



منظمة الأغذية
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联合国
粮食及
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Продовольственная и
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Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

TWENTY-SIXTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE

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Agenda Item 6

Main conclusions and list of recommendations stemming from the debate in the 35th session of the ECA on item: The role of FAO in knowledge exchange and capacity building in the Europe and Central Asia Region

I. Main Conclusions of the discussion

1. The important role of FAO as a knowledge organization was recognized.
2. The view of the IEE, that the role of FAO in knowledge exchange and capacity building is the strongest comparative advantage particularly for Europe and Central Asia countries was stressed.
3. It was underlined that an important amount of knowledge contribution depends on the activities of member countries and the involvement of the private sector.
4. The progress made by FAO in the field of knowledge exchange and capacity building in the region especially in collecting, analysing, interpreting and disseminating agriculture-related information and the gradual transformation towards a more active form of knowledge management was recognized.
5. The use of best practices in knowledge exchange programmes and stressing the importance of subregional collaboration was noted. The special attention to multilingual information tools and portals and the FAO-supported information exchange projects was welcomed.
6. The countries stressed that an important development is the exchange of knowledge and information between developed countries of the EU and countries in transition in the European Region including the five Central Asia countries covered by the office in Ankara. FAO plays an important role both as a facilitator of this exchange and as a provider of knowledge.
7. It was noted that WAICENT has been successful in facilitating digital access to multilingual information on agriculture and rural issues, and the information exchange

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- platforms such as AgroWeb could serve as an important model for successful cooperation.
8. The importance of having available remote editing and updating of Web information through the management of centralized collaboration platforms and other research networks was stressed as in the case of ESCORENA.
 9. Information exchange platforms and networks can serve as a good example of promoting international collaboration including the strengthening of the activities of NGOs and the empowerment of civil society in potentially unstable regions within Europe and Central Asia.
 10. The necessity has been revealed for adjusting FAO's work to the new international model and for adopting a more integrated approach with special emphasis on action.

II. List of Recommendations

The Commission endorsed the following recommendations:

11. FAO should strengthen the capacity building and developing skills on the basis of the assessed needs of individual countries
12. Capacity building programmes should be prepared on the basis of documented good practices and the private sector's experience.
13. The FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia should take a leading role by enhancing the cooperation of regional universities and research institutions as well as in facilitating and improving the work of the extension service staff in the member countries.
14. FAO should also consider twinning arrangements in the distribution of information and knowledge exchange.
15. The local knowledge exchange system in the region should therefore focus on the local focal points, local scientists and information experts in order not to overlook good practices from the past in the region as well as to identify local/regional centres of expertise.