



**Summary of Recommendation from
Thirty-first FAO
Regional Conference
for Asia and the Pacific
(Hanoi, Viet Nam, 12-16 March 2012)**

Food and Agriculture Organization of the
United Nations

Introduction

The thirty-first FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific was held in Hanoi, Viet Nam, from 12 to 16 March 2012. The Conference was organized in two parts: a Senior Officers Meeting from 12 to 14 March and a Ministerial-level Meeting from 15 to 16 March.

Representatives from 39 member countries participated in the Conference. Observers from 2 United Nations member states, 18 international non-governmental organizations and 6 intergovernmental organizations were in attendance. Representatives of 10 other United Nations organizations also participated.

Recommendations from the Conference

A. State of Food and Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific Region, including Future Prospects and Emerging Issues

1. strengthening agricultural research and better linking of it to extension by promoting partnerships among research institutions, extension agencies and other key stakeholders, and increasing the number of female extension workers; **(RAP Organization Output No.: F06P201, K02P201)**
2. developing better gender-disaggregated agricultural, fisheries and forestry statistics; **(RAP Organization Output No.: K02P201, H04P201)**
3. strengthening agricultural market information systems, including stronger links between the systems developed by regional organizations and the global interagency Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), based in Rome; **(RAP Organization Output No.: H05P202, G02P201)**

4. improving governance and regulation of the livestock sector in a manner that makes rapid growth possible in a sustainable and environmentally sound manner and does not threaten human health; **(RAP Organization Output No.: B01P201, B02P201, B03P201, B04P201)**

5. enhancing capacity for participation in the design of animal health and food-safety standards facilitating greater access to markets; **(RAP Organization Output No.: B02P201, D01P106, D02P201, D03P201)**

6. developing forests and forestry as a means of sustaining livelihoods, generating income, reducing poverty, preserving cultural heritage and maintaining environmental and biodiversity values; **(RAP Organization Output No.: E01P201, E02P201, E03P201, E04P201, E05P201, E06P201)**

7. improving water management and enhancing dry land agricultural productivity; **(RAP Organization Output No.: F01P201, F02P201, F02P202, F02P203, F02P204)**

8. developing an ecosystems approach framework through which fisheries and aquaculture activities can be implemented in a sustainable manner; **(RAP Organization Output No.: C02P201, C03P201, C04P201, C05P112, C06P113)**

9. developing sound policies to facilitate transparent, open and efficient trade of food; **(RAP Organization Output No.: G04P201)**

10. designing cost-effective safety nets for the most vulnerable; **(RAP Organization Output No.: H01P201, X02P201)**

11. adapting to and mitigating climate change through the creation of improved early warning systems and the development and dissemination of improved technologies and risk management tools. **(RAP Organization Output No.: (F05P201, H05P202, I02P201, I01P201)**

B. Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and Follow-up Actions at Regional and Country Levels

12. Work with appropriate stakeholders to facilitate the development of systems for mapping food security and nutrition actions to enhance coordination and alignment of the policies and programmes of government agencies and development partners. The Conference stressed the importance of monitoring progress in implementing key decisions concerning food and nutrition security, and relevant challenges and successes. **(RAP Organization Output No.: H01P21, H03P203)**

13. Encouraged regional coordination and support for country-level mapping of food security and nutrition actions, based on existing mechanisms and institutions, including the FAO Regional Office. **(RAP Organization Output No.: H01P201, H03P204, H05P201, H05P202)**

C. Sustainable Intensification and Diversification of Crops and Agriculture towards Food and Nutrition Security

14. assist member countries through participatory development of strategic analyses and investment Guidelines **(RAP Organization Output No.: L01P201)**

15. assist member countries through facilitation of knowledge generation, dialogue and dissemination capacity development; **(RAP Organization Output No.: H05P202)**

16. assist member countries through capacity development, promotion of technology generation and transfer of technology and genetic materials in support of intensification and diversification of crop. **(RAP Organization Output No.: A01P201, A01P204, A04P201)**

17. assist member countries through facilitation of global and regional cooperation to strengthen awareness raising, policy dialogue. **(RAP Organization Output No.: X03P201)**

18. assist member countries through research- extension linkages, such as through the Global Agenda of Action for Sustainable Livestock Sector Development. **(RAP Organization Output No.: B01P201, B02P201, B03P201, B04P201)**

19. recognized the special needs of small island developing countries in addressing food and nutrition security issues in the context of frequent natural disasters, emerging impacts of climate change; fragility of land and marine ecosystems; threats from invasive species; limited fresh water supplies; and high costs of transportation with special emphasis on the importance of coconuts in small island developing countries. **(RAP Organization Output No.: F05P201, I02P201, I01P201, D04P202)**

20. supporting legislation and safeguards with respect to land ownership and use to ensure small-scale farmers remain key partners and beneficiaries in this process. **(RAP Organization Output No.: F04P101)**

D. Value Chain Development and Post-Harvest Loss Reduction for Smallholder Farmers

21. provide assistance in value chain development, specifically: in developing strategies and programmes, including support in the area of food processing; harmonizing food safety and quality standards; strengthening legal and institutional frameworks that govern food safety and quality; and in developing the technical and organizational capacities of smallholder farmers. **(RAP Organization Output No.: D04P201, G01P201, G03P201, D01P201, D02P201)**

22. collect, analyze, document and disseminate information on factors that contribute to successful value chain development and post-harvest loss reduction for smallholders, in order to learn lessons from successful models. **(RAP Organization Output No.: D04P201, G01P201, H01P203)**

Programme and Budget Matters

Report on FAO Activities in Asia and the Pacific Region in the Biennium 2010-11

23. encouraged FAO to forge stronger linkages between the RTCs and their “parent” global Committees, and with other related regional and global bodies; **(RAP Organization Output No.: X04P201)**

24. requested FAO, in future reporting to the APRC, to link activities and outputs to outcomes and impacts. **(RAP Organization Output No.: X04P201)**

Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13 and Areas of Priority Actions for Asia and the Pacific Region for the Following Biennium 2014-15

25. emphasize 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; **(RAP Organization Output No.: X04P201)**

26. increase agricultural production and productivity, while addressing natural resource constraints (water, land, genetic resources, climate change) and higher energy prices; **(RAP Organization Output No.: A01P201, A01P204, A01P202, A04P201, F01P201, F02P201, F02P202, F05P201)**

27. promote increased rice production and productivity, as the region's most important staple Food; **(RAP Organization Output No.: A01P201, A01P204)**

28. promote agricultural knowledge sharing and technology transfer; **(RAP Organization Output No.: H05P202)**
29. making small-scale farmers more competitive; **(RAP Organization Output No.: G01P201)**
30. promote food security and nutrition; **(RAP Organization Output No.: H03P204, H03P205, H01P201, H05P201)**
31. harmonize policies for food security and bioenergy development; **(RAP Organization Output No.: A01P201, A01P204, A01P202, F05P201)**
32. manage trans-boundary plant pests and animal diseases; **(RAP Organization Output No.: A02P201, A03P203, B02P201)**
33. facilitate markets, particularly through commodity information and standard setting; **(RAP Organization Output No.: H04P201, H05P201, H05P202, G01P201)**

34. request FAO to focus its action in the region on knowledge services through technical assistance, information sharing, policy advice, standards setting, investment planning, capacity development and facilitation of South-South cooperation: **(RAP Organization Output No.: X03P201, X03P205, X01P201, H01P201, L01P201)**

35. suggest that FAO coordinate the development of a regional rice strategy and review the technical skills mix in the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, with a view towards ensuring adequate rice expertise: **(RAP Organization Output No.:A01P201, A01P204)**

36. complete the formulation of Country Programming Frameworks and having a clear line of sight between strategic directions, regional and country priorities, and results achieved at country level: **(RAP Organization Output No.: X01P202, X01P203)**

37. encourage the FAO Regional Office to further strengthen partnerships with other development partners and regional organizations to identify areas of synergy and to increase efficiency in delivery of programmes in the region; **(RAP Organization Output No.: X03P201)**

38. noted concerns by civil society of the difficulties they face in participating fully in some FAO programmes and processes, especially at the country level. **(RAP Organization Output No.: X03P201, X04P201)**

Other related issues regarding the recommendations are available in the Regional Conference Report – APCR/12/REP. Also, details of on-going activities and achievements of RAP Organizational Outputs for the Recommendations are reported in a separate RAP document and available upon request.

Thank you,