



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

APRC/16/REP

REPORT

Putrajaya
Malaysia
7-11 March
2016

Thirty-third Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific

FAO Member Nations in the Asia Region

Afghanistan	Iran, Islamic Republic of	Pakistan
Bangladesh	Japan	Philippines
Bhutan	Kazakhstan	Russian Federation
Brunei-Darussalam	Republic of Korea	Singapore
Cambodia	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Sri Lanka
China	Malaysia	Thailand
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Maldives	Timor-Leste
India	Mongolia	Uzbekistan
Indonesia	Myanmar	Viet Nam
	Nepal	

FAO Member Nations in the Southwest Pacific Region

Australia	Nauru	Tuvalu
Cook Islands	New Zealand	United States of America
Fiji	Niue	Vanuatu
France	Palau	
Kiribati	Papua New Guinea	
Marshall Islands	Samoa	
Micronesia (Federated States of)	Solomon Island	
	Tonga	

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

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

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United Nations

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SUMMARY OF MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

MATTERS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

The Thirty-third session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific:

Programme and Budget Matters

Report on the Meeting of the South West Pacific Agriculture Ministers in Papua New Guinea in May 2015, including the Ministerial Communiqué

- 27e) requested FAO to reflect the priority recommendations of the Meeting of the South West Pacific Agriculture Ministers in future work, and provide follow-up support in the form of Technical Cooperation Programme projects and other relevant support.

Results and Priorities for FAO in Asia and the Pacific region

- 29 b) underlined the need for continuity in strategic direction of the Organization and appreciated the alignment between the FAO Strategic Objectives and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- 29 c) supported continuation of the Regional Initiatives for the 2016-17 biennium to help focus FAO actions on priorities of the region: Support to the Zero Hunger Challenge in Asia and the Pacific, Regional Rice Initiative, Sustainable Intensification of Aquaculture for Blue Growth, and Developing Local Value Chains for food security and nutrition in the Pacific Island Countries;
- 29 d) requested FAO to address the challenges facing countries in the region concerning nutrition and food safety; inclusive value chain development; food waste and loss; transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases, sustainable production and resilience in the context of climate change; and data and analysis for decision making, monitoring and evaluation;
- 29 e) promoted ongoing work on Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS), and highlighted the multi-stakeholder dialogues on the potential roles of agroecology and agricultural biotechnologies in productive, sustainable and inclusive food systems;
- 29 f) took note of the emerging trends in the region concerning growth in food demand and widening inequality, the ageing agricultural workforce and potential labour shortages, increasing effects of climate change, and rapidly developing innovations in agricultural technologies, and looked forward to further analytical work by FAO to understand their impacts on food and agriculture in the region;
- 29 g) urged FAO to work with member countries in collaboration and partnership with sub-regional, regional and international institutions, providing policy advice and capacity development and building on FAO's normative and standard-setting work;
- 29 i) welcomed the activities under the International Year of Pulses and highlighted the importance of pulses in meeting nutritional challenges in the region.

Decentralized Offices Network

- 31 a) welcomed the decentralization paper and recognized the need to update the coverage of FAO offices, in order to adapt to current developments and requirements and achieve greater efficiency in the implementation of strategic objectives;
- 31 c) examined and supported the options recommended by the Secretariat for Asia and the Pacific for upgrading FAO country offices and creating additional country offices.

Prioritization of Country and Regional Needs

- 34 particularly highlighted the challenges related to the adverse effects of climate change, frequent natural disasters, environmental degradation, increasing demands on land and water resources, changing demographics affecting the agriculture sector, and animal and plant pests and diseases.
- 35 emphasized capacity building, research and development, technology transfer, robust data collection and analyses, sound agricultural policies and strategies, infrastructure development and increased investment in the agriculture sector as key needs.
- 36 stressed the need to increase sustainable agricultural production and productivity, reduce food loss and waste, and facilitate transparent, open and efficient trade of food to accelerate progress towards food security and nutrition in the region. The importance of developing effective food value chains and enhancing food safety and quality were highlighted;
- 37 emphasized the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Change Agreement in guiding future actions in agriculture, food security and nutrition, and welcomed alignment of FAO's Strategic Objectives with the SDGs;
- 39 recognized the important roles of smallholders, family farmers and fishers in contributing to food security and nutrition and called for efforts to enhance the capacity to more effectively link with modern value chains. Mainstreaming of gender equality and uplifting the quality of life in rural areas to retain youth in agricultural activities were also encouraged;
- 41 highlighted the importance of mobilizing investment and strengthening collaboration with partner organizations at global, regional and national levels, including with research institutions, multilateral development institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector and other regional and international organizations. The value of regional sharing of knowledge, experiences and expertise, including through South-South cooperation, was particularly emphasized;
- 42 appreciated steps taken to decentralize roles, responsibilities, authorities and resources and urged FAO to continue such decentralization efforts, whilst improving the technical capacity of the Organization.
- 43 welcomed the celebration of the International Year of Pulses and encouraged FAO and member countries to make full use of the opportunity to highlight the contributions and importance of pulses in contributing to food security and nutrition in the region.

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

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

Date and Place of the Thirty-fourth Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific

- 48 recommended the acceptance of the gracious offer of the Government of Fiji to host the thirty-fourth session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, in 2018.

MATTERS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF THE CONFERENCE

The Thirty-third session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific:

State of Food and Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific Region, including Future Prospects and Emerging Issues in the Framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- 15 a) appreciated the progress made in the region in reducing the proportion of those suffering from hunger, but expressed concern that nearly half a billion people remain undernourished, 90 million children remain stunted and obesity is a growing problem in every sub-region;
- 15 c) emphasized the importance of promoting sustainable agriculture to strengthen food security and nutrition;
- 15 d) noted the need for increased investment in agriculture to support achievement of the SDGs, including from private sector and non-traditional sources;
- 15 e) encouraged member countries to expand appropriate social protection programmes.
- 16 requested FAO support for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by assisting member countries in: a) reflecting SDGs in national policies and programmes; enhancing food safety; controlling transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases; developing food value chains; and reducing food loss and waste; b) monitoring and evaluating progress toward achievement of relevant SDGs; c) developing robust data collection systems and capacities for analysis; d) developing and strengthening policies, institutions and technical capacities to enable countries to double their agricultural productivity and to manage climate change risks and disasters; and e) facilitating the exchange of knowledge and experiences with good practices.

Revitalizing the Rural Economy through Enhanced Linkages between Small-Scale Agricultural Production and Value Chains

- 18 b) emphasized the critical importance of rural organizations as a means to integrate smallholders into value chains;
- 18 d) drew attention to the market opportunities afforded by heritage products, geographic indication and community-branded products;
- 18 e) reinforced the need for an enabling environment to facilitate public-private partnerships.
- 19 requested FAO support in the following areas related to the integration of rural smallholders, fishers and herders into value chains: a) development of policies that will enable men and women to access appropriate levels of technology and business skills; b) creation of enabling policy and regulatory frameworks; c) policies for sustainable value chains; d) South-South cooperation for access to technology and experiences; and e) documentation, publication and dissemination of information on successful development of inclusive value chains.

Promote National Nutrition Policies and Investments, and Integrate Nutrition Objectives into Food and Agriculture Policy, Programme Design and Implementation

- 21 a) highlighted the importance of ensuring food availability by promoting growth in food production and trade while giving greater emphasis to food quality and nutrition;
- 21 d) appreciated the numerous initiatives and actions taken in the region related to strengthening nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food systems; education and awareness raising and national multi-sectoral coordination;
- 21 e) urged member countries to incorporate explicit nutrition and food safety goals, objectives, targets and measurable indicators in food and agricultural policies, programmes and investment programmes, with clear baselines and data for monitoring the impacts;
- 21 f) encouraged member countries to work towards improving multi-sectoral collaboration on nutrition issues through effective national coordinating entities, joint strategies and integrated approaches at both national and local levels;
- 21 g) encouraged governments to mainstream nutrition and food safety in food and agriculture by enhancing institutional and technical skills, forging partnerships, strengthening data collecting and measuring skills, building awareness of healthy dietary habits and strengthening nutrition education;
- 21 h) called on resource partners to make voluntary contributions to support FAO's work in the region to advance governments' nutrition actions and initiatives.
- 22 requested FAO support in promoting and integrating nutrition objectives in food and agriculture policy, programme design and implementation through: a) sharing good practices and lessons learned in implementing nutrition-sensitive food and agriculture interventions; b) alignment of national agricultural and food policies to the ICN2 Framework of Action and SDG 2 upon request; and c) strengthening food safety and nutrition outcomes with clear measurable indicators.

Blue Growth

- 24 b) noted the critical need for accelerated and concerted actions to eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing, reduce overexploitation of fish and other aquatic resources, minimize habitat damage, pollution and other factors that reduce the contribution made by capture fisheries and aquaculture to food security, nutrition and economic growth;
- 24 d) recognized the high degree of synergy between the new guiding document for coastal fisheries management in the Pacific - *The New Song for Coastal Fisheries: Pathways to Change* - and FAO's *Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication*;
- 24 e) recognized that the five interlinked strategies of the Blue Growth Initiative, which combine policy and institutional reform with on-the-ground action, offer long-term prospects for driving sustainable resource management of the fishery and aquaculture sectors, allowing economic growth and food security to be reconciled with conservation of aquatic resources;

- 24 f) acknowledged that pathways to implementing the Blue Growth Initiative were context specific and should be tailored to the social, environmental, cultural and economic characteristics of each subregion;
- 24 g) emphasized the importance of regional collaboration and cooperation between FAO and other regional partners to enhance synergies and avoid duplication in the implementation of Blue Growth activities and initiatives;
- 24 h) recommended that FAO's Blue Growth Initiative be expanded to cover marine, inland fisheries and aquaculture in the Asia and Pacific subregions;
- 25 requested FAO support for a) resilience-proofing fisheries and aquaculture production systems; b) effective management of small-scale coastal fisheries; c) building capacity to eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing; d) developing cost-effective aquaculture production systems; e) building capacity for the effective implementation of the FAO Port States Measures Agreement; and f) improving the management of small scale fisheries and aquaculture.

Results and Priorities for FAO in Asia and the Pacific region

- 29 h) looked forward to continued improvement in FAO's organizational effectiveness including through more focused Country Programming Frameworks contributing to achievement of FAO's Strategic Objectives and the SDGs.

I. Introductory Items

Organization of the Conference

1. The thirty-third session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific was held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, from 7 to 11 March 2016. The Conference was organized in two parts: a Senior Officers Meeting from 7 to 9 March and a Ministerial-level Meeting from 10 to 11 March.
2. Representatives from 44 member countries participated in the Regional Conference. Observers from 1 non-member Nation, 8 international non-governmental organizations and 34 intergovernmental organizations were in attendance. Representatives of 6 other United Nations organizations also participated.

Senior Officers Meeting and Inaugural Ceremonies

3. Ms Kundhavi Kadiresan, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative of FAO, and Honourable Datuk Seri Dr Ismail Hj Bakar, Secretary General of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry, Government of Malaysia, presented opening addresses. Ms Kadiresan appreciated the Government of Malaysia's excellent support in hosting the meeting. She reflected on the impressive progress made in the Asia-Pacific region in dramatically reducing extreme poverty and reducing hunger, and while noting the many challenges that remain, pointed out the opportunities presented by the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Honourable Datuk Seri Dr Ismail Hj Bakar, welcomed delegates and participants to Putrajaya and formally opened the Senior Officers Meeting. The Honourable Secretary General highlighted the importance of regional cooperation and partnership to enhance food security and nutrition throughout the region.
4. The Inaugural Ceremony of the Ministerial Meeting was held on 10 March. His Excellency Dato' Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, delivered the inaugural address. His Excellency highlighted the importance of small-scale farmers and producers in addressing the region's food needs and outlined Malaysia's achievements in fighting hunger and poverty. His Excellency noted the challenges to achieving food and nutrition security, including climate change and frequent natural disasters, and urged increased private sector investment in agriculture, building resilience to climate change through sustainable agriculture, and effective use of biodiversity for reducing poverty.

Election of Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteurs

5. Delegates unanimously elected Honourable Datuk Seri Dr Ismail Hj Bakar, Secretary General of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry, Government of Malaysia, as Chairperson of the Senior Officers Meeting.
6. His Excellency, Dato' Sri Ahmad Shabery Cheek, Minister of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry, Government of Malaysia, was elected Chairperson of the Ministerial Meeting. Delegates also elected all of the other Ministers present as Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference.
7. Fiji was elected to serve as Rapporteur of the Senior Officers Meeting and India was elected to serve as Rapporteur of the Ministerial Meeting.

Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

8. The Regional Conference adopted the agenda which is given in Appendix A. Documents submitted to the Conference are listed in Appendix B.

Statement by the Director-General

9. Mr. José Graziano da Silva, Director-General of FAO, delivered his statement to the Regional Conference, outlining the progress that had been made in reducing hunger in the region, while stressing the need for further efforts. He highlighted the potential for collaborative action in the framework of the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and noted that FAO's five strategic objectives are related to at least 14 of the SDGs. The Director-General emphasized FAO's efforts to support member countries in implementing effective social protection programmes, strengthening the capacities of smallholders and marginalized farmers to link to modern value chains, building resilience to climate change and natural disasters, and addressing animal health challenges. He stressed the importance of the four Regional Initiatives and Country Programming Frameworks for focusing support to member countries.

Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council

10. H.E. Ambassador Wilfred J. Ngirwa, Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council, addressed the Conference, emphasizing the unique role of the Regional Conference in defining FAO policies and priorities for the region, and the opportunity for enhancing the quality and effectiveness of FAO's decentralized offices within the framework of the Organization's Strategic Objectives and the SDGs.

Statement by the Chairperson of the 32nd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific

11. Mr Bineriya Batsukh, Director of International Cooperation, Ministry of Food and Agriculture of Mongolia, representing the Chairperson of the 32nd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, reminded the Conference of the recommendations of the previous session, and briefed delegates on subsequent activities to bring these recommendations to the attention of the FAO Conference and Council.

Statement by the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security

12. H.E. Amira Daoud Hassan Gornass, Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), reported on the accomplishments of the CFS over the past two years and the relevance of this work to the FAO Regional Conference, particularly noting the endorsement of the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems and the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises.

Statement by the Spokesperson of the Civil Society Consultation

13. A statement summarizing the conclusions and views of the civil society consultation was provided to the Regional Conference, emphasizing the need to respect the rights and interests of small farmers, landless, rural women, fishers, agricultural workers, pastoralists and herders, indigenous peoples, consumers and youth in all aspects of agricultural development, and urged implementation of the recommendations of the Multi-stakeholder Consultation on Agroecology for Asia and the Pacific convened in November 2015.

II. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Issues

A. State of Food and Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific Region, including Future Prospects and Emerging Issues in the Framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

14. The Conference reviewed the state of food and agriculture in the region and considered future prospects and emerging issues in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals.¹

15. The Conference:

- a. appreciated the progress made in the region in reducing the proportion of those suffering from hunger, but expressed concern that nearly half a billion people remain undernourished, 90 million children remain stunted and obesity is a growing problem in every sub-region;
- b. welcomed FAO's continuing commitment to support the Regional Zero Hunger Challenge in Asia and the Pacific launched at the 69th session of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in 2013;
- c. emphasized the importance of promoting sustainable agriculture to strengthen food security and nutrition;
- d. noted the need for increased investment in agriculture to support achievement of the SDGs, including from private sector and non-traditional sources;
- e. encouraged member countries to expand appropriate social protection programmes.

16. The Conference requested FAO support for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by assisting member countries in:

- a. reflecting SDGs in national policies and programmes, including formulating and implementing sound policies related to agricultural trade, enhancing food safety, controlling transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases, developing food value chains and reducing food loss and waste, building on FAO's normative and standard setting work;
- b. monitoring and evaluating progress toward achievement of relevant SDGs, through appropriate indicators;
- c. developing robust data collection systems and capacities for analysis;
- d. developing and strengthening policies, institutions and technical capacities to enable countries to double their agricultural productivity and to manage risks posed by climate change, including sea-level rise, floods, droughts and other natural disasters;
- e. facilitating the exchange of knowledge and experiences with good practices through South-South cooperation and other mechanisms for international collaboration.

¹ APRC/16/2

B. Revitalizing the Rural Economy through Enhanced Linkages between Small-Scale Agricultural Production and Value Chains

17. The Conference reviewed the economic, business, social and technical constraints faced by the rural poor in accessing market opportunities created by the growing diversification of diets and considered approaches to support inclusive value chain development towards the revitalization of rural economies across the region.²

18. The Conference:

- a. highlighted the numerous challenges that prevent smallholders from taking advantage of evolving market opportunities;
- b. emphasized the critical importance of rural organizations as a means to integrate smallholders into value chains;
- c. highlighted the importance of public and private sector investment to enable value chains to meet market requirements and pointed to the public goods required to support value chain development;
- d. drew attention to the market opportunities afforded by heritage products, geographic indication and community-branded products;
- e. reinforced the need for an enabling environment to facilitate public- private partnerships.

19. The Conference requested FAO support to address the challenges of integrating rural smallholders, fishers and herders into value chains by assisting member countries to:

- a. develop policies that encourage business models and multi-stakeholder partnerships that have positive implications for rural employment and income-generating activities for both women and men, enabling them to access appropriate levels of technology and business skills;
- b. create policy and regulatory frameworks that enable the development and empowerment of producer organizations, and build their technical and business capacity, including through vocational training for farmers, as a means towards inclusive, gender-equitable value chains;
- c. develop policies for using sustainable approaches to value chains;
- d. utilise South-South cooperation among member countries to facilitate access to technology and share experiences with the development of off-farm value-adding activities;
- e. document, publish and disseminate information on models of success relevant to inclusive value chain development in the region.

C. Promote National Nutrition Policies and Investments, and Integrate Nutrition Objectives into Food and Agriculture Policy, Programme Design and Implementation

20. The Conference reviewed the nutrition situation in the region and the challenges in integrating nutrition objectives in national food and agriculture policies, strategies and investments.³

² APRC/16/3

³ APRC/16/4

21. The Conference:
- a. highlighted the importance of ensuring food availability by promoting growth in food production and trade while giving greater emphasis to food quality and nutrition;
 - b. noted that, despite nutrition being an area of concern and advocacy for more than three decades, progress was lacking, in part because synergies with other sectors had not been fully developed;
 - c. recognized that greater progress could be made if the multi-sectoral nature of nutrition was integrated more fully into the full range of policies and investments related to food, agriculture, trade, prices and incomes, health, and food safety;
 - d. appreciated the numerous initiatives and actions taken in the region related to strengthening nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food systems; education and awareness raising and national multi-sectoral coordination;
 - e. urged member countries to incorporate explicit nutrition and food safety goals, objectives, targets and measurable indicators in food and agricultural policies, programmes and investment programmes, with clear baselines and data for monitoring the impacts;
 - f. encouraged member countries to work towards improving multi-sectoral collaboration on nutrition issues through effective national coordinating entities, joint strategies and integrated approaches at both national and local levels;
 - g. encouraged governments to mainstream nutrition and food safety in food and agriculture by enhancing institutional and technical skills, forging partnerships, strengthening data collecting and measuring skills, building awareness of healthy dietary habits and strengthening nutrition education;
 - h. called on resource partners to make voluntary contributions to support FAO's work in the region to advance governments' nutrition actions and initiatives.
22. The Conference requested FAO to support member countries in promoting and integrating nutrition objectives in food and agriculture policy, programme design and implementation by:
- a. developing and supporting regional and national platforms for sharing good practices, experiences and lessons learned in implementing nutrition-sensitive food and agriculture interventions promoted by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Pacific Island Forum (PIF);
 - b. helping countries to align their agriculture and food policies to the ICN2 Framework of Action and SDG 2 upon request;
 - c. strengthening food safety and nutrition outcomes with clear measurable indicators.

D. Blue Growth

23. The Conference considered the Blue Growth initiative, a holistic approach for the sustainable management and efficient utilization of natural resources for food security, nutrition and economic growth in Asia and the Pacific.⁴

⁴ APRC/16/5

24. The Conference:
- a. noted that healthy marine ecosystems are crucial to sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, and was concerned about the negative effects of environmental changes such as climate, land and water use and pollution;
 - b. noted the critical need for accelerated and concerted actions to eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing, reduce overexploitation of fish and other aquatic resources, minimize habitat damage, pollution and other factors that reduce the contribution made by capture fisheries and aquaculture to food security, nutrition and economic growth;
 - c. noted that the potential of fisheries and aquaculture could be significantly enhanced through professionalization of the fisheries and aquaculture workforce making it more inclusive of gender, youth and indigenous peoples;
 - d. recognized the high degree of synergy between the new guiding document for coastal fisheries management in the Pacific - The New Song for Coastal Fisheries: Pathways to Change and FAO's Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication;
 - e. recognized that the five interlinked strategies of the Blue Growth Initiative, which combine policy and institutional reform with on-the-ground action, offer long-term prospects for driving sustainable resource management of the fishery and aquaculture sectors, allowing economic growth and food security to be reconciled with conservation of aquatic resources;
 - f. acknowledged that pathways to implementing the Blue Growth Initiative were context specific and should be tailored to the social, environmental, cultural and economic characteristics of each subregion;
 - g. emphasized the importance of regional collaboration and cooperation between FAO and other regional partners to enhance synergies and avoid duplication in the implementation of Blue Growth activities and initiatives;
 - h. recommended that FAO's Blue Growth Initiative be expanded to cover marine, inland fisheries and aquaculture in the Asia and Pacific subregions
 - i. noted the comparative advantage of FAO in fisheries matters and the importance of FAO providing expert advice at relevant international fora upon request.
25. The Conference requested FAO to strengthen support to Members by assisting in:
- a. resilience proofing fisheries and aquaculture production systems;
 - b. effective management of small-scale coastal fisheries through empowerment of small-scale and subsistence fishers as reflected in FAO's Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication;
 - c. building capacity to eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing;
 - d. developing cost-effective aquaculture production systems, including sustainable and affordable feed for aquaculture production;
 - e. building capacity to support effective implementation of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement, aquatic biosecurity and disease prevention measures;
 - f. improving the management of small scale fisheries and aquaculture in collaboration with the Secretariat to the Pacific Community (SPC), the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), among others.

III. Programme and Budget Matters

A. Report on the Meeting of the South West Pacific Agriculture Ministers in Papua New Guinea in May 2015, including the Ministerial Communiqué

26. The Conference considered the report on the Meeting of the South West Pacific Agriculture Ministers, held in Papua New Guinea in May 2015, including the Ministerial Communiqué.⁵ The Honourable Tommy Tomscoll, Minister for Agriculture and Livestock, Papua New Guinea, presented a summary report of the Meeting of the South West Pacific Agriculture Ministers.

27. The Conference:

- a. welcomed the report of the Meeting of the South West Pacific Agriculture Ministers;
- b. reiterated the importance of FAO working closely with other regional and subregional partners in providing support to member countries on priority areas of work, including climate smart agriculture, developing and implementing norms and standards related to food and agriculture, nutrition and food safety, and improving domestic market linkages and agricultural sector competitiveness;
- c. underscored the value of South-South cooperation in addressing issues of common concern;
- d. appreciated the preparations for the first Pacific Week of Agriculture to be hosted by Vanuatu in 2017;
- e. requested FAO to reflect the priority recommendations of the Meeting of the South West Pacific Agriculture Ministers in future work, and provide follow-up support in the form of Technical Cooperation Programme projects and other relevant support.

B. Results and Priorities for FAO in Asia and the Pacific Region

28. The Conference considered the report on results and priorities for FAO activities in Asia and the Pacific, covering achievements in 2014-15 and proposed actions in 2016-17 and beyond.⁶

29. The Conference:

- a. welcomed the actions undertaken and results achieved during 2014-15 to address regional priorities, particularly through the four Regional Initiatives endorsed by the 32nd Session of the Regional Conference, which had helped to focus FAO's work while allowing flexibility to respond to country priorities and emerging needs;
- b. underlined the need for continuity in strategic direction of the Organization and appreciated the alignment between the FAO Strategic Objectives and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- c. supported continuation of the Regional Initiatives for the 2016-17 biennium to help focus FAO actions on priorities of the region: Support to the Zero Hunger Challenge in Asia and the Pacific, Regional Rice Initiative, Sustainable Intensification of Aquaculture for Blue Growth, and Developing Local Value Chains for food security and nutrition in the Pacific Island Countries;

⁵ APRC/16/6

⁶ APRC/16/7, APRC/16/7 Web Annex 3

- d. requested FAO to address the challenges facing countries in the region concerning nutrition and food safety; inclusive value chain development; food waste and loss; transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases, sustainable production and resilience in the context of climate change; and data and analysis for decision making, monitoring and evaluation;
- e. promoted ongoing work on Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS), and highlighted the multi-stakeholder dialogues on the potential roles of agroecology and agricultural biotechnologies in productive, sustainable and inclusive food systems;
- f. took note of the emerging trends in the region concerning growth in food demand and widening inequality, the ageing agricultural workforce and potential labor shortages, increasing effects of climate change, and rapidly developing innovations in agricultural technologies, and looked forward to further analytical work by FAO to understand their impacts on food and agriculture in the region;
- g. urged FAO to work with member countries in collaboration and partnership with sub-regional, regional and international institutions, providing policy advice and capacity development and building on FAO's normative and standard-setting work;
- h. looked forward to continued improvement on FAO's organizational effectiveness including through more focused Country Programming Frameworks contributing to achievement of FAO's Strategic Objectives and the SDGs.
- i. welcomed the activities under the International Year of Pulses and highlighted the importance of pulses in meeting nutritional challenges in the region.

C. Decentralized Offices Network

30. The Conference considered the report on the Decentralized Officers Network.⁷
31. The Conference:
 - a. welcomed the decentralization paper and recognized the need to update the coverage of FAO offices, in order to adapt to current developments and requirements and achieve greater efficiency in the implementation of strategic objectives;
 - b. supported the proposed principles and general criteria for reviewing FAO coverage;
 - c. examined and supported the options recommended by the Secretariat for Asia and the Pacific for upgrading FAO country offices and creating additional country offices;
 - d. noted additional requests from Bhutan, the Maldives, and Mongolia for upgrading the current FAO offices.

D. Prioritization of Country and Regional Needs

32. The Ministerial-level session of the Regional Conference, convened 10 to 11 March, including 13 Ministers, 10 Vice-Ministers and other high-level delegates. Ministers and other high-level delegates highlighted the many challenges countries faced in achieving food and nutrition security for all people of the region and underscored the recommendations of the Senior Officers Meeting as elaborated in the respective sections of this report.

33. The Regional Conference underscored that food security and nutrition were fundamental requisites for national and global stability and the sustainable socio-economic development of every country.

⁷ APRC/16/8

34. The Ministers and delegates particularly highlighted the challenges related to the adverse effects of climate change, frequent natural disasters, environmental degradation, increasing demands on land and water resources, changing demographics affecting the agriculture sector, and animal and plant pests and diseases.
35. The Ministers and delegates emphasized capacity building, research and development, technology transfer, robust data collection and analyses, sound agricultural policies and strategies, infrastructure development and increased investment in the agriculture sector as key needs.
36. The Ministers and delegates stressed the need to increase sustainable agricultural production and productivity, reduce food loss and waste, and facilitate transparent, open and efficient trade of food to accelerate progress towards food security and nutrition in the region. The importance of developing effective food value chains and enhancing food safety and quality were highlighted.
37. The Regional Conference emphasized the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Change Agreement in guiding future actions in agriculture, food security and nutrition, and welcomed alignment of FAO's Strategic Objectives with the SDGs.
38. The Regional Conference recognized progress made in implementing the four Regional Initiatives and supported their continuation in the 2016-17 biennium.
39. The Ministers and delegates recognized the important roles of smallholders, family farmers and fishers in contributing to food security and nutrition and called for efforts to enhance their capacity to more effectively link with modern value chains. Mainstreaming of gender equality and uplifting the quality of life in rural areas to retain youth in agricultural activities were also encouraged.
40. Recognizing the evolving nature of agriculture and rural economies, the Ministers and delegates highlighted the importance of expanding rural livelihoods by building capacity for increased value-added processing and distribution of agricultural products, rural tourism and other off-farm employment.
41. Ministers and delegates highlighted the importance of mobilizing investment and strengthening collaboration with partner organizations at global, regional and national levels, including with research institutions, multilateral development institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector and other regional and international organizations. The value of regional sharing of knowledge, experiences and expertise, including through South-South cooperation, was particularly emphasized.
42. The Regional Conference appreciated steps taken to decentralize roles, responsibilities, authorities and resources and urged FAO to continue such decentralization efforts, whilst improving the technical capacity of the Organization.
43. The Regional Conference welcomed the celebration of the International Year of Pulses and encouraged FAO and member countries to make full use of the opportunity to highlight the contributions and importance of pulses in contributing to food security and nutrition in the region.

IV. Other Matters

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

44. The Conference reviewed the draft Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2016-2019 for the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific.⁸

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

B. Launching of the International Year of Pulses

46. Mr José Graziano da Silva, FAO Director-General, His Excellency Dato' Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Sri Ahmad Shabery Cheek, Minister of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry, Government of Malaysia, participated in the launch of the International Year of Pulses in Malaysia. The main aim of the International Year is to promote pulses and their key role in food and nutrition security and providing and income for millions of farming families.

C. Round Table on Youth in Future Agriculture: Towards a Productive and Sustainable Asia-Pacific

47. An informal Ministerial Round Table on Youth in Future Agriculture: Towards a Productive and Sustainable Asia-Pacific was convened on 11 March.⁹

D. Date and Place of the Thirty-fourth Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific

48. The Conference recommended the acceptance of the gracious offer of the Government of Fiji to host the thirty-fourth session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, in 2018.

E. Concluding Items

Adoption of the Report

49. The Conference unanimously adopted the report as presented by the Rapporteur.

Closure of the Regional Conference

50. On behalf of the Government of Malaysia, His Excellency Dato' Sri Ahmad Shabery Cheek, Minister of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry, thanked the participants for their positive contributions, which had led to the Regional Conference's success. He then declared the Conference closed.

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

⁸ APRC/16/9

⁹ APRC/16/10

APPENDIX A**AGENDA****I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS**

1. Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Appointment of Rapporteur
2. Adoption of Agenda and Timetable
3. Statement by the Director-General
4. Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council
5. Statement by the Chairperson of the 32nd Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific
6. Statement by the Chairperson of the CFS
7. Statement by the Spokesperson of the Civil Society Consultation
8. Prioritization of country and regional needs

II. REGIONAL AND GLOBAL POLICY AND REGULATORY ISSUES

9. State of food and agriculture in Asia and the Pacific region, including future prospects and emerging issues in the framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
10. Revitalizing the rural economy through enhanced linkages between small-scale agricultural production and value chains
11. Promote national nutrition policies and investments, and integrate nutrition objectives into food and agriculture policy, programme design and implementation
12. Blue Growth

III. PROGRAMME AND BUDGET MATTERS

13. Report on the meeting of the South West Pacific Agriculture Ministers in Papua New Guinea in May 2015, including the Ministerial Communiqué
14. Results and priorities for FAO in Asia and the Pacific region
15. Decentralized Offices Network

IV. OTHER MATTERS

16. Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2016–19 for the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific
17. Date and place of the 34th Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific
18. Any other matters

Round table on youth in future agriculture: Towards a productive and sustainable Asia-Pacific

APPENDIX B**LIST OF DOCUMENTS****DISCUSSION ITEMS**

APRC/16/1 Rev.1	Provisional Annotated Agenda
APRC/16/2	State of food and agriculture in Asia and the Pacific region, including future prospects and emerging issues in the framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
APRC/16/3	Revitalizing the rural economy through enhanced linkages between small-scale agricultural production and value chains
APRC/16/4	Promote national nutrition policies and investments, and integrate nutrition objectives into food and agriculture policy, programme design and implementation
APRC/16/5	Blue Growth
APRC/16/6	Report on the meeting of the South West Pacific Agriculture Ministers in Papua New Guinea in May 2015, including the Ministerial Communiqué
APRC/16/7	Results and priorities for FAO in Asia and the Pacific region
APRC/16/7 Web Annex 3	Contribution of Results in the Asia and Pacific Region to FAO Strategic Objectives in 2014-15 biennium
APRC/16/8	Decentralized Offices Network
APRC/16/9	Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2016–19 for the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific
APRC/16/10	Round table on youth in future agriculture: Towards a productive and sustainable Asia-Pacific

INF SERIES

APRC/16/INF/1 Rev.1	Provisional timetable
APRC/16/INF/2 Rev.3	Provisional list of documents
APRC/16/INF/3 Rev.1	Information note
APRC/16/INF/4	Statement by the Director-General
APRC/16/INF/5	Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council
APRC/16/INF/6	Second International Conference on Nutrition Follow-up
APRC/16/INF/7 Rev.1	Update on the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)
APRC/16/INF/8 Rev.1	Outcomes of the Multi-stakeholder Consultation on Agroecology for Asia and the Pacific
APRC/16/INF/9	Statement by the Chairperson of the 32 nd Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific
APRC/16/INF/10	Statement by the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)
APRC/16/INF/11	Statement by the Spokesperson of the Civil Society Consultation

OD SERIES

APRC/16/OD/1	Order of the Day
APRC/16/OD/2	Order of the Day
APRC/16/OD/3	Order of the Day
APRC/16/OD/4	Order of the Day
APRC/16/OD/5	Order of the Day

WEB DOCUMENTS

(<http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/regional-conferences/aprc33/documents/en/>)

List of Delegates and Observers

Address by H.E. Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia

Welcoming Remarks by the Hon. Minister for Agriculture and Agro-based Industry of Malaysia

