



TWENTY-EIGHTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE

Baku, Azerbaijan, 19 and 20 April 2012

Agenda Item 8

Report from the outcome of the debate of the 37th Session of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA) on “Implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2010–2011, Programme of Work and Budget for 2012–2013 and Areas of Priority Action for the Region for the Biennium 2014–15”

1. The Commission appreciated the lessons learned from implementation of the regional programme of work in the previous biennium and considered areas of priority action for FAO in the Europe and Central Asia Region for the current and future biennia in the context of global trends and future challenges for the work of the Organization.
2. The Commission confirmed the regional results under the PWB 2012–13. In order to better align the priorities with the results in view of limited resources available it was recommended to indicate areas proposed to be de-emphasized.
3. The Commission welcomed the broad and inclusive strategic thinking process launched by the Director-General in January 2012 to determine the future strategic direction and priorities of the Organization. The Commission emphasized the importance of focusing the work of FAO on key challenges faced by countries so as to achieve measurable progress through the effective and efficient use of available resources on a limited number of activities, aligned with FAO's comparative advantage.
4. The Commission confirmed that the main global challenges are consistent with the conditions in the Region, and agreed with the regional trends and challenges. It supported the six priorities for work in the region and requested that these be taken into account in reviewing the FAO Strategic Framework and preparing the Medium Term Plan 2014-17:
 - a. strengthening food and nutrition security;
 - b. policy advice to governments in support of sustainable intensification for small farms;
 - c. natural resource management, including climate change mitigation and adaptation;
 - d. control of animal, plant and food-borne pests and diseases;

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- e. policy and institutional support for entry of Member States into regional and global trade, standard-setting and political-economic organizations;
 - f. supporting and building global and regional public goods through applied research in the areas of food, agriculture, fisheries and forestry.
5. In reviewing the challenges and priorities for the region, the Commission emphasized: support to smallholder agriculture while managing natural resources in a more sustainable manner; more attention to fisheries and forestry issues; work on land degradation and improved land use; addressing nutrition and climate change; and mainstreaming gender in all activities.
6. The Commission urged FAO to further focus its work based on its comparative advantage, particularly in providing global public goods and policy advice based on its normative and analytical work. It underlined the essential functions of advocacy, communication, capacity development and knowledge sharing.
7. The Commission requested FAO to prepare Country Programme Frameworks (CPFs) as tool for effective delivery of assistance and country-specific capacity development, where relevant coordinated with UNDAF and in close collaboration with IFIs, civil society and the private sector.
8. It encouraged FAO to facilitate increased collaboration at regional and sub-regional level, including through cooperation and partnerships with public and private organizations, on transboundary pests and diseases, food safety, sustainable management of natural resources, and food price volatility and integration of small-holder farmers in value chains.
9. The Commission encouraged the ongoing implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, as well as the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests once formally adopted.