



联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

Organisation des Nations  
Unies pour l'alimentation  
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная организация  
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las  
Naciones Unidas para la  
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة  
الغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

E

# FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

## Thirty-third Session

Santiago, Chile, 6-9 May 2014

## Priorities for FAO Activities in the Region 2014-17

### Executive Summary

- This document outlines how priorities and items requiring follow-up emanating from the previous Regional Conference have been addressed, bringing to the attention of the Members major achievements and aspects requiring further consideration. At the same time, draws lessons from the implementation of the Pilot Regional Initiatives in 2013 and illustrate how these inform the new ways of working and are aligned with the five strategic objectives and the regional priorities.
- The document also examines major recent developments and emerging issues and national priorities as reflected in country programming frameworks (CPFs) that have a bearing on FAO's activities in the region. Furthermore, it identifies focus areas for regional action in LAC within each strategic objective.
- Finally, the document introduces three initiatives as main delivery mechanism to respond to priority areas in the LAC Region in 2014-15 and illustrates how these are aligned with FAO's results framework. It also highlights a few emerging issues for consideration in further programme development, in particular for the medium-term 2016-17.

### Suggested action by the Regional Conference

- Take note of the major actions carried out by FAO to address regional priorities during 2012-2013, including actions undertaken in response to the recommendations of the previous Session;
- Endorse the priorities for FAO's work in the Region and the focus areas for each strategic objective as outlined in paragraph 21;
- Support the three regional initiatives as means to further focus FAO's work for impact at country level within the MTP/PWB and for resource mobilization during 2014-2015.
- Advise on emerging issues for consideration in further programme development.

*Questions on the content of this document can be addressed to:*  
Tito Diaz, 33<sup>rd</sup> LARC Secretary, Tito.Diaz@fao.org

*This document can be accessed using the Quick Response Code on this page;  
a FAO initiative to minimize its environmental impact and promote greener communications.  
Other documents can be consulted at [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)*



mk075e

## I. Introduction

1. The Thirty-Eighth Session of the FAO Conference in June 2013 approved the Revised Strategic Framework 2010-19 as well as the Director-General's Medium-Term Plan 2014-17 and Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15 (MTP/PWB).<sup>1</sup> The Strategic Framework includes FAO's Vision, the revised Global Goals, the five new Strategic Objectives, as well as a sixth objective on technical quality, knowledge and services and the cross-cutting themes of gender and governance (see Annex 1 for the main components of FAO's Results Framework). The MTP/PWB sets out the results framework with outcomes, outputs and measurable indicators of achievement. The FAO Conference emphasized that the five Strategic Objectives represented those areas of work on which FAO will focus its efforts in support of Member Nations and welcomed their cross-cutting nature which will enable the Organization to work in a multi-disciplinary and integrated manner.<sup>2</sup>

2. Priorities for FAO Activities in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) have been informed by three major strategic elements:

- i) FAO's reviewed Strategic Framework and new Medium-Term Plan, which contain the core elements of FAO's results framework for organizing the response to priorities in the Region.
- ii) FAO regional priorities in Latin America and the Caribbean endorsed by the 32<sup>th</sup> Session of LARC, which put into sharp focus the region-specific needs in the context of FAO's Strategic Objectives.
- iii) FAO's Country Programming Frameworks, which inform the identification of Regional Priorities and constitute an important and dynamic pillar of the Organization's delivery mechanism.

3. In 2013, the Organization piloted a set of six Regional Initiatives (one of which in LAC) as delivery mechanisms to enhance the focus and impact of its work, particularly at country level. Taking account of the experience with the pilots, additional Regional Initiatives are being elaborated to focus results-oriented delivery in 2014-15. These initiatives are intended to address key regional and country priorities by delivery of relevant products and services at regional and country level, contributing to the achievement of the agreed outputs of the MTP/PWB.

4. FAO's results framework is underpinned by a new corporate monitoring and evaluation framework with a distinct set of indicators for three interlinked levels of results – Strategic Objectives, Organizational Outcomes and Outputs.<sup>3</sup> This monitoring and evaluation framework should strengthen FAO's corporate reporting during the 2014-15 biennium and onward. While the new monitoring and evaluation framework cannot be directly applied to review achievements for the biennium 2012-13 in this document (see Section II), it will inform the discussion of priorities for the Region for 2014 -15 and beyond.

5. This report is divided into three sections:

- Section II outlines how priorities and items requiring follow-up emanating from the previous Regional Conference have been addressed, bringing to the attention of the Members major achievements and aspects requiring further consideration. The section also draws lessons from the implementation of the Regional Initiatives in 2013 and illustrate how these inform the new ways of working.
- Section III examines major recent developments and emerging issues and national priorities as reflected in country programming frameworks (CPFs) that have a bearing on FAO's activities in the region. Furthermore, it identifies priority areas for regional action in LAC within each strategic objective.

---

<sup>1</sup> C 2013/7 and C 2013/3

<sup>2</sup> C 2013/REP paragraph 96

<sup>3</sup> CL 148/3 Adjustments to the PWB 2014-15 paragraphs 40-70 and Annex 5 (rev 1) Results Framework

- Section IV introduces three initiatives as main delivery mechanism to respond to priority areas in the LAC Region in 2014-15 and illustrates how these are aligned with FAO's results framework. It also highlights a few emerging issues for consideration in further programme development, in particular for the medium-term 2016-17.

## **II. Follow-up to the 2012 Regional Conference (LARC32): Achievements and Lessons Learned**

6. At its Thirty-Second Session in March 2012, the Latin America and the Caribbean Conference (LARC) confirmed the four broad regional priority areas of action for FAO comprising: i) food security and nutrition; ii) family farming and rural development; iii) climate change and environmental sustainability; and iv) plant and animal health and food safety. More specifically, the Regional Conference confirmed support to Haiti as a matter of regional priority and emphasized focus areas that require special attention within these broad priorities: a) governance of food security and nutrition; b) investment and sustainable intensification of agriculture and livestock, and sustainable management of forests, fisheries and aquaculture, with emphasis on family farming; c) access to food and changes in consumption patterns; d) animal health and transboundary diseases; e) climate change adaptation and mitigation; and f) youth, women and indigenous people's empowerment. The Conference recognized that poverty is the main cause of hunger and without development of family farming there can be no food security.<sup>4</sup>

7. The Thirty-Second Session of LARC made several recommendations on programme and budget matters and on decentralization for the attention of the Council as well as on policy and regulatory matters for the attention of the Conference. Recommendations on policy and regulatory matters cover the areas of climate change and natural resources, plant and animal health and food safety, food security and nutrition, and family farming. The Conference emphasized the role of the Regional Technical Commissions for fisheries (COOPESCAALC & COPACO), forestry (COFLAC) and livestock (CODEGALAC) as advisory technical bodies. The actions taken by FAO as a follow-up to these recommendations are reported in LARC/14/5 and LARC/14/INF/11, respectively.

8. Within the framework of the regional priorities and guided by LARC recommendations, key areas of interventions for the period 2012-2013 were identified and implemented through advocacy and communication, technical assistance, capacity building, policy advice, as well as regional networking and partnership under both regular and field programmes. During 2012-2013, FAO delivered USD 170.5 million worth of assistance to countries in the Region largely through a combination of FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme (totalling USD 20.6 million) and projects funded through extra-budgetary contributions (USD 149.9 million). The assistance to countries covered both development (USD 129.8 million) and emergency activities (USD 40.7 million) and included 272 new projects (USD 106.5 million) and the fielding of over 250 missions from FAO's Sub-regional Offices, the Regional Office and headquarters. The bulk of the extra budgetary funds were raised in collaboration with donors from outside (Spain) and inside (Brazil) the Region and unilateral trust fund projects (UTF), including funding through South-South Cooperation. The major activities undertaken under the PWB 2012-13 are summarized by Regional Priorities and are available in LARC/14/INF/11.

9. The key FAO achievements in the Region during 2012-13 along the four regional priorities are summarized in Annex 2. The key lessons learned regarding the Regional Pilot Initiative are:

- The LAC "Pilot Regional Initiative for Strategic Objective 1" set out to a) improve political commitment b) support governance and institutional coordination c) promote inter-sectoral capacity-building and d) support multidisciplinary approaches for food security and nutrition at the regional level. Three pilot countries were selected, one in each sub-region: Antigua and Barbuda in the Caribbean; Nicaragua in Mesoamerica; and Ecuador in South America. The

---

<sup>4</sup> CL 144/7 Report of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Regional Conference for Latin American and the Caribbean

Initiative provided important lessons regarding how FAO should coordinate work across all five Strategic Objectives (SO), but especially with regard to SO1, SO2 and SO3 and between FAO and member countries.

- With less than two years left to the deadline set to meet the targets related to the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), sixteen countries in the region have already met the target “to half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger” and several others have made significant progress. Nonetheless, an estimated 47 million people in Latin America and the Caribbean are still hungry today. Consequently, in order to eradicate hunger in the Region, efforts must be stepped up significantly. The Pilot Initiative has shown that FAO’s “twin-track” approach to food security and nutrition helps gain the political commitment and more effective design of public action needed to accelerate progress. This means food security and social protection policies for most vulnerable people as well as sustainable food production policies and incentives for family farming are necessary to address pressing social needs, and to change deeply-rooted structures generating exclusion and inequalities.
- Drawing from the experience in 2013, the modality of regional initiatives can help to focus FAO’s work on key regional problems with impact at country level. With the regional initiatives being firmly rooted in the CPFs, they allow for thematic coordination of programmes at country level for more effective delivery and can serve as a tool to promote partnerships and mobilize resources, in the framework of Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative (HFLACI).

### **III. Development Trends and Emerging Challenges: Revised Priorities for the Medium Term**

10. This section provides an insight into the rationale driving the identification of priority areas of work for the current and next biennium.

11 Over the past two decades, Latin America and the Caribbean has made significant progress in improving food security and reducing extreme poverty (measured as the percentage of people who live on less than \$1.25 per day per person) and thus towards meeting the first target of the Millennium Development Goals. Recently, the region has shown relative resilience to the protracted global economic slowdown, sustaining mostly robust economic growth rates and harnessing vulnerable population groups through expanded social protection. If country efforts and the positive trends in economic and social development are sustained, the present generation of Latin America and Caribbean people will be the first living without hunger and undernourishment in the region. This implies enhancing the actions already taken to structurally reduce deep-rooted income inequalities and directly address poverty and hunger in the region. As a major food producer and exporter, the region makes a huge contribution to world food security. In effect, Latin America and the Caribbean generates more than enough food (2,900 calories per capita per day), to meet the food requirements of all people living in the region. Thus, prevailing hunger in the region is not a problem of the level of food production or availability. Rather, the main problem is that of access to food and insufficient income-earning capacity of vulnerable population groups.

12. Countries in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region differ widely in terms of their endowments of natural and human resources and level of economic development, but they face common challenges in their efforts to pursue inclusive agricultural development and improved food security and nutrition to achieve the eradication of hunger in the region. The key challenges facing the Region highlighted in the LARC32 and regional technical commissions include: i) To increase agricultural, livestock, forestry and fisheries sustainable production, as well as its contribution to economic growth and development, ensuring the sustainability of ecosystems and developing strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation; ii) To eradicate food insecurity, nutritional deficiencies and non-healthy foods in the context of higher and more volatile food prices; iii) To stimulate more healthy and sustainable food consumption and nutrition habits and patterns; iv) To improve livelihoods of rural populations by improving economic opportunities in agriculture and other rural sectors, especially for women and youth as part of broader transformative change towards inclusive and sustainable growth; v) To ensure fairer and more inclusive agrifood systems at the local,

national and international levels; vi) To increase the resilience of livelihoods to shocks and threats to agriculture and food security; and vii) To strengthen governance mechanisms to respond to the needs of the food, agriculture, livestock, forestry and fishery systems at the national, regional and global levels. More details on the trends and nature of these challenges are provided in document LARC/12/5.

13. After the food price crisis, food security and the fight against poverty and inequality were placed on top of the policy agendas in the region. As a result, an array of public policies was put in place consistent with FAO's twin-track approach to food security and nutrition. On the one hand, policies have been introduced to address complex social issues with a short-term emergency perspective. On the other hand, measures have been taken to pursue longer term, structural changes towards food security and nutrition. Many countries in the region have restated their commitment to food security, using different approaches and in different areas. Mexico, for instance, launched its first "National Crusade against Hunger"; Brazil implemented "Misery-Free Brazil" an advanced version of the "Zero Hunger Programme"; Chile established its "Choose to Live Healthy" in order to combat obesity-related health problems; Venezuela strengthened its national food supply strategy; Peru created the Intersectoral Commission for Food and Nutrition Security; and the Caribbean Community approved its Regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy. Antigua and Barbuda joined the United Nations Zero Hunger Challenge, making a commitment to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger in the country in only two years. The countries have not only reinstated their commitment to fight against hunger and undernourishment on an individual basis, they have also endorsed declarations made by the main supranational bodies in the region, such as CELAC, SICA, UNASUR, MERCOSUR, PARLATINO and CARICOM.

14. South-South cooperation is becoming a key strategy to support food security, poverty alleviation and sustainable development in the region. Cooperation agencies from Brazil (ABC), México (AMEXCID), and Venezuela through PetroCaribe are discussing opportunities to support other countries in the framework of the Hunger Eradication Program being prepared by CELAC with the technical support of FAO. Other cooperation agencies may be interested to join to this strategy in the near future.

### **Country priorities: evolution of country programming frameworks**

15. As part of the strategic thinking process and the development of the reviewed FAO Strategic Framework, country programming frameworks (CPFs) have been developed and or updated for 32 out of 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean Region<sup>5</sup> (Honduras is the only country with a CPF that is still in development). To date, 27 CPFs have been signed by the respective Government. CPFs have been based on national development strategies and are integrated with the work programmes of other UN agencies through UNDAFs and aligned with other policy processes and programmes at the national level providing a roadmap for effective action at country level. While the CPFs address the long term structural challenges in these countries, they also reflect the emerging challenges and trends.

16. An analysis of the CPFs prepared so far indicates that the priorities set at country level reflect a large degree of commonality across the Region. CPFs outline countries' aims to eradicate hunger, reduce food insecurity and malnutrition, increase productivity of agriculture in a sustainable way, improve the resilience of rural livelihoods to threats and crises, and climate change adaptation. The mapping of activities carried out during the past biennium have shown that CPFs are aligned with FAO's revised Strategic Framework, and that the countries in the Region have clearly indicated the most crucial areas of potential FAO assistance in the Region through setting clear priorities and areas of cooperation.

17. The recent evaluation of the decentralization process in LAC confirmed CPFs are key instruments to define country's priorities for technical assistance and policy support from FAO. The evaluation highlighted that government counterparts recognized the relevance of CPF formulation and

---

<sup>5</sup> See document LARC/14/3.

stressed the alignment of national priorities to regional priorities and the need to have SMART indicators based on the Strategic Framework of FAO.

18. The next step in the CPF process is to speed up the implementation process, focusing on programmes, projects and activities incorporated in the regional initiatives and the Strategic Framework. During this phase resource mobilization and a focus on partnerships with the public sector and other non-state actors through increased south-south cooperation activities will be key to expanding the Region's field programme. It is expected to design a new Regional Resource Mobilization Strategy (RRMS) to achieve adequate, more predictable and sustainable voluntary contributions which will strengthen awareness among partners and member countries on FAO's comparative advantages through effective communication. Country offices will also capitalize on the in-country momentum created during the preparation of the CPFs to enhance contacts with stakeholders in order to move ahead on country work plans, prepare specific projects and programmes, and develop the resource mobilization plans.

19. Guided by the recommendations of the recent Session of LARC, drawing on the country priorities as reflected in the updated CPFs, taking into account the outcomes of recent high level meetings and regional commissions in the Region, and in light of the on-going discussions on post-2015 development agenda at the country and regional levels in LAC, the regional priorities as outlined in the LARC32 reflect the emerging challenges and trends facing countries in the Region. The focus areas for FAO activities to address these priorities in the context of the new Strategic Objectives are outlined in the next section.

#### **IV. Focus Areas of Work for 2014-15 and Beyond**

20. The priorities identified at the country, sub-regional and regional levels have informed the formulation of the new Strategic Objectives and Organizational Outcomes in the reviewed Strategic Framework. These priorities were also taken directly into account in formulating FAO's outputs in the MTP/PWB. Delivery of the Outputs is organized primarily through time bound corporate Regional Initiatives, or through on-going Corporate Technical Activities (e.g. statistics, technical committees and commissions, treaty bodies, etc.). Regional Initiatives are a way to deliver clusters of products/services from across the SO results framework in an integrated and coordinated manner, involving contributions from units across the Organization (headquarters, regional, sub-regional and country offices), structured around significant policy processes, Country Programming Frameworks, global public goods and/or thematic areas.

21. The identified focus areas for regional action in LAC fall within the five new Strategic Objectives as follows:

- Strategic Objective 1: Contribute to eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition
- Focus on enhancing food security and nutrition, strengthening governance mechanism and legal frameworks for hunger eradication, through the Regional Initiative "Support to the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative".
- Strategic Objective 2: Increase and improve production of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner. Focus areas include increasing production efficiency and adoption of good practices for sustainable agriculture, livestock, forestry and fisheries; enhancing climate change adaptation, improving governance mechanism and supporting decision-making for sustainable development (social, economic and environmental). Addressed through the Initiatives on "Family Farming and Rural Territorial Development" and "Improving national and regional food and feed systems in the Caribbean".
- Strategic Objective 3: Reduce rural poverty
- Focus on reducing poverty and improving social protection in rural areas, enhancing rural territorial development and family farming. Addressed through the Regional Initiatives "Family Farming and Rural Territorial Development" and "Improving national and regional food and feed systems in the Caribbean".

- Strategic Objective 4: Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems at local, national and international levels. Focus on developing inclusive, efficient, sustainable and competitive food and agricultural systems and reducing food losses and waste.
- Addressed by the Initiative “Improving national and regional food and feed systems in the Caribbean”.
- Strategic Objective 5: Increase resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises
- Focus areas: Reduction of the impact of shocks and disasters, improved food and nutrition security, as well as help reduce the pressure on and rehabilitation of natural resources as part of the Initiative "Family Farming and Rural Territorial Development".

22. The focus areas for FAO activities in LAC under Strategic Objectives 1, 2 and 3 reflect priorities reported in all countries across the Region. Focus areas under Strategic Objectives 4 and 5 have greater prominence in the countries from the sub-regions of Central America and the Caribbean.

23. Based on the lessons learned implementing the SO1 initiative during 2013 as a means to focus on identified challenges and achieve measurable impact at country level in a time-bound manner, FAO will focus its work in LAC during 2014-15 on addressing three main regional initiatives: i) Support to Latin America and Caribbean without Hunger, to enhance the enabling environment for food security and nutrition, poverty alleviation and sustainable development (SO1, SO2, SO3); ii) sustainable family farming and rural development (SO3, SO2, SO5); and iii) improving national and regional food and feed systems in the Caribbean (SO4, SO2).

24. The net budgetary appropriation allocation for 2014-2015 for the Latin America and the Caribbean Region amounts to USD 75.4 million, with an estimated requirements of voluntary contributions of USD 177.3 million (Annex 3). Based on the regional priorities and the three initiatives as tools for resource mobilisation, an aggressive strategy will be pursued to mobilise the required resources in support of the implementation of these initiatives.

**Initiative “Support to the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative”  
(continuation of the Pilot Regional Initiative of Strategic Objective 1)**

25. In the context of the HFLACI, over the last decade the region has played an outstanding role worldwide, leading the implementation of a political approach to combat hunger. This commitment is reflected at the national level, but also several food and nutrition security (FNS) initiatives and programmes are being undertaken by the regional/ subregional integration organizations (CELAC, CARICOM, SICA, UNASUR, among others). Thus these bodies represent relevant actors for building the necessary regional political commitment for the fight against hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. Experience has also shown that subregional/regional political commitments to FNS are key elements to create, maintain and reinforce national political commitment. Political commitment from regional bodies is expressed at the country level through the need for comprehensive, multisectoral actions and a twin-track approach to combat food insecurity. Therefore, any developments in the food security area depend mainly on a broad spectrum of public policies, both to immediately tackle complex social situations and emergency programmes such as cash transfers and school feeding, and to address structural changes in a longer term horizon, such as support to family farming and regulations to improve labour conditions in rural employment in the region.

26. Based on the above, this Initiative will provide support in two main areas. Firstly, once the fight against hunger has become part of the different national political agendas in the region, one of the main challenges for the next years is the design and implementation of multisectoral public policies and programmes in a coordinated way, as derived from those agendas. This effort will have to be accompanied by improvements in institutions, legal frameworks, information and the human/fiscal resources needed to reach FNS national goals. This also means more and better technical support for specific sectoral policies and programmes that contribute critically to FNS in different countries (e.g. strengthening productivity, supply chains and resilience of family farming, or fostering public procurement of family farming products). Better design and implementation of these programmes will have direct impact on the results planned at the national level. Secondly, this Initiative will face other challenges related to the need to guarantee cooperation between different sectors working towards a

common goal, and to ensure inclusion of different stakeholders such as civil society, parliamentarians, academia and the private sector in this collaborative process. In recent years, the FAO has supported this effort, as well as other national processes. This is also reflected through the work done during 2013 under the SO1 Pilot Regional Initiative –which was built based on previous FAO experience-providing important lessons for the development of this proposal.

27. This Initiative will be implemented in twelve countries: Ecuador, Nicaragua, Antigua and Barbuda, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Dominican Republic, Bolivia, Paraguay, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Mexico, in order to support the implementation of the National Crusade Against Hunger and the mobilization of south-south cooperation efforts linked to this Mexican programme. The Initiative to support the HFLACI, led by Strategic Objective 1 (SO1), seeks to articulate with the rest of the strategic objectives and other Global/Regional/National Initiatives in LAC and national processes (CPFs), ensuring continuity to the work carried out so far by the SO1 Pilot.

### **Initiative “Family Farming and Rural Territorial Development”**

28. The Regional Initiative on family farming and rural territorial development will support government and other national stakeholders. This strategy will be implemented initially in Bolivia and Guatemala. At the same time, the initiative will also support Caribbean countries, in particular Haiti, in improving capacities on risk reduction and crisis management.

29. Overall the initiative will address the following problems: i) weak capacities among government agencies to facilitate inclusive, people-centred and sustainable management of natural resources, that is also considerate of cultural diversity and human rights; ii) poor access of family farmers to rural (public) services (technology, knowledge, financial, information); iii) poor access of family farmers to productive resources (water, land, seeds, mechanization, etc.); iv) low levels of production and productivity and lack of competitiveness among family farmers; v) high vulnerability to climatic risks and environmental threats among smallholder family farmers; vi) weakness of producer organizations and poor access of family farmers to local and regional markets; vii) high underemployment in rural areas and lack of income-earning opportunities, especially among youth, women and indigenous peoples; and viii) weak linkages between social protection schemes and agriculture and rural development programmes. This Initiative will address all five SOs at the country level, but will be centred on SO3.

30. In Guatemala and Bolivia, the Initiative will support governments and other national stakeholders in overcoming the mentioned hurdles to reduce rural poverty, building on its comparative advantage in looking integrally at agriculture, rural development, and sustainable livelihoods. It will bring together FAO’s expertise, as well as that of its strategic partners in providing technical and policy support and strengthen national capabilities. The Initiative address countries, regional and global priorities, especially in what concerns family farming, sustainable natural resources management, ethnic and cultural approaches, adaptation to climate change and its relation with rural development through the increase of sustainable production, increase of employment opportunities and the establishment of social protection schemes. The interaction between these elements contributes directly to the rural poverty reduction global priority and indirectly to food security and nutrition. The Initiative will embed these elements in a territorial approach, recognizing that poverty tends to concentrate in disadvantaged areas within countries, that the potential for sustainable development and poverty reduction differs from context to context and that solutions will require looking integrally at all of the mentioned problem areas.

31. The Initiative will also support Haiti and other Caribbean countries to develop a virtuous cycle centred around family farming: improving the institutional environment and incentives for family farming, climate smart agriculture (including conservation agriculture), improving access to technologies, input and output markets that lead to increased and more stable incomes and building more resilient livelihoods, specifically targeting women and the most vulnerable groups and communities. This would lead to a reduction of the impact of shocks and disasters, improved food and nutrition security, as well as help reduce the pressure on and rehabilitation of natural resources, centred on SO5 with the support of other SOs.

### **Initiative “Improving national and regional food and feed systems in the Caribbean”**

32. The initiative will address the following problems: i) food and nutrition insecurity caused by heavy dependence on imported food and feed and loss of traditional export markets; ii) low levels of domestic and intra-regional trade and production resulting in an expensive regional import bill; iii) need for further developing existing alternative food and feed production and trading systems (especially cassava and other root crops, small ruminants, fish and fruits) that generate larger multiplier effects through the national economy, including through linkages with the tourism sector, employment creation, more sustainable use of resources, and improved productivity resulting from better health and well-being; iv) limited capacity and capability in the public service sector for developing partnerships with the private sector for seizing opportunities in the domestic, regional and extra-regional markets;<sup>6</sup> v) weak policy, legal, regulatory, trade agreement and governance frameworks supportive of new production and trading endeavours in the agricultural, food and feed industries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM); vi) increasing rural unemployment and underemployment, especially among youth; vii) inadequate participation of family farms in sustainable commodity production and trading systems since the demise of sugarcane and banana in the Caribbean; viii) the high incidence of chronic non-communicable diseases and obesity linked to increasing imports of processed foods with high sugar and/or calorie content and the increasing presence of fast food chains that change traditional food consumption habits to less healthy ones; and ix) limited efforts to promote the value of supporting local and regional endeavour.

33. The main objective of this initiative is to increase food and nutrition security in all its dimensions, providing support to countries in eradicating hunger and malnutrition in the Caribbean Region in line with the goals of the new FAO Strategic Framework. To do this, the following results are being pursued: increased agriculture and food production and productivity; increased employment; increased trade facilitation, inclusion of producers and traders and utilization of national and regional products; improved public policy and governance for increase production, consumption and trade; and increased access to quality food, improve nutrition and change consumption patterns. This Initiative will address all five SOs at the country level, but will be centred on SO4.

### **Scenarios and Emerging Issues for Consideration in further Programme Development**

34. The relevant role of CELAC in establishing hunger eradication and food security and nutrition regional governance and coordination mechanisms as well as the leading role of FAO in supporting governments for the formulation and implementation of the Food Security and Nutrition Regional Plan will speed-up the process for achieving the first goal of MDG in most countries of the region. However, population growth, growing incomes and urbanization combine to pose unprecedented challenges to food and agriculture systems, while the natural resources necessary to support global food, fiber, energy and provision of services from agriculture are strained.

35. These challenges implies that renewed efforts and commitments from all sectors are required to achieve sustainable development, including, economic, social and environmental issues. As a large user of natural resources and contributor to climate change, the agricultural sector faces the difficult challenge of adapting to climate change while responding to a significant demand growth for food and energy driven by a growing population. The transition to more sustainable agriculture and food systems requires a detailed understanding of the magnitude of bio-physical and socio-economic challenges at local, national and regional levels to inform policy dialogue and avoid oversimplifications. The regional strategies should be linked to the new sustainable development goals post-2015 being discussed by governments, private sector, civil society and international organizations.

---

<sup>6</sup> For instance, cassava as a food substitute for imported wheat and as a feed substitute for imported corn is considered a major investment and trading opportunity in domestic and regional markets. Further, the regional beer industry imports nearly 100,000 tons of malt annually and has demonstrated that locally produced cassava is a suitable ingredient to replace imported malt its beer production and trade;

36. Drawing from the experience in 2013, the modality of regional initiatives can help to focus FAO's work on key regional problems with impact at country level. With the regional initiatives being firmly rooted in the CPFs, they allow for thematic coordination of programmes at country level for more effective delivery and can serve as a tool to promote partnerships and mobilize resources, in the framework of Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative (HFLACI). Triangular south-south cooperation strategies may have a key role in supporting the Family Farming and Rural Development Initiative (including risk reduction and crisis management in the Caribbean countries) taking into account the progress made and the institutional capacities established by MERCOSUR's countries, Mexico and Colombia, among others, on these areas.

37. On the other hand, agricultural and food systems are characterized by increasingly integrated supply chains and have become more science and capital-intensive based. Rapid urbanization has led to a demand for more and a higher level of processed products in a ready to be used form. Consumer expectations with regard to food safety, nutrition and health will require greater attention to standards at all levels of production and distribution, demanding safe, quality and nutritious products in a timely and regular manner. Small countries, small holders, women and youth have generally not benefitted evenly from the opportunities of agricultural growth in the region and hence emphasis on more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems, at local, national and international levels is needed. A comprehensive strategy targeting specific needs of subregions and countries will characterize the FAO's agenda in the Latin America and Caribbean region.

## **V. Guidance Sought**

38. The Conference is invited to:

- Take note of the major actions carried out by FAO to address regional priorities during 2012-2013, including actions undertaken in response to the recommendations of the previous Session;
- Endorse the priorities for FAO's work in the Region and the focus areas within each strategic objective as outlined in paragraph 21;
- Support the three regional initiatives as means to further focus FAO's work for impact at country level within the MTP/PWB and for resource mobilization during 2014-2015.
- Advise on emerging issues for consideration in further programme development.

### **Annex 1: FAO Results Framework – Main Components (see p. 12 in C2013/3)**

#### **FAO's vision**

A world free of hunger and malnutrition where food and agriculture contributes to improving the living standards of all, especially the poorest, in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner.

#### **The three Global Goals of Members:**

- eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, progressively ensuring a world in which people at all times have sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life;
- elimination of poverty and the driving forward of economic and social progress for all, with increased food production, enhanced rural development and sustainable livelihoods; and
- sustainable management and utilization of natural resources, including land, water, air, climate and genetic resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

#### **Strategic Objectives**

- 1) Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition
- 2) Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner
- 3) Reduce rural poverty
- 4) Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems at local, national and international levels
- 5) Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

#### **Additional objective**

Technical quality, knowledge and services

#### **Cross-cutting themes**

- Gender
- Governance

#### **Core Functions**

- 6) Facilitate and support countries in the development and implementation of normative and standard-setting instruments, such as international agreements, codes of conduct, technical standards and others
- 7) Assemble, analyze, monitor and improve access to data and information, in areas related to FAO's mandate
- 8) Facilitate, promote and support policy dialogue at global, regional and country levels
- 9) Advise and support capacity development at country and regional level to prepare, implement, monitor and evaluate evidence-based policies, investments and programmes
- 10) Advise and support activities that assemble, disseminate and improve the uptake of knowledge, technologies and good practices in the areas of FAO's mandate
- 11) Facilitate partnerships for food security and nutrition, agriculture and rural development, between governments, development partners, civil society and the private sector
- 12) Advocate and communicate at national, regional and global levels, in areas of FAO's mandate

**Functional Objectives**

- Outreach
- Information Technology
- FAO Governance, oversight and direction
- Efficient and effective administration

## **Annex 2: Key FAO achievements in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region during 2012-13**

The key achievement in 2012-13 along the four regional priorities, priority of Haiti and transversal priority (gender equity, youth and indigenous people), are summarized below.

### **Regional Priority 1: Food Security and Nutrition – FSN.**

Latin America and the Caribbean has made significant progress in improving food security and reducing extreme poverty and thus towards meeting the first target of the Millennium Development Goals. The Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative (HFLACI) supported by FAO has played a fundamental role in support of national FNS policies and regulations and the Post 2015 Development Agenda. The FNS agendas in the regional integration bodies were strengthened, mainly within the CELAC, which established a Latin American and Caribbean Programme for Poverty and Hunger Eradication. Regional regulatory frameworks were prepared through PARLATINO, focused on FNS and School Feeding, and based on the right to food. The Pilot Regional Initiative for Strategic Objective 1 (SO1 Pilot) was implemented, providing significant lessons on coordinated work between the FAO, governments, legislators and civil society in order to boost the fight against hunger. At the national level, 17 countries managed to improve public policy and regulatory frameworks in FNS; 24 countries participated in FNS monitoring and related policies, strengthening evidence-based decision-making. 14 Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger were backstopped as key instruments for FNS and the fight against hunger in the countries; and 330 civil society organizations in 12 countries saw their capacities strengthened in the areas of leadership and political dialogue for FNS and the fight against hunger.

### **Regional Priority 2: Family Farming and Rural Development**

Repositioning family farming to support food security and nutrition and strengthening family farmers access to technology and markets as key actors for rural development have been the main achievements of FAO's agenda in support of poverty alleviation. At the regional level, the Rural Development Programme and Guidelines for Family Agriculture and Rural Territorial Development were formulated with the Andean Community; good practices in production, commerce and policy making in the subsectors of agriculture, livestock, community forestry and small fishery/aquaculture were shared and disseminated; a family agriculture functional technical group made up of governments, civil society, producers' organizations, academia and international agencies was consolidated; and the MERCOSUR Specialized Meeting on Family Agriculture (REAF) was strengthened. At the national level, national and sectoral programmes and actions to support family agriculture -based on participation and agreements- were designed and implemented in Bolivia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and the Dominican Republic. Regarding seeds for family agriculture, 87 organizations of seed producers were consolidated in the Andean countries, leading to a 20% increased yield of potatoes, corn, quinoa, fava beans and beans in the areas of influence resulting from the use of certified seeds. Public systems to create more inclusive seed systems were strengthened, with municipal bylaws in Bolivia, regional regulations in Peru and the modification of seed regulations in Ecuador as highlights. In Mesoamerica, 29 businesses were created/ backed up in seven countries, and a dialogue on public systems was facilitated, resulting in changes to policy, legislation, regulations and administrative procedures to create more inclusive seed systems. Based on resource mobilization actions undertaken so far, this initiative could count on future support from the Mexican Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AMEXCID).

### **Regional Priority 3: Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability**

The climate change and environmental sustainability challenges facing agriculture and food systems in the region require a great deal of efforts on adoption of sustainable practices, design and implementation of agro-environmental policies as well as increased investments on climate change adaptation. Reconciling food production and natural resources protection in the context of climate change by promoting climate-smart agriculture and sustainable intensification is one of the main strategies of FAO in the region. In environmental sustainability, agro environmental policies were strengthened in Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Mexico and Nicaragua. Sustainable management and legal

frameworks of protected marine-coastal areas in the region were strengthened, including communities who depend on protected resources in those areas. Also, more comprehensive knowledge of the mountain areas in Andean countries in the region was achieved, and mountain committees were developed in those countries. Likewise, a new strategic framework called PEFFOR was developed, which considers the role of forests from a more integrated perspective, linking forest management with food security, rural development, climate change, energy and the conservation of biodiversity, soil and water. Progress was made in the development of the REDD Regional Programme with eight Central American countries plus the Dominican Republic. In the area of bioenergy, institutional capacities and partnerships were strengthened in ministries, civil society, public/private businesses and among other stakeholders in the countries interested in moving towards sustainable production (liquid biofuels, biomass and biogas). Regarding sustainable management of natural resources, regional information was introduced into the global data bases corresponding to WOCAT and AQUASTAT. Also, climate change adaptation was integrated into agricultural sector planning, together with the Ministries of Agriculture in Peru, Chile, Uruguay and Nicaragua. Strategic alliances with relevant partners in climate change were developed and strengthened, including GIZ, CIAT, World Bank Institute, UNEP, CAC, RIOCC and ECLAC, thus facilitating the dissemination of the climate-smart agriculture approach.

In the area of risk management, the National Plan for Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation in the Agricultural Sector for the Period 2012-2021 (PLANGRACC-A) was developed in Peru. In the high Andean plateau shared by Bolivia and Peru, response and resilience capacities in the face of adverse climate phenomena were strengthened among 78 Bolivian and 60 Peruvian communities. In Colombia, production models were developed for emergency situations to mitigate food and nutrition vulnerability of the population affected by violence and forced displacement.

#### **Regional Priority 4: Plant and Animal Health and Food Safety**

The main achievement of FAO's agenda on this priority is the strengthening of national plant and animal health and food safety systems as well as the regional coordination mechanisms to reduce risks associated to transboundary animal and plant diseases affecting food security and production and exports of animal and agricultural products. In animal health, the technical cooperation of FAO to the Andean program for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) eradication allowed the consolidation of Colombia as FMD-free country and the recognition of Bolivia's highlands as FMD-free zone and the new status of Peru as FMD-free country granted by OIE. FMD outbreaks were drastically reduced in Ecuador and Venezuela with more than 21 months with no clinical cases of the disease in the region -a first time record in over 50 years-. The Agriculture and Animal Health Technical Advisory Committee of CAN (COTASA) was strengthened to facilitate coordination and articulation of national animal health regulations and programmes for FMD and PPC control and eradication. The new sub-regional program for FMD-eradication (2014-2017) and the Route for the Progressive Control of PPC to eradicate the disease from the countries by 2017 were developed and adopted by CAN member countries. The Official Veterinary Services (SVO) and the National Animal Health Programmes were strengthened and their technical and management capacities improved, with a very successful plan of sanitary education implemented in all countries of the region with participation of SVO, livestock associations and local authorities.

In plant health, the Regional Committee of Experts in Huanglongbing (HLB) was set up at the regional level, which prepared the "Strategic Framework for Regional Management of HLB in Latin America and the Caribbean" and the "National Framework Plan for HLB Management". Proposals were prepared for the Andean zone regarding regulations for the Registry of Biological Pesticides and Post-Registry of Chemical Pesticides; an Andean Network of Laboratories was formed and the Andean Technical Manual for the Registry of Chemical Pesticides was updated. Additionally, technical capacities of workers in phytosanitary services were strengthened in the area of HLB management at the regional level, as well as in registration and post registration of pesticides; Phase 1 of the HLB Regional Information System was implemented in the FAO RLC web page; and an automatic tool was designed for the evaluation of Highly Dangerous Pesticides (PAPs). At the national level, 10 countries in South America and the Caribbean are now involved in Regional Management of HLB. An achievement concerning obsolete pesticides was that the government of Bolivia eliminated

25 tons, and a technical-administrative guide was prepared in order to help the process in Bolivia and other countries.

In food safety, national systems for food control were strengthened through a South-South cooperation strategy. This allowed a response to the first stage of CARICOM's request for Strengthening of CAHFSA, using the experience in Chile. The CCLAC was also strengthened, together with the Codex Secretariat. Likewise, national legislation on food labeling, national strategies for the promotion of fruit and vegetable consumption, and national programmes for healthy eating were strengthened in order to improve access to healthy, nutritious and safe food for the entire population.

In addition, in priority of Haiti and transversal priority (gender equality, youth and indigenous people), the achievements are:

### **Haiti**

Haiti is a priority country for FAO, as endorsed by the last two Regional Conferences for Latin America and the Caribbean (2010 in Panama and 2012 in Argentina). Levels of food insecurity are structurally very high, around 30% of the population. Natural disasters, such as the devastating earthquake in January 2010 and hurricane Sandy in October 2012, aggravated by an ongoing Cholera epidemic and occasional external shocks (food prices), result in sudden large increases in food insecurity, up to 67% of the population at the end of 2012. The Emergency Programme has contributed significantly to the reduction of food insecurity levels; in 2013 the percentage of food insecure people was halved. Since the devastating earthquake of 2010, FAO has helped to rebuild irrigation systems and access roads, reinforce the banks or rivers and streams, re-launch activities associated with watershed management particularly tree-planting in order to prevent flooding. Extrabudgetary funds have also been used to revive the production of local seed banks, the distribution of seed, fertiliser and farm tools, vaccinate stock and combat parasites and to upgrade training in natural disaster preparation. FAO through its project for the "Support to milk value chain and improving of households food security" had developed a dairy investment plan, rehabilitated and improved three dairy sites, procured and distributed equipment, veterinary kits and the installation of a laboratory for milk analysis is underway. These accomplishments build on other complementary projects which have set up and trained groups of milk producer associations in collaboration with NGOs such as Veterimed. Emphasis of the FAO programme has now shifted from emergency to development operations. Improving food and nutrition security remains the cornerstone, but the range of activities has been widened and more explicitly includes support to food and nutrition governance, improving overall resilience, structural improvement of the seed and dairy sectors, integrated participatory watershed management and so on. Particularly significant is Government's request for FAO assistance in support of its Agricultural Recovery Plan. In November 2013, FAO convened a Regional Technical Meeting (in Panama) in support of the Agricultural Recovery Plan, which set the stage for much stronger coordination of the assistance provided by countries in the region in support of Haiti.

### **Gender Equity, Youth and Indigenous People**

These issues are central in the new rights approach of FAO for achieving food security and nutrition. In gender equity, empirical evidence was produced regarding the status of different groups of women in the region, such as seasonal agricultural workers, agricultural producers, and non-paid relatives working in agriculture, non-agricultural activities and at home. The information was prepared jointly with ECLAC and ILO, allowing an exchange of experiences between government and non-government actors. Also, with UN Women, UNDP, ECLAC and ILO a joint report was prepared on Decent Work and Gender Equity, showing the situation of rural and agricultural women workers. The FAO Gender Policy, promulgated by the Director General on March 8, 2012, was implemented, guiding the efforts of the organization to achieve gender equity in all its work and specifying the goal and objectives set by FAO on this matter. A common agenda was built with the countries in the region regarding "Policies for Rural Women: economic autonomy, equal rights and the fight against hunger".

Regarding rural youth, the Leadership Training Programme was implemented at the regional level, with 148 young participants from a total of 284 participants in 10 countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Dominican Republic, Peru and Uruguay). In the context of the REAF held in 2012 in Argentina, 47 young rural leaders from the 5 participating countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay and Uruguay) were trained; while another 43 young leaders from the same five countries were trained at the REAF held in Brazil in 2013. There was participation in the United Nations Interagency Technical Group on Youth (GTIJ), which is regional in scope, and where a joint POA was prepared. Even though the FAO does not yet have its own agenda for the development of topics linked to rural youth at the national and regional levels, it has taken part in and made contributions to the activities promoted by the GTIJ.

In relation to indigenous peoples, a regional initiative has been launched to develop two Regional Dialogues between FAO and Indigenous Peoples, setting up a “common agenda” by identifying issues and tasks of common interest, establishing a Follow Up Mechanism with the participation of members of PFII representing the Region, and regional indigenous organizations. Knowledge has been generated to strengthen indigenous peoples food systems, with the participation of academic and indigenous local researchers in five key ecoregions: Mesoamerica (Nicaragua), Amazon (Peru), Andes (Bolivia), Chaco (Bolivia, Paraguay and Argentina), and Coastal and Insular Territories (Chile), whose proposals will be presented in an International Seminar of experts on “Culture, Food Sovereignty, and Traditional Livelihoods” and the XIII Session of PFII, in May 2014. FAO has been designed to Chair the Inter Agency Regional Support Group within the UN System in LAC for the biennium 2013-2014, with special mandate to coordinate the support of the involved agencies in the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (NY, September 2014) and its preparatory tasks. At national level, it is successfully conducting a regional advocacy project to include an ethnic differential approach into Food and Nutrition Security public policies in Paraguay, Colombia and Guatemala. This project will issue a Regional Report on food and nutrition security of LAC indigenous population, with a methodological approach to design public policies based on a human rights participatory approach.

**Annex 3: 2014-15 Budget by Strategic/Functional Objective and Region (in USD Thousands)**

Chapter	Headquarters/ Global		Africa		Asia and Pacific		Europe and Central Asia		Latin America and the Caribbean		Near East		Total		
	Net Approp	Extra- budgetary	Net Approp	Extra- budgetary	Net Approp	Extra- budgetary	Net Approp	Extra- budgetary	Net Approp	Extra- budgetary	Net Approp	Extra- budgetary	Net Approp	Extra- budgetary	Total
1	42,663	32,059	19,586	33,543	7,054	32,470	5,358	3,350	11,401	45,843	8,555	5,494	94,617	152,759	247,376
2	103,948	86,857	39,139	52,037	18,546	66,080	6,010	8,107	19,929	31,679	11,109	26,399	198,681	271,160	469,841
3	39,730	10,332	7,107	17,317	5,186	11,796	2,926	5,229	5,426	9,415	1,768	362	62,142	54,450	116,592
4	78,849	52,195	15,571	29,524	8,055	21,490	2,174	1,954	5,917	25,490	4,650	193	115,217	130,846	246,063
5	20,330	38,540	6,785	378,015	3,583	240,756	1,309	19,133	3,237	63,001	2,662	55,842	37,905	795,287	833,192
6	52,284	92	631		403		421		591		416		54,746	92	54,838
7 - TCP	24,771		43,698		26,390		11,159		19,767		8,936		134,721		134,721
8	52,734	1,039	725		3,277	20	5,928	385	1,101		947		64,712	1,445	66,157
9	32,265	4	946		387		526		766		610		35,501	4	35,505
10	64,194	5,744	3,357	8,222	3,839	2,419	2,010	1,689	2,467	537	4,346	5,250	80,213	23,861	104,074
11	52,531	4,675	3,795	638	6,212	18	12,528	647	4,793	1,301	1,833		81,691	7,278	88,969
12 - Cont	600		-		-		-		-		-		600		600
13 - CapEx	21,886		-		-		-		-		-		21,886		21,886
14 - Security	23,017	181	-		-		-		-		-		23,017	181	23,198
<b>Total</b>	<b>609,802</b>	<b>231,719</b>	<b>141,341</b>	<b>519,295</b>	<b>82,931</b>	<b>375,049</b>	<b>50,347</b>	<b>40,495</b>	<b>75,394</b>	<b>177,265</b>	<b>45,831</b>	<b>93,539</b>	<b>1,005,648</b>	<b>1,437,363</b>	<b>2,443,012</b>

Explanatory notes:

Net Approp = Net Appropriation budget distribution as approved by FAO Council in December 2013 (CL 148/3, Annex 3)

Extra-budgetary = Estimated requirements of voluntary contributions as presented to FAO Conference (C 2013/3, Annex III)

