main issue facing FAO in pushing forward the poverty reduction agenda is raising awareness and strengthening capacities, both internally and externally, on FAO's contribution to reducing rural poverty. Related thrusts of Management action include the development of tools and capacity development materials to facilitate understanding of FAO's SO3 Theory of Change and strengthen capacities to connect the Theory of Change, through poverty analysis, to programme and project formulation, particularly at the country level. This will enable the wider body of FAO's work in sustainable agriculture, climate change and food systems to progressively and more explicitly promote poverty reduction, or, at a minimum, ensure that a no harm principle is applied.

4. The Organization increasingly has framed its poverty reduction contribution through the optic of SDG1 and in particular SDG Target 1.1, which aims at eliminating extreme poverty, as measured by people living on less than USD 1.90 per day – in view of the relatively high incidence of extreme poverty in rural areas and the dependency of the extreme poor on agriculture and related sectors. Following on this, the SP3 team is preparing a strategy for extreme poverty reduction, along the lines of the similar *FAO Social Protection Framework: Promoting Rural Development for All*, and fully consistent with and nested within the overall SO3 Theory of Change presented in the FAO MTP 2018-21. The strategy will strengthen organizational efforts addressing this specific SDG target and further sharpen support to Members in addressing SDG 1.1 to ensure that the extreme poor are not left behind.

5. The strategy is being developed through a consultative process both within FAO, involving technical units, other strategic programmes and decentralized offices, as well as outside partners including the Rome-Based Agencies, World Bank, UNDP and UNICEF. Operationalization of the strategy will complement the tools and capacity development materials being made available to promote a fuller mainstreaming of poverty considerations across the full range of FAO projects and programmes, in particular at the country level.

## II. Summary progress made in the Six Evaluation Recommendations

6. Progress in all the 17 Management Response actions included in the Management Response matrix have been assessed as “adequate” (4) or better, according to the Management Action Record (MAR<sup>1</sup>) scoring, with five actions receiving a MAR score of “good” (5). Detailed reporting on progress is shown in the Annex to this Report. A summary description of progress for each of the Recommendations is presented below.
7. Under **Recommendation 1**, to demonstrate the effectiveness of the Organization’s multi-sectoral poverty reduction approach, FAO has been looking at key, strategic countries with favorable conditions to achieve significant results, building on strong political will and leveraging ongoing policy and programme processes. In doing so, due emphasis has been given to Regional Initiative focus countries – along with other key countries – including those in a position to share their experiences, to extend and leverage the knowledge on successful interventions and institutional arrangements required to accelerate the achievement of SDGs 1 and 2. These countries include China, Colombia, India and Paraguay.
8. FAO provided capacity development assistance to Morocco and Panama to ensure that government counterparts are able to undertake robust poverty analysis and to ensure that this analysis underpins and informs multi-sectoral national policy processes designed to address rural poverty. Building on the Organization’s recognized leadership in food and agriculture, the capacity development identifies critical linkages of sustainable agriculture and food systems policy with decent employment, social protection as well as pro-poor value chain development.
9. Management has identified and prioritized a number of opportunities in key programme countries and contexts to enhance work that addresses some of the most important cross-sectoral interlinkages identified in the Evaluation: i.) poverty reduction and sustainable agriculture and natural resource management, with a particular focus on climate change and territorial development (with SP2); ii.) inclusive value chains and the link to decent employment, especially for youth and women (with SP4); iii.) better addressing the humanitarian-development continuum, with a specific focus on how social protection can be used as a tool to facilitate risk management and support productive activity (with SP5/SP2); and iv.) the linkage of poverty with food security and nutrition, with a special focus on nutrition-sensitive social protection (with SP1).
10. Under **Recommendation 2**, to promote the use of poverty analysis, the Organization has strengthened its technical capacity in the Economic and Social Development Department (ES) and has established a Poverty Analysis Technical Network comprised of representatives from diverse FAO technical disciplines at headquarters and in the field. Analytical methodologies are well under development and identify the key inter-linkages between hunger, poverty, sustainable food and agriculture, non-farm income, resilience to threats and crisis and migration and climate change (as specified in the Evaluation). Regarding the poverty-climate change nexus, FAO is well advanced in articulating the key interactions and their broader policy implications, including around social protection, migration, climate resilience and youth employment.
11. A set of methodological tools, along with concrete guidance on how to apply these, will shortly be made available to headquarters and field personnel to assist in identifying where, when and what type of poverty analysis should be undertaken in programme and project formulations. Similarly, these tools will serve at the country level during CPF formulation and should inform the Common Country Analysis foreseen under the new UNDAF arrangements. Discussions have been held with all strategic programmes and their teams to stress the importance of leveraging poverty analysis to

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identify key entry points and strengthen the poverty reducing impact of the wider gamut of FAO interventions to promote improved social and economic sustainability.

12. Under **Recommendation 3** on improving capacities, FAO is currently finalizing a capacity development programme around the Organization's SO3 Theory of Change as per the Medium Term Plan 2018-21. A skill needs' assessment was conducted in early 2018 to ensure that the capacity development materials would address what key internal and external stakeholders identified as important gaps in knowledge and needs for development and support. A set of five modules or "courses" have been developed and are being finalized and produced in an online, e-learning format to be able to be accessed by staff at all levels of the Organization. Key connections to sustainable agriculture and food systems are clearly identified, so that the full range of FAO technical staff understand how this knowledge can enhance their work.

13. In addition to the e-learning, FAO has developed new capacity development programmes on the use of poverty analysis for the design of multi-sectoral programmes for poverty reduction and has collaborated with IFAD on a poverty analysis training targeting TCI investment officers formulating large country programmes. Moreover, FAO continues to invest and strengthen its strategic partnership in global and regional capacity development programmes on decent employment, social protection, child labor and migration, areas that the evaluation recognized as needing more efforts and support. These training programmes reach policy makers and FAO staff in decentralized offices across all regions and are fundamental to increasing the contribution of the Organization to reaching SDG 1.

14. Under **Recommendation 4**, on enhancing resource mobilization, FAO has embedded the key themes contributing to poverty reduction as per the SO3 MTP Theory of Change in a set of cross-cutting programme proposals to be used in interactions with resource partners. Prepared under the guidance of the corporate Business Development Task Force ("BDTF"), led by the Business Development and Resource Mobilization Division, the proposals have been formulated in full collaboration with the other strategic programmes, technical units and regions, and embrace the need for multi-sectoral solutions reaching out beyond agriculture in order to effectively address rural poverty.

15. The Organization intends to leverage the BDTF Portfolio as the basis for pro-active strategic resource partner consultations. In the case of SO3, this provides a particularly important opportunity to stimulate awareness of and interest in FAO's contribution and role in poverty reduction, as the Portfolio clearly articulates how FAO's broader work in sustainable agriculture and food systems is inextricably linked to new areas of FAO work, such as youth employment and social protection. This will provide a sound basis for reaching out to non-traditional donors to drive forward the poverty reduction agenda. An action plan to leverage this portfolio and engage the various levels of the Organization – particularly decentralized offices – to further contextualize potential interventions based on specific interests and needs has been put in place and will be implemented during 2019.

16. Regarding GCF and GEF project formulation, an analysis of the GEF portfolio has been undertaken to identify how this portfolio is already addressing social and economic dimensions generally, and poverty in particular, and how to improve and sharpen this focus in future projects and programmes. Staff and consultants have been assigned to ensure that adequate capacity is available to support the inclusion of poverty reduction considerations in the GEF and GCF formulations going forward, and a draft checklist/guideline has also been prepared. This work is already beginning to bear fruit: FAO's first approved GCF project (in Paraguay), entitled "Poverty, Reforestation, Energy and Climate Change Project" leverages social protection as an essential risk management tool to enable the natural resource conservation and climate change adaptation goals of the project and contribute to poverty reduction.

17. Under **Recommendation 5**, on enhanced partnering, FAO has been working to ensure that CPF formulation processes are built around multi-sectoral task forces, which reach out beyond agriculture ministries to include other key ministries such as social development, rural development, labor, gender and planning – as well as other key development partners working on poverty reduction at the country level.

18. FAO has stepped up its efforts to reach out to strategic partners. In 2017, FAO, in partnership with the EU, initiated a Joint Initiative with the World Bank, IFAD and the ISPC of the CGIAR to focus agricultural development research and investment on achieving SDGs1 and 2.

19. The aim is to better coordinate evidence-based policy actions and promote a common understanding of the parties for investing in agriculture research, data and development and increase coordination between the organizations, including coordination of country specific data research and development activities. A similar initiative, bringing together the World Bank, IFAD, leading researchers and development partners, will focus on increasing the consideration of SDG 1 within global, regional and national climate change negotiations and initiatives. FAO is also on the Steering Committee of the Global Partnership on Universal Social Protection, co-led by UNICEF and World Bank and focused on supporting governments to achieve SDG1.3.

20. On the interaction of SDGs 1, 2 and 13, FAO (SP3 with other strategic programmes) is fostering collaboration with IFAD, CGIAR and academic institutions on a Global Initiative to support research, policy development and capacity building, with particular emphasis on knowledge generation and action to support the implementation of SDG 1.5 at the country level. FAO organized strategic events during COP23, as well as FAO Governance sessions, to raise awareness of governments and other actors of the critical interactions among SDGs 1, 2 and 13, and promote policy solutions that look at these challenges in an integrated manner. FAO also co-leads, with ILO, the thematic area of youth in the rural economy of the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth. FAO continues to strengthen its collaboration with the Rome-based agencies, including on issues such as school feeding, food and nutrition, and with IFAD and the World Bank on data and evidence generation around poverty and food security.

21. FAO SP3 is working closely with the FAO Investment Centre Division to ensure that investment programme formulations and upstream investment strategy work supported by FAO are taking on to the maximum extent possible poverty analysis and explicit targeting for poverty reduction in country programmes.

22. Finally, under **Recommendations 6**, on scaling up gender equality approaches, a dedicated component on gender equality and rural women's empowerment is being included in the capacity development modules currently being finalized (see Recommendation 3). This component clarifies and highlights the importance of the role of women to achieve poverty reduction in rural areas in the context of an increasingly feminized agriculture landscape. FAO has strengthened its collaboration with IFPRI to develop tools to measure the impact of agricultural development projects on women's empowerment in agriculture, and with OPHI to better inform multi-dimensional poverty analysis through enhanced sex-disaggregated indicators. Finally, South-South Cooperation has been stepped up and additional emphasis is planned in 2019 to promote the scale-up of successful gender equality and women's empowerment approaches.

### III. Challenges and Way Forward

23. As described above, the Organization has made significant strides towards the implementation of the Evaluation's Recommendations. Nonetheless, some significant challenges remain that are worth highlighting.

24. Further efforts will be needed to solidify FAO's positioning in poverty reduction and promote mainstreaming and operationalization of poverty reduction work across all offices, to ensure that the contribution of sustainable agriculture and food systems to FAO's Global Goal on poverty reduction is fully embraced by all units. This will also signal to partner agencies the important contribution and commitment of FAO to this undertaking.

25. Important challenges also remain in terms of capacity development of staff. Most staff working in sustainable agriculture and food systems are receptive to taking on board more explicitly the issue of poverty reduction, and this will be facilitated by newly available capacity development materials and methodological tools. Nonetheless, it will require further concerted efforts to ensure that project formulators and country offices effectively take up the poverty reduction agenda. In effect, the

process can be likened to a cultural shift of sorts, requiring continued time and Management commitment.

26. FAO positioning vis-à-vis the new UNDAF arrangements currently being discussed and negotiated among all UN agencies also presents challenges. It will be important for FAO to ensure that the critical linkages between sustainable agricultural and food systems with poverty reduction and food security are clearly established and accepted. FAO must be seen as an essential partner in the rural poverty reduction agenda and as an indispensable interlocutor for the relevant government counterparts in ministries outside of agriculture (e.g. labor, social development).

27. A final challenge regards the Organization's ability to mobilize resources for its non-traditional areas of work, in particular decent employment, social protection and migration. The FAO comparative advantage and contributions in these themes are clearly embedded in the Core Functions of policy advice, capacity development and evidence generation. Yet, driving the necessary culture change and establishing trust with resource partners and national counterparts who have been working under a different paradigm for many years will take time.

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<p><b>Recommendation 1:</b> FAO should identify a limited number of countries where conditions are right to achieve significant results through multi-sectoral approach to poverty reduction to demonstrate the effectiveness of the approach.</p>	<p>1.1) Identify a limited number of countries where conditions are favourable to achieve results through a multi-sectoral approach and provide targeted support from the different SP teams, giving priority to Regional Initiative focus countries and other countries where FAO has already built a critical mass of work.</p>	<p>1.1) SP3 has established strategic alliances with countries that have demonstrated a successful trajectory in the reduction of rural poverty using a multi-sectoral approach. FAO and China moved together in the establishment of a Global Poverty Reduction Partnership with the RBAs, and developed Knowledge Exchange Platforms between China, Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, among other developing countries, fostering a multi-sectoral approach to rural poverty reduction. FAO signed a MoU with the Government of India and worked to support the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (one of the largest anti-poverty programmes globally) in building capacities to link millions of members of self-help groups to the India's Zero Budget Natural Farming Plan through organic farming and value chain development. Following the Peace Agreement in Colombia, FAO supported the implementation of its Comprehensive Rural Reform, which involved the development of multi-sectoral territorial development plans in 16 post-conflict territories. FAO has also made important efforts in promoting and facilitating multi-sectoral approaches in priority countries: in Panama and Morocco, FAO supported the design of multi-sectoral strategies</p>	<p>1.1 - 5</p>	<p>1.1) The partnership with China, India and Colombia, as well as the technical support provided to a number of countries such as Paraguay, where a multi-sectoral approach has been prioritized, have influenced policy and programme discussions and have helped validate and further develop FAO's theory of change for rural poverty reduction. FAO has also strengthened its position among the leading group of global partners committed to eradicating extreme poverty, further embedding the areas of its mandate into global and national efforts to eradication of extreme poverty.</p>

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	1.2) Explore new multi sectoral, cross strategic programme initiatives at country level, and deepen existing initiatives, such as for example Nutrition Sensitive Social Protection and Zero Hunger (SP1-SP3), shock responsive social protection (SP3-SP5), migration (SP3-SP5), inclusive value chain/food systems (SP3-SP4) and decent employment and improved livelihoods in agriculture (SP3-SP2).	<p>for rural poverty reduction through a blended capacity development programme. In a number of countries, including Cambodia, Senegal, Kenya, Lebanon, Paraguay and Myanmar, FAO provided technical support in the establishment of linkages between social protection and livelihood promotion (including fisheries), with approaches to address issues of migration, youth employment and child labor. SP3 is also working with partners in the promotion of decent work while supporting the fight against IUU fishing.</p> <p>1.2) Approaches were developed and promoted to simultaneously meet different targets of the SDGs, enhancing linkages and collaboration with other Strategic Programmes. A new important area is the nexus of poverty reduction and climate action for which a theory of change narrative was developed, and policy support provided in Viet Nam, Cambodia and Bangladesh. Another new area of work developed by SP2 and SP3 is that of linking territorial development and landscape approaches in specific geographic spaces, for which TCP resources were mobilized. This initiative is linked to RLC's 100 <i>Territorios</i> initiative as well as ongoing initiatives led by REU and RNE related to territorial and community development and migration in a number of countries. Further work to boost territorial development and landscape approaches at local</p>	1.2 - 5	1.2) The linkage between poverty reduction and climate action are well reflected in two new projects: in Paraguay, FAO obtained its first Green Climate Fund Programme –PROEZA- which will link the beneficiaries of Tekoporã, a social protection programme, to agro-forestry schemes, and will enhance the living conditions of the poorest, mostly indigenous peoples' populations, to promote the sustainable management of resources. RECLIMA, another GCF project in El Salvador will also support the livelihoods of

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		<p>levels is proceeding in a number of countries, including Colombia, Dominican Republic, and Kyrgyzstan.</p> <p>Specific efforts have been made to deepen already existing initiatives, expanding technical assistance and further mobilizing resources, including in the areas of Nutrition-Sensitive (in partnership with SP1) and Shock Responsive Social Protection (with SP5). Efforts have intensified to support the expansion of ongoing work to link social protection with other strategic programme priorities, including nutrition, resilience, and climate smart agriculture (Zambia, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia and Senegal, Ethiopia, Mali). FAO is also strengthening (with SP4) the linkages between inclusive, pro-poor value chains and agro-industry development for generating decent rural employment, especially for youth and women. The three regional initiatives in REU, RLC and RNE on Family Farming and Small-Scale Agriculture have been strengthened to address the range of constraints faced by the target groups, bringing cross-SP, multi-sectoral solutions to improve productivity and sustainability in agriculture and related value chains, while strengthening rural communities and enhancing decent employment opportunities for improved livelihoods.</p>		<p>small-scale producers most vulnerable to climate change, including indigenous people and other vulnerable groups. Finally, Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs) of Vietnam, Myanmar and Bangladesh integrated work in relation to poverty reduction and climate action and increased resources to implement country-level interventions.</p>

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<p><b>Recommendation 2:</b> FAO should ensure that poverty analysis is conducted in programme countries, and based on such an analysis, pro-poor approaches with theories of change are built into the design of country programmes and projects.</p>	<p>2.1) ES Department, in collaboration with CB Department and the SP3MT, the other SPMTs and RSPLs, will adapt an appropriate analytical methodology to identify the main drivers of poverty and impediments to achieving SDGs 1 and 2, which focuses in particular on identifying the inter-linkages between hunger, rural poverty, sustainable food and agriculture, non-farm income generation, resilience to threats and crisis, migration and climate change. A particular focus will be made on the climate change and poverty nexus, including prevention, adaptation and mitigation elements. This would include specific linkages around social protection, migration, climate resilience and youth employment. The methodology development</p>	<p>2.1) FAO has put in place a significant base of expertise and supporting mechanisms, as well as strategic alliances, to facilitate poverty analysis in key programme countries. SP3 led a consultative process to develop a Corporate Framework on Rural Extreme Poverty, helping to raise awareness across the Organization, but also amongst key external partners - UNDP, World Bank, IFAD, UNICEF- on FAO's role in supporting governments in meeting Target 1.1. of the SDGs. The draft Framework has five deliverables, which will set minimum standards and put in place supportive operational mechanisms to mainstream extreme poverty in the relevant areas of FAO's mandate. As part of the preparation of the Framework on Extreme Poverty, SP3 launched a report on "Ending Extreme Poverty in Rural Areas", building on existent evidence on rural poverty reduction and identifying research gaps. The report builds a narrative on the interlinkages between extreme poverty with hunger, family farming, migration, climate change and conflict, as well as reinforcing SP3 Theory of Change. SP3 and ESA worked together to enhance the technical capacity of FAO on poverty analysis, bringing to the Organization the necessary expertise to develop (together with SP3 Core Team, including CB, and in partnership with IFAD) tools and methodologies, being finalized, for undertaking analysis and profiling rural poverty which will</p>	2.1 - 4	<p>2.1 FAO is increasingly positioning itself globally as a UN agency that also contributes to SDG 1, seen as a necessary condition to achieve Zero Hunger (SDG 2), establishing the minimum conditions to effectively provide technical support on rural poverty analysis and how its areas of its mandate can better contribute to rural poverty reduction.</p>

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	should generate tools for policy analysis and support to assist countries in addressing the main causes of rural poverty and hunger and improve targeting.	<p>guide CPF and project formulation. A new Technical Network on Poverty Analysis led by ESA has also been established. In relation to these efforts, FAO has also signed an agreement with Oxford's Human Development Project (OPHI), to strengthen multidimensional measurement of poverty for rural areas.</p> <p>With the objective of supporting the mainstreaming of poverty reduction into the climate change agenda as well as mainstreaming of climate change mitigation and adaptation in poverty reduction, FAO, with other international partners (World Bank and CGIAR, Saint Mary's University) developed a theory of change on the nexus of poverty reduction and climate action in the context of coastal communities, coastal areas and Small Island Development States. Additional work was carried out to build evidence on the climate change and poverty reduction nexus: RAP (under the Regional Initiative on Climate Change) evaluated the poverty dimension in the climate change adaptation and mitigation agenda in policy and practical initiatives, proposing solutions to strengthen the nexus in policies, programmes and implementation processes at different levels (Cambodia, Viet Nam and Bangladesh). A similar activity will be carried out in three Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Finally, FAO and the Climate Centre of the Red Cross and</p>		

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	2.2) Provide guidance for countries to include poverty analysis in the CPF process, and in programme and project formulation based on the ES and CB analytical approach.	<p>the Overseas Development Institute developed a study, operational guidance, interactive tool and capacity development materials on the role of social protection in climate-related risks, including climate change.</p> <p>2.2) SP3 systematically reviewed new CPFs, mainstreaming rural poverty reduction in CPF formulation as relevant. In two occasions, SP3 participated in joint SP missions for CPF formulation (Rwanda and Bangladesh).</p> <p>While the development of poverty analysis tools and targeting methodologies is ongoing (led by ESA), FAO has advanced in the development of a series of e-learning courses on rural poverty reduction (5 courses, 22 lessons), to be launched during 2019. The e-learning courses will enhance FAO's internal capacity (and that of its partners) to integrate a minimum set of considerations into project and CPF formulation, integrate poverty reduction into policy support, as well as help FAO contribute to UNDAF country context analyses by bringing the rural dimensions of poverty. SP3 is also working on reviewing the Environmental and Social Safeguard Guidelines and practical guidelines to support poverty reduction into project formulation and supporting the development of a guidance on social sustainability in seafood value chains.</p>	2.2 - 4	2.2 While specific tools to inform the CPF process are on its way, CPFs are increasingly addressing rural poverty reduction, including China and India. CPF of Vietnam, Myanmar and Bangladesh have also integrated work in relation to poverty and climate action, while increase resource availability to implement country-level interventions (GCP/GLO/959/NOR, FMM). Also, during 2018, across regions there has been a significant increase in the number of countries that have explicitly included social protection as part of their priorities.

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	2.3) All strategic programmes will systematically consider the dimensions of poverty, income inequality, empowerment, gender equality, decent work, social protection and poverty targeting in CPF, programme and project formulation when applicable.	<p>2.3 The Corporate Framework on Rural Extreme Poverty will provide guidelines to better incorporate poverty reduction considerations in key areas of the Organization, including all SPs. The FAO Social Protection Framework clarifies and promotes linkages between social protection and agriculture, food security, nutrition, natural resource management, decent rural employment and resilience building. It has helped to mainstream social protection across poverty reduction strategies, as well as increase FAO's role and contribution at global, regional and country levels. Similarly, the Corporate Framework on Migration provides guidance on the linkages between migration and poverty reduction, further enhancing cross-SP collaboration.</p> <p>In addition, SP3 led strategic and thematic discussions during 2017 and 2018 with all SPs and technical divisions, and established more effective mechanisms to embed poverty reduction and develop sound theories of change, particularly during the work-planning phase. SPs defined concrete areas of collaboration- at global, regional and country levels – based on SP3's theory of change, and as identified by the Extreme Poverty Framework, notably with food security and nutrition, economic inclusion, fostering sustainable livelihoods and, social protection,</p>	2.3 - 4	2.3) SP3-cross collaboration, and new thematic areas with technical divisions, were created, and ongoing initiatives enhanced. Notably: migration, nutrition-sensitive and risk responsive social protection, territorial/landscape approaches for rural development, food security and rural poverty analysis, agro-ecology, nexus between poverty reduction and climate change, including special approaches for working with youth, rural women, indigenous peoples, all migrant groups (including refugees), and other vulnerable groups.

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	2.4) FAO will review the feasibility of requiring poverty assessments as part of FAO's environmental and social managerial guidelines for programmes and projects.	<p>pastoralism, preparedness and response to support the rural poor to manage risk and climate change.</p> <p>2.4 FAO is developing practical tools and guidelines, including a minimum set of considerations to be undertaken in FAO's project cycle, building on, as well as and strengthening, FAO commitments to incorporate gender mainstreaming and stakeholder engagement, as appropriate. In 2019, SP3 will focus its efforts to further strengthen the capacities of project formulators in the use of poverty analysis and in the development of sound environmental and social safeguards mechanisms that include poverty reduction considerations and potential trade-offs, particularly in the FAO Emergency Programme, projects developed for the Global Environmental Fund (GEF) and Green Climate Fund (GCF), and the Investment Centre. Finally, SP3 is proposing (under the Extreme Poverty Framework) to select at least one programme or project a year to conduct impact assessment on outcomes related to rural extreme poverty reduction. This effort would help FAO build sound evidence on its contribution to rural poverty reduction, fostering continuous learning on FAO proposed best practices, but also adjusting and refining key approaches/flagship project design when needed.</p>	2.4 - 4	2.4) Discussion with project cycle teams initiated to review existing guidelines and develop practical checklists for embedding rural poverty reduction considerations and avoiding increased inequalities and poverty under FAO projects. These actions will take place during 2019 led by SP3.

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<p><b>Recommendation 3:</b> FAO should develop a capacity development programme for country offices around SP3 themes that is based on a targeted skill-needs analysis, and clearly identify ways and monitor how the targeted officials, such as FAORs and programme managers, apply such capacity in programme design and resource mobilization.</p>	<p>3.1) Conduct a staff skills needs assessment (in HQ and DOs) around poverty reduction issues, including the main components of the FAO theory of change (access/employment/social protection/multi-sectoral poverty reduction strategies).</p>	<p>3.1) In early 2018, FAO conducted a skills needs assessment of FAO staff as well as of its main partners around the key elements of the FAO Theory of Change. Based on this, FAO SP3 and DPS partnered with the International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth to develop a series of e-learning courses related to poverty reduction which will be available to all FAO staff as well as external partners.</p>	<p>3.1 - 5</p>	<p>3.1) Staff skills needs assessment completed, also including main partners. This ensures that the substantial materials to be developed will also be of use and relevant to external partners to enrich the engagement on rural poverty reduction issues.</p>
	<p>3.2) Based on the skills needs assessment and building on existing initiatives, develop a capacity building programme, leveraging to the highest extent possible existing knowledge sharing platforms such as the FAO Technical Networks and FAOR Programme and Community Network, to ensure wide diffusion, demonstrate linkages and build ownership across FAO technical areas.</p>	<p>3.2) In addition to the series of e-learning courses, FAO developed new capacity development programmes, including on the use of poverty analysis for the design of multi-sectoral strategies for poverty reduction, implementing them in Panama, Morocco, and also at global level (over 70 country officials of all regions participated). ESA also conducted a new capacity development programme on poverty analysis and microsimulation techniques for policy decision making in Kenya, Bolivia, and also for the ES Department. In addition, SP3 continues to invest in strengthening and expanding the reach of its capacity development programmes on social protection for rural poverty reduction. For example: FAO and ILO co-led the development of the Social Security in three consecutive years, providing capacity development to 70 policy</p>	<p>3.2 - 4</p>	<p>3.2) While the e-learning course is in finalization stages, capacity development activities have been implemented where partners strongly recognize FAO's added value and strategic partnership in poverty reduction issues. The activities have reached a significant number of FAO and government stakeholders, contributing to enhance their knowledge and understanding on social protection, migration, decent employment and child labor in rural areas, as well as contributing to enhance their work at country level. In addition, during 2019, FAO RAF will lead</p>



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		<p>makers and representatives from 29 different countries across all five regions. Similar efforts have been made collaborating with the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), and Maastricht University. New materials have also been developed to enhance FAO staff and government counterparts understanding on gender-sensitive social protection in rural areas; and social protection and climate change. Similar processes have been also supported at regional level, including a series of capacity building webinars on social protection in the Near East, the FAO/SICA/ECLAC Regional Course on Social Protection for Latin America and the Caribbean, and a series of webinars on gender and social protection, in collaboration with socialprotection.org.</p> <p>Given the increasing importance of migration in FAO's work, FAO has invested heavily in developing the capacity of government and other key stakeholders in migration and agricultural development. In November 2017, FAO organized a regional technical workshop on Migration and Rural Development for FAO staff and government representatives from six countries. A number of e-learning courses have also been developed on migration and its linkages with other themes such as Gender, and Rural Development, and disseminated in the context of country-level projects in Kenya and Senegal.</p>		<p>the implementation of a capacity development programme (CDP) in Sub-Saharan Africa (Ghana and Zambia), based on the experience of the CDP in Morocco and Panama on multi-sectoral policies for rural poverty reduction. There is also interest in the Near East Region to further adapt and implement this course to the sub-region, based on the Morocco experience.</p>

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		<p>FAO collaborated with ILO to launch the first ever guide for Arabic practitioners on child labour in agriculture. Based on the Organizations' work the high incidence of child labour in Lebanon among Syrian refugees, the guide responds to the dearth of practical information in the Arab region on addressing the issue.</p> <p>FAO as also intensified its capacity development efforts on youth employment, particularly in Africa. In October 2017, a capacity development workshop was organized for key stakeholders in Southern Africa, ensuring participation of both FAO staff and government representatives from each participating country. A similar sub-regional workshop for Central Africa is in development, with the key outcome being the identification of priority actions at country level.</p> <p>Finally, SP3, ESP and IFAD led a capacity development training on conducting poverty analysis during TCI investment days. Further capacity development efforts, both internal and external, will be launched under the Technical Network on Poverty Analysis. Capacity development on social protection for poverty reduction, specifically targeted to country offices, has been also further strengthened through activities of the ESP Social protection Technical Network.</p>		

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	3.3) Develop and implement a communication plan for FAO's role on rural poverty reduction and hunger with particular focus on country level work/examples, illustrating successful cases and use the SDG global coordination mechanism for dissemination along with the policy portal, internal communication channels and outreach mechanisms targeting FAORs and decentralized offices.	3.3.) A communication plan was developed and implemented during 2018, including the development of key messages, and the organization of key events that highlighted countries' experiences, as well as the role of FAO, in reducing rural poverty (UN Climate Change Conferences, TCI Investment days, the Committee on Food Security and the International Symposium on Agricultural Innovation for Family Farmers, FAO Conference and FAO Council sessions). Concrete activities rolled out included a periodic e-update, a thematic website, monthly compilation of updates, flyers, collections of FAO success stories, booklets (climate change and poverty, investments) as well as the launch of key publications including "Ending Extreme Poverty in Rural Areas". Partnerships with Technical Networks within the house were sought to strengthen the linkages with divisions and departments.	3.3 - 5	3.3) Internal and external awareness and buy-in of FAO's role in poverty reduction has been enhanced.
<b>Recommendation 4:</b> FAO should develop a customized resource mobilization strategy that includes global, regional and country level dimensions and considers the identification of new	4.1) Develop a resource mobilization action plan for SP3, with a particular focus on underfunded programme areas, such as youth employment and social protection. The plan should consider support to decentralized offices in approaching potential	4.1) FAO has embedded the key programme areas contributing to poverty reduction, as per the FAO MTP Theory of Change, in a set of programme proposals prepared under the guidance of the corporate Business Development Task Force ("BDTF"). The Organization has already begun to leverage the BDTF programme portfolio as the basis for pro-active strategic resource partner consultations. The Portfolio clearly articulates how FAO's broader work in sustainable	4.1 - 4	4.1) The BDTF programme proposals have already been used as a basis for dialogue with several resource partners and this has stimulated interest in areas such as pro-poor agricultural innovation, social protection, youth employment and rural women's empowerment. In the case of social protection, a side

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funding streams within donor institutions more relevant to SP3.	donors for resource mobilization efforts and duly take into account new funding streams of donors.  4.2) Provide guidance for GCF/GEF project formulation to explicitly	agriculture and food systems – in the context of climate change – is inextricably linked to other “less traditional” areas of FAO work such as youth employment, child labor, migration and social protection. This will provide a sound basis for reaching out to non-traditional donors to leverage new funding streams. A resource mobilization action plan to leverage the Portfolio and engage the various levels of the organization – particularly decentralized offices – to further contextualize potential interventions based on country-specific interests and needs is in place for implementation during 2019. In the meantime, encounters with resource partners to showcase the underfunded areas of work, have been organized and are being followed-up.  4.2) Intensive interactions have led to a better recognition of the linkages between the GEF/GCF	4.2 - 5	event was held in May 2018 during the FAO Council to illustrate success stories from FAO’s work and stimulate donor interest. A follow-up resource partner consultative meeting is planned for early 2019. Forest and Farm Facility has entered its second phase with heightened resource partner interest, thanks to the launch event in July 2018 during COFO 24 with participation of a number of resource partners. A consultative meeting with resource partners is planned for early 2019. In the case of decent rural employment, several donors have expressed interest, particularly with regards to youth employment. South Korea has recently confirmed funding for a USD6m proposal on green jobs for youth, with implementation starting in 2019. FAO has successfully engaged with several resource partners prioritizing pro-poor agricultural innovation to raise USD7 million to date.  4.2) The Management interactions have already led to an

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	consider rural poverty reduction, including targeting, policies and activities, and multi sectoral approaches.	work and poverty reduction programme areas. SP3, jointly with SP1, TC, CB, FOA, FIA and regional and sub-regional offices, have allocated staff time and consultants to support the development of GEF and GCF proposals to consider poverty reduction and explicitly target the poor and vulnerable peoples in project design and implementation. A draft checklist/guideline for project formulators has been prepared to facilitate discussions between the relevant FAO units in order to promote explicit consideration of rural poverty reduction and targeting during the formulation of these large programs. For GEF, an analysis has been undertaken to better understand how FAO's current portfolio (USD750m) already deals with poverty and the poor, along with a plan of action on how new projects can address poverty more intentionally, respecting GEF project formulation requirements.		improved embedding of poverty reduction within several key GEF/GCF proposals, including the first GCF proposal approved for FAO (in Paraguay « Proeza »), which includes an important component of Social Protection as an essential risk management tool to enable the natural resource conservation goals of the project. For GEF, an ongoing project in the Caribbean on Ecosystem Stewardship and Livelihoods in Small scale fisheries has fully embedded poverty reduction considerations. Other GCF project design processes have also taken into account support to vulnerable and marginalized groups in El Salvador, Kyrgyzstan, and Philippines.
<b>Recommendation 5:</b> FAO should deepen its collaboration with strategic partners to achieve scale and concrete results around relevant SDGs.	5.1) Leverage existing CPF formulation and related resource mobilization efforts, broaden strategic engagement beyond agriculture to ministries (such as Social Development, Rural Development, Labour,	5.1) FAO CPF formulation guidance stresses the importance of ensuring that the CPF task forces reach out beyond agriculture ministries and include other key ministries such as social development, labor, gender etc. and partners (including donor agencies) working on poverty reduction at country level. An increased effort over the past two years by the SP3 HQ Team and network of regional focal points has promoted a progressive, substantive improvement in the	5.1 - 5	5.1) Key CPF processes in all regions have benefitted from a specific poverty reduction focus based on a more proactive and intensive engagement - in REU, RLC and RNE, in the context of the Family Farming/Small-Scale Agriculture Regional Initiatives, and in Africa and Asia Pacific, exploiting linkages with climate

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	Gender, Planning) and partners (such as ILO, UNICEF, UN-Women, DFID, UNDP, IFAD, WFP) involved in rural poverty reduction;	<p>identification of potential entry points for poverty reduction in FAO's work and synergies with other partners, including resource partners.</p> <p>On strategic engagement with partners, FAO is part of the Steering Committee of the Global Partnership on Universal Social Protection (USP2030), co-led by UNICEF and the World Bank, and focused on supporting governments to progressively achieve SDG 1.3 by 2030. FAO continues to deepen and strengthen its collaboration with UNICEF around evidence generation of national cash transfer programmes. FAO (SP3/SP1) has been closely collaborating with IFAD and WFP on school feeding, food and nutrition.</p> <p>FAO SP3 is engaging with strategic partners such as the World Bank, under the leadership of FIA, on data collection and methodologies for measuring the contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to poverty reduction, food security and livelihoods in data poor situations as well as for mainstreaming SDG 1 into fisheries and aquaculture policies.</p> <p>SP3 is also participating in the 50x2030 data initiative jointly with IFAD and the World Bank, to assure that the data produced will facilitate policies and programmes that contribute towards SDGs 1 and 2.</p> <p>On the interaction between SDG 1, 2 and 13, FAO (SP3 w/ other SPs) is fostering collaboration with IFAD, CGIAR and academic institutions on a Global Initiative to support research, policy</p>		<p>change, value chain development and natural resource management. Examples of this in Asia are as cited in Vietnam, Myanmar and Bangladesh as per 1.2 and 2.2. above. In Africa, the new draft CPF for Nigeria strongly embeds decent youth employment promotion within an effort towards employment-sensitive and socially equitable agricultural growth.</p> <p>In social protection, FAO is working closely with UNICEF, WFP, and ILO to leverage synergies at country level. Joint work with IFAD and WFP on school feeding, food and nutrition has enhanced the evidence on the FSN and productive impacts of homegrown school feeding programmes in Zambia, Ethiopia and Senegal and the Regional Initiative for School Meals and Social Protection in the Middle East and North Africa.</p> <p>Significant progress has been made in raising awareness of and receptivity to the critical linkages of and therefore the need to address climate change, poverty and hunger in an integrated way.</p>

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		<p>development and capacity building with particular emphasis on knowledge generation and action to support the implementation of SDG 1.5 at country level. In addition, strategic advocacy meetings have been organized in collaboration with the Rome-based agencies, during FAO Governance sessions (CL/CONF/TCs) as well as COP23, on the linkages between SDG 1, 2 and 13 with particular attention to Small Island Developing States (SIDS).</p> <p>On child labour, FAO is seeking closer and effective coordination on reducing child labour in agriculture through the Alliance 8.7 and the International Partnership for Collaboration on Child Labour in Agriculture (IPCCLA). The Alliance 8.7 is a global partnership galvanizing action to achieve SDG target 8.7. FAO also participates actively in the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth, co-leading with ILO, the thematic area of youth in the rural economy. Finally, the FAO-AU-Government of Rwanda regional youth conference in August 2018 has led to ongoing strategic discussions on potential collaboration with ILO, UNIDO and CTA. The Rural Women's Economic Empowerment program (RWEE), a key contribution to SP3, received additional financial support in 2018 and represents a collaboration across the three Rome-based agencies and UN Women towards reaching targets for SDG1, 2 and 5.</p>		<p>A partnership has been established between different poverty and climate change experts (academia, World Bank, IFAD, CGIAR, civil society organizations) and sensitization of key donors has been initiated for exploring resource mobilization opportunities.</p> <p>In Burkina Faso, FAO is supporting the ILO to implement the EC-funded CLEAR COTTON project to eliminate child labour in the cotton supply chain. FAO's engagement has resulted in increased interest of EU DEVCO on a more strategic collaboration on child labour in agriculture.</p>

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	<p>5.2) Continuously engage in a high level dialogue with UNTT for SDGs and Rome-based Agencies towards building synergies in the development agenda and considering the value added of each organization to develop joint programmes/projects for supporting countries in achieving the SDGs.</p> <p>5.3) Engage strategically with Development Banks</p>	<p>5.2) Following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in September 2015, the UNTT was discontinued and support to the implementation, follow-up and review of the SDG has been provided through the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) and its extensive global, regional and national preparatory processes, including Voluntary National reviews, regional sustainable development forums, and global expert meetings convened to conduct thematic reviews of selected SDGs at global level each year. FAO has been active in each of these processes, and has also provided inputs from FAO intergovernmental bodies, and convened or participated ad hoc meetings on special topics identified by the President of ECOSOC. FAO has been and will remain actively engaged in all of these processes with a view to ensuring that appropriate and priority attention is paid to the rural dimensions of ending poverty and hunger and achieving inclusive, resilient and sustainable development. Discussions around the development of the new UNDAF and associated country arrangements have also provided a key strategic vehicle to further catalyze joint work and promote synergies at country level.</p> <p>5.3) FAO has strengthened the link between its investment and poverty reduction teams to ensure that the formulation of key investment strategies,</p>	<p>5.2 - 4</p> <p>5.3 - 4</p>	<p>5.2) FAO has been invited to co-organize or contribute to expert group meetings on nearly all SDGs in 2017-2019, reflecting the broad relevance of food and agriculture to the 2030 Agenda. FAO has collaborated with a wide range of partners, in particular RBAs, to provide evidence and analysis, as well as to ensure that rural perspectives are taken into account in shaping joint initiatives and programmes, as well as discussing progress and providing guidance.</p> <p>5.3) Countries supported by FAO to explicitly consider poverty reduction and other social</p>



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	in developing investment strategies with greater impact on poverty reduction, considering the access of the poorest to natural resources, markets, technologies, employment generation, social protection and sectoral policies.	projects and programmes supported by the Organization explicitly consider/target poverty reduction impacts and to integrate social dimensions, including social protection and food security. SP3 assisted in building the capacity of investment officers on poverty reduction analysis, and prepared joint publication on investing in agriculture in rural areas <i>Ending poverty and hunger by investing in agriculture and rural areas</i> .		dimensions in their NAIPs include WBGS, Rwanda, and Cote D’ivoire and IFAD-funded projects in Central African Republic and Chad.
<b>Recommendation 6:</b> FAO should identify SP3-related approaches that have the greatest potential for impact on gender equality, and ensure that these are duly considered during the design and implementation of SP3 interventions.	6.1) Further strengthen the analytical capacity to mainstream gender in poverty analysis and in assessing the impact of poverty reduction programmes.	6.1) Both the Extreme Poverty and Social Protection Frameworks give specific attention to gender roles, given the power imbalances within rural households and specific vulnerabilities often faced by rural women.  In addition, FAO continued its collaboration with IFPRI to develop the project-level Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture (pro-WEAI) - a new tool for measuring and assessing the impact of agricultural development projects on women’s empowerment in agriculture. In addition, the work on multidimensional poverty – a new collaboration with OPHI – will include sex-disaggregated indicators, aimed to inform the different ways in which rural men and women experience poverty. FAO is also actively engaged in the preparation of the Committee on the Status of Women (CSW), which focuses on gender and social protection policy and programs for greater impact. FAO is leading in the organization of side	6.1 - 4	6.1) FAO is applying the pro-WEAI in Ethiopia to evaluate the impact of the UN Joint Programme on, “Accelerating progress towards the economic empowerment of rural women (UNJP RWEE)” implemented by FAO, IFAD, WFP, and UN Women, to analyze impacts of the programme on food security and poverty reduction.

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	6.2) Identify successful gender equality and rural women's empowerment approaches in FAO programme of work and promote them at regional and country level for scale up, including within the context of SSC;	<p>events to enhance the visibility of rural women and the role of social protection in enhancing rural women's economic empowerment.</p> <p>6.2) To promote gender-equitable agriculture investments for poverty reduction, SP3 organized a multi-stakeholder write-shop to foster south-south learning and exchange in coffee and cocoa value sectors, in collaboration with a non-governmental organization (NGO) Twin and the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) of the Netherlands.</p> <p>A range of actors including producer organizations, multi-national companies, traders, and governments from Africa and Latin America, came together to document and prepare eight case studies identified as good practice in promoting gender-equitable agriculture investments, including on: women's membership and leadership in producer organizations; increasing women's access to and control over land; household approaches to promoting gender equity; and, the value of women trainers and extension agents.</p> <p>To further promote learning across countries and to share lessons that can be scaled up, FAO is planning a south-south exchange and learning</p>	6.2 - 4	<p>6.2) The publication resulting from the south-south encounter on coffee and cocoa value chains, "promoting inclusive and gender-Sensitive agricultural Investments in Cocoa and Coffee sector", will be finalized and disseminated in 2019, and will be used to foster exchange of good practices amongst investors, rural cooperatives and other stakeholders.</p> <p>The DIMITRA approach is now integrated in numerous FAO projects/ programmes in sub-Saharan and is used to promote behaviour changes at village level, including in gender relations and roles, and improve gender equality and rural livelihoods. The approach has been promoted at regional and national levels through south-south cooperation exchanges, in</p>

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	6.3) Develop a component on gender equality and rural women's empowerment interventions in the capacity development programme (see Action 3.2).	<p>amongst countries that are implementing the programmes on rural women's economic empowerment.</p> <p>FAO also continued to promote the scaling up of the Dimitra Clubs approach at regional level in 2017. The Dimitra clubs approach is globally recognized as a unique gender-transformative approach/model to promote rural peoples' empowerment and women's leadership.</p> <p>6.3 A dedicated lesson on gender equality and poverty was developed as part of the series of e-learning courses on rural poverty reduction. Gender considerations were also integrated throughout the learning curriculum. FAO has also developed a specific toolkit to support the design, implementation and evaluation of gender-sensitive social protection. The tool-kit was piloted in Rwanda, and will be presented in the CSW side events.</p>	6.3 - 4	<p>particular between Mali, Niger and Senegal. The six-month exchange process (field visits and training) that took place in 2017 has boosted the scale-up of the approach in the countries (almost doubling the number of clubs).</p> <p>6.3) The e-learning modules are currently being finalized as per 3.2 above.</p>