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Food and Agriculture
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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
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PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Hundred and Twenty-ninth Session

9-13 November 2020

**Progress Report on the implementation of Programme Committee
recommendations**

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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Committee, at its 125th Session¹, agreed to have as a standing item on its Agenda a Progress report on the implementation of Programme Committee recommendations and at its 126th Session², suggested the inclusion of delivery dates, when feasible and/or a percentage of implementation rate, to measure the progress in implementation.
- This document provides an update on status of implementation of recommendations made by the Programme Committee at its previous session. This document indicates the status of implementation by traffic light and reports the delivery date or percentage of implementation rate, if applicable.
- The traffic light color-code is as follows:
 - **Completed**
 - **Ongoing**
 - **Not yet started**

GUIDANCE SOUGHT FROM THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

- The Programme Committee is invited to take note of the Progress report on the implementation of Programme Committee recommendations.

Draft Advice

The Committee:

- took note of the Status of Outstanding Recommendations of the Programme Committee and looked forward to receiving an updated version of the document at its next regular session.

¹ [CL 160/3 \(para. 15 i\)](#)

² [CL 161/3 \(para. 25 b\)](#)

Status of implementation of Programme Committee recommendations

		Status	Delivery date or percentage of implementation rate, if applicable	Comments
Further Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2020-21				
1.	Requested more information on the theory of change and change management strategy <u>REFERENCE</u> : CL 164/6 Rev.1 para. 6. h), g)	●	129 th Session of the Programme Committee	Included in the Outline of the Strategic Framework and Outline of the Medium Term Plan 2022-25.
Provisional outline of the new Strategic Framework				
2.	Requested an inclusive and transparent process for the development of the Strategic Framework <u>REFERENCE</u> : CL 164/6 Rev.1 para. 7. h), i), p), r)	●		Informal consultations with the membership are ongoing in addition to inputs from formal Governing Bodies.
Evaluation of FAO's support to Zero Hunger (SDG2)				
3.	CL 164/6 Rev.1 para. 8. m) <u>looked forward</u> to receiving the results of the second phase of the evaluation at its 129 th Session	●	129 th Session of the Programme Committee	It will be presented at the 129 th Session of the Programme Committee.
Evaluation of FAO's Statistical Work				
4.	CL 164/6 Rev.1 para. 10. d) <u>welcomed</u> the assurance of Management that the governance of FAO statistical activities would be improved to strengthen the oversight and enhance relevance, coherence and quality standards of all of its statistics, and <u>looked forward</u> to considering a proposal for this at its 130 th Session	●	Ongoing activity	FAO is working on a proposal on strengthening the governance of FAO statistical activities to be considered in the 130 th Session of the Programme Committee as originally planned. The proposal will consider the different issues raised by the Evaluation. In the meantime, one P5 and one P3 statistician positions have been transferred to the Office of the Chief Statistician as approved by FAO's council in the frame of the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) approved at its 164 th Session in July 2020.
5.	Requested more consultation with Members on the Strategy and SDGs indicators <u>REFERENCE</u> : CL 164/6 Rev.1 para. 10. f), h), k)	●		Regarding the FAO Strategy for the Modernization of Statistics, FAO is in the process of updating the document based on the recommendations of the Evaluation, as well as preparing an "implementation plan" to translate the Strategy into action. This companion document will also draw on recent system wide documents, particularly the Chief Executives Board for Coordination System-wide Roadmap for Innovating UN Data and Statistics, and the Secretary General's Data Strategy. Both the revised Strategy and Implementation Plan will be shared with Programme Committee for review. Regarding the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators, seminars for Permanent Representatives will be organized to present a series of topics including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the outcomes of the 11th Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDG); • the change of the default data source for SDG indicator 15.4.2 and how this has improved the accuracy and replicability of the data; • the results of the first global data collection process for SDG indicator 2.4.1;

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the outcome of two global consultations with National Statistical Systems on the validation of FAO country estimates for SDG indicators 2.1.2 and 15.4.2; and the new mechanism for data validation introduced by FAO and the way it has improved response rates and facilitated coordination at country level. <p>FAO is also currently examining the possibility of introducing further methodological refinements to certain indicators with low global coverage with a view to simplifying country reporting. The Programme Committee will be updated.</p>
Enhancing FAO's capacity to evaluate contributions at country level: Proposal for Strengthening Evaluation in Decentralized Offices				
6.	CL 164/6 Rev.1 para. 11. c) <u>recommended</u> that the Programme Committee consider how to strengthen governance and oversight of FAO's Country Programming Framework (CPF) at its 129th and 130th Sessions	●	130 th Session of the Programme Committee	It will be embedded in the new Strategic Framework 2022-31, which will be presented at the 130 th Session of the Programme Committee.
7.	CL 164/6 Rev.1 para. 11. e) <u>recommended</u> that FAO's CPF reflect on lessons learned from decentralized evaluations	●	130 th Session of the Programme Committee	It will be embedded in the new Strategic Framework 2022-31, which will be presented at the 130 th Session of the Programme Committee.
8.	CL 164/6 Rev.1 para. 11. i) <u>looked forward</u> to receiving a summary of the results of post hoc assessment of evaluations at the Programme Committee;	●	2023 onwards	Once the Evaluation Policy is discussed, agreed and promulgated in 2021, the decentralization process will start. Decentralized evaluations are expected to start in stages in the second half of 2021 to 2022. The first summary of the results of post hoc assessment of decentralized evaluations is expected in 2023.
9.	CL 164/6 Rev.1 para. 11. j) <u>recommended</u> the proposal as contained in the document PC 128/6, and <u>looked forward</u> to reviewing the draft Evaluation Policy covering both the centralized and decentralized evaluation functions at a future session.	●	2021	The first draft of the Evaluation Policy will be submitted in 2021.
Progress Report on the preparation for the United Nations Secretary-General (UNSG) World Food Systems Summit				
10.	CL 164/6 Rev.1 para. 12. i) <u>underlined</u> the action and solution oriented approach of the Summit with high level political commitment and <u>requested</u> the Organization to provide analysis of the proposed action tracks in the light of their support to the implementation and achievement of the SDGs, especially with the Decade of Action of Agenda 2030	●		The Chairs, Vice-Chairs and UN Anchor Organizations were announced in September 2020 and during October have been establishing their membership and identifying the scope and focus of their work over the coming months. FAO has been involved in the formulation of the five action tracks and will support Action Track 1 and the UN Anchor Organization and provide technical support to the conceptualization and delivery of all five Action Tracks.

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11.	CL 164/6 Rev.1 para. 12. q) <u>requested</u> that this item become a standard item on the Agenda of the Programme Committee, and <u>looked forward</u> to a further progress report be presented to the 129th Session of the Programme Committee.	●	129 th Session of the Programme Committee	It will be presented at the 129 th Session of the Programme Committee.
Progress Report on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative				
12.	CL 164/6 Rev.1 para. 13. a) <u>welcomed</u> the Organization's efforts to improve the Hand in Hand Initiative (HIHI) action plan through development and use of the HIHI Geospatial Platform and the Big Data Lab; and <u>encouraged</u> Management to train Members to access and use the HIHI Geospatial Platform	●		A "train the trainers" approach is being implemented with high priority to meet the rapidly growing demand from Members and from the FAO technical divisions and field offices to enable Members to access the resources of Hand-in-Hand Initiative (HIHI) Geospatial Platform. Volunteers both at headquarters and in the regions are being self-identified to undergo training with the explicit goal of making themselves available to train groups of others. Learning from this experience will be captured in new on-line e-learning modules designed to guide users at different levels of expertise in the use of the platform. Simultaneously, measures are being taken to automate frequently used processes, such as the stochastic profitability frontier analysis that underlies the creation of typologies for the HIHI. Partnerships and open platforms are expected to lead to the co-creation of new tools for other analytic procedures, which will be made available on the platform over time. The development teams are also exploring opportunities to accelerate labor intensive requirements, such as data cleansing, which constitute important bottlenecks to rapid growth in the usability of existing and new platform data resources.
13.	CL 164/6 Rev.1 para. 13. c) <u>appreciated</u> that Members would benefit from access to the platform and from the ability to combine their own data with data contained on the data platform and <u>encouraged</u> the Organization to make the data accessible to all Members	●		In response to the strong interest of Members, access to the HIHI geospatial platform has been granted for all available resources to all Members with immediate effect, and platform development will enable Members to combine (and protect, if they so desire) their own data with the platform resources.
14.	CL 164/6 Rev.1 para. 13. d) <u>raised</u> concerns regarding data protection and <u>looked forward</u> to reviewing FAO's protocol on the use and protection of data	●		FAO's governance, practices and implementation of standards for ensuring data privacy and security are compliant with all major international standards and are subject to ongoing internal review by the different bodies established within the Organization for ensuring compliance with the relevant and appropriate data, cyber security and legal standards. Rules and mechanisms have been put in place for protecting Member data that we have been requested to keep confidential; systems for automated monitoring of compliance will be put in place as the platform expands and matures and as the number of users expands. Documentation of the protocols on the use and protection of data are being developed for review by relevant units in the first quarter of 2021.

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15.	CL 164/6 Rev.1 k) <u>noted</u> that the initial budget neutral proposal <u>called for</u> additional budgetary allocations in response to the growing number of countries adhering to the Initiative, given the additional 5 countries moving in to status of food crises, and to the expansion of the HIHI Geospatial Platform to all countries in the world	●		As anticipated to the Programme Committee in July (PC 128/8), implementation of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative (HIHI) has not required any additional regular programming funds. In 2020, FAO secured additional resources (data) and capacities (analytics, tools) at no extra cost to the regular programme through partnerships with major knowledge-based enterprises, both public and private, that have provided not only free access to their own data resources but have often made available tools and models for interpreting that data. Supportive initiatives, such as the Data Lab have benefited from extrabudgetary financing. HIHI focus is expanding, as the programme matures, in the areas of donor and international financial institutions (IFIs) mapping and outreach, technical analysis and stakeholder consultation. As the number of HIHI beneficiary countries expands in the near term, there will be benefit to mobilizing extra-budgetary funding.
16.	CL 164/6 Rev.1 o) <u>recommended</u> inclusion of the HIHI matchmaking approach to partnership building in FAO's partnership framework	●	Ongoing, to be completed with partnership review.	The HIHI match-making approach presents an important innovation in FAO's approach to partnership building with non-state actors, including private philanthropies, private sector entities, civil society organizations and universities and research institutions. While FAO is finalizing its New Strategy on Private Sector Engagement and evaluating its partnership with Civil Society it is proposed that systematic consideration be given to practical applications of joint technical and analytical work in the context of Hand-in-Hand and other country programming initiatives that adopt the HIH approach. We anticipate, on the basis of initial engagements with private sector and research entities, that the match-making approach will provide strong incentives to sustained programmatic work that results in new public goods, expanded knowledge creation and sharing as well as capacity development, and accelerated joint action toward achievement of national targets under the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.
17.	CL 164/6 Rev.1 s) <u>looked forward</u> to further updates on the Initiative at forthcoming sessions of the Programme Committee.	●	129 th Session of the Programme Committee	It will be presented at the 129 th Session of the Programme Committee.
Implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors				
18.	Requested review from the Technical Committees, more consultations with Members. <u>REFERENCE</u> : CL 164/6 Rev.1 para. 14. h), i), j)	●		The 27 th Session of Committee on Agriculture (COAG) (28 September-2 October 2020) and the 25 th Session of Committee on Forestry (COFO) (5-9 October 2020) reviewed the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors, and its Action Plan, and will be providing additional inputs to the Action Plan, for further review by the Programme Committee in its Spring session in 2021, following review also by the 34 th Session of Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in February 2021.

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Update on the Work Plan of the Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding for Antimicrobial Resistance				
19.	CL 164/6 Rev.1 para. 15. c) <u>requested</u> that the forthcoming Work Plan of the Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding be developed following a consultative process with the membership of the Tripartite organizations and <u>underlined</u> that its lifespan should be defined in accordance with the complexity and broadness of the areas covered	●		Building on the Tripartite Work Plan on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) (2019-2020) and the implementation of AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund, the Tripartite work together to develop the Tripartite Strategic Framework, which will be the update of the work plan, and span the next following years.
20.	CL 164/6 Rev.1 para. 15. d) <u>stressed the need</u> for FAO to focus on supporting countries in implementing their National Action Plans and capacity building at national level and <u>reiterated</u> the request made at the 127th Session of the Programme Committee for “more detailed information about the development of a data platform for antimicrobial resistance related to food and agriculture, including the expected timeframes and funding”	●		FAO is working to create a global data platform to support Members in the collection of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and antimicrobial use (AMU) data generated from the food and agriculture sectors; it will also include data on AMR/AMU relating to plant protection and data from environmental studies, based on the needs and capacity of Members to supply. It will form part of the Tripartite Integrated Surveillance System on AMR/AMU platform (TISSA) complementing the work of World Health Organization (WHO) and World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). A proposal of the database platform development has been submitted to the Steering Committee of the AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund for approval.
21.	Requested more consultations with Members and Technical Committees <u>REFERENCE</u> : CL 164/6 Rev.1 para. 15. g) <u>i)</u>	●		The item has been proposed for review by all Technical Committees.
22.	CL 164/6 Rev.1 para. 15. k) <u>requested</u> further updates taking into consideration the reports of COAG and COFI at future sessions of the Programme Committee	●	130 th Session of the Programme Committee	It's scheduled to be presented at the 130 th Session of the Programme Committee in March 2021.
Progress on efforts for the Eradication of <i>Peste des Petits Ruminants</i> (PPR)				
23.	CL 164/6 Rev.1 para. 16. f) <u>encouraged</u> Management to reach out to review progress as recommended in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (April 2015) during the FAO-OIE International Conference on PPR, and Members especially those from infected countries, as well as other non-state actors to commit and invest more resources towards PPR eradication by 2030.	●		The <i>Peste des Petits Ruminants</i> (PPR) Monitoring and Assessment Tool review process is to be completed by end 2020. The outcome will entrust the revision of the PPR Global strategy and be used for the formulation of the second phase of PPR Global Eradication Programme (PPR GEP 2022-2026). The 27 th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG-27) welcomed the draft PPR GEP resolution to achieve the goal of a PPR free world by 2030 and requested that it be submitted to the Council at its 165 th Session and subsequently to the FAO Conference at its 42 th session in 2021 for adoption. - A resource partner meeting was organized in September 2020 and attended by International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), World Bank, African Development Bank, European Commission Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (EC-DEVCO) and Islamic Development Bank. All of them showed interest in investing in PPR but highlighted the need for requests to

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				come from affected countries themselves and follow up bilateral discussions with resource partners and affected countries are ongoing.
The GFFA 2020's call upon FAO's Governing Bodies "to support a process" for "the establishment of an International Platform of Digital for Food and Agriculture"				
24.	CL 164/6 Rev.1 para. 17. h) <u>stressed</u> the need for funding of the platform through voluntary contributions; the need to establish a mechanism to periodically monitor and evaluate the targeting of funds to support specific projects, and <u>requested</u> more information on the sustainability of the funding for the platform	●		Since the endorsement of the International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture by the 164 th Session of the FAO Council and the request that its Terms of Reference (that present membership, governance and timeline) are reviewed by Committee on Agriculture (COAG), the Committee on Forestry (COFO), the Committee on Fisheries (COFI), the Programme Committee and the FAO Council, the document entitled 'Terms of Reference of the International Platform for Food and Agriculture' was submitted to the 27 th Session of the COAG (28 September - 2 October 2020) and the 25 th Session of the COFO (5-9 October 2020). Both technical committees provided guidance and feedback which will be subsumed in revisions of the document. In parallel to revising the Terms of Reference, FAO is developing a sustainable funding plan for the initiative to be based on voluntary contributions from Members and partners.
Update on COVID-19 and its consequences for food security and food systems				
25.	Requested more coordination among Rome-based Agencies <u>REFERENCE:</u> CL 164/6 Rev.1 para. 18. i), j)	●		In April 2020, the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) leadership agreed on a structured and coordinated joint RBA response to COVID-19, which developed into four pillars: i) Country Programming/Planning; ii) Policy & Analytical Support; iii) Advocacy and information sharing; iv) Business Continuity The RBAs concur on the need to coordinate more on the COVID-19 response and subsequently, the meetings of the Senior Consultative Group are held more frequently to coordinate and document the joint COVID-19 response. In terms of the path forward, the RBAs will focus on specific outcomes and results at country and regional levels emanating from increased coordination – in order to demonstrate tangible impact across the RBAs collective efforts. Current joint actions, such as in the Sahel, are regularly reviewed to adapt to the situation created by COVID-19.
26.	CL 164/6 Rev.1 para. 18. q) <u>called for</u> the Organization to increase work in data analytics and data collection including Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) activities as well as surveillance capacity at country level and emphasized FAO's policy making role to support countries in mitigating the COVID-19 impact and build agriculture sector resilience	●		FAO continued regular reporting on market developments concerning basic food commodities and Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) crops, including assessments of the impacts of the COVID-19 on global food supply and demand situation as well as international prices. Also under the Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS), the Organization has kept under constant watch the food supply and demand situation in all countries and regions, and issued regular reports on prevailing conditions. Furthermore, since the onset of the outbreak, FAO provided analysis and evidence by publishing papers, policy briefs and technical notes with the aim to assist countries in the effort to keep value chains alive and trade flows

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				unaffected during the COVID-19 pandemic. To further support this effort, FAO organized and participated in many events, dialogues and webinars.
27.	CL 164/6 Rev.1 para. 18. s) <u>stressed</u> the importance of mobilizing necessary resources and managing the COVID-19 related risks facing FAO's programme of work, including the risk that resource mobilization may be disrupted, as well as working with Members to anticipate and address emerging threats to food supply and food security and nutrition	●		FAO has been working steadfastly with Members, the UN development system and a wide variety of multilateral and regional partners to anticipate and address a wide variety of emerging threats to the safety and security of food supply and to food security and nutrition posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and its socio-economic impacts. Recognizing that the crisis remains a grave threat that can manifest itself in diverse ways at the national level, FAO has developed from the ground up a comprehensive COVID-19 Response and Recovery plan with focus on seven priority areas of work to support its Members both to confront the current crisis and to "build to transform" food systems in ways that accelerate progress across the Sustainable Development Goals. More important, the Organization is launching a Global Action through a COVID-19 Food Coalition. The Food Coalition as proposed by the Government of Italy and led by FAO aims to mobilize financial resources and technical expertise in support of the most vulnerable and those most affected by the current pandemic.
28.	CL 164/6 Rev.1 para. 18. u) <u>looked forward</u> to future updates on FAO's work in tackling the COVID-19 crisis.	●	Joint Meeting of the 129 th Session of the Programme Committee and the 183 rd Session of the Finance Committee	It will be presented at the Joint Meeting of the 129 th Session of the Programme Committee and the 183 rd Session of the Finance Committee.