



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



FAO in Asia-Pacific



For more than six decades the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO/RAP) has been the driving force behind efforts to alleviate hunger and poverty throughout the region by boosting agriculture and fisheries production, making nutritious food less costly and more available to millions of hungry people. Coordinated by FAO/RAP, in collaboration with constituents and other partners, these sustained efforts have resulted in millions of rural people across Asia and the Pacific emerging from poverty while improving their nutritional health. Through the guidance of specialists from FAO/RAP, regional activities are designed to ultimately ensure people have enough safe, nutritious food to lead healthy lives, while also protecting the environment for future generations.

OUR INTERNAL VISION

- ***We strive for a world free of hunger and malnutrition*** where food and agriculture contribute to improving the living standards of all, especially the poorest, in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner.
- ***We are committed to providing results*** and quality service for our Members.
- ***We hold ourselves and our partners to the highest standards*** of integrity and transparency, guided by respect for others and the world in which we live.
- ***As an organization, FAO values the diversity of ideas and people*** and fosters a respectful work environment. Teamwork, knowledge sharing and learning are the essence of our work practices. All our actions are based on sound ethical standards.
- ***Mindful of the seriousness and importance of our mandate***, we are proud to work for FAO and are fully committed to its mission of building a food-secure world for present and future generations.

OUR VALUES

FAO employees share the following core values:

- ***Commitment to results*** – by generating and sharing knowledge, applying critical thinking, teamwork and partnerships to solve complex problems that meet the needs of those we serve.
- ***Respect for all*** – by drawing on the richness of diverse ideas, experiences and talents of all FAO employees and valuing each other's dignity and worth.
- ***Integrity, transparency and professionalism*** – by holding to the highest standards in managing human and financial resources and in all we do with others.




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FAO in Asia-Pacific



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Foreword



This publication is about the work of FAO's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP) and its decades-long struggle to eradicate hunger throughout the region. For more than 60 years RAP has cooperated with member countries to help them produce enough safe and nutritious food for people living in the most populous region in the world; a region that is home to nearly two-thirds of the world's hungry people.

Fundamentally this is a book about people – all of us – and the critical importance of food and nutrition in helping us lead healthy and productive lives. While we celebrate the achievements in technology and progress in food production, and the regional efforts that led to Asia-Pacific, as a whole, achieving the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of reducing the proportion of hunger by half by 2015, we must also recognize our shortcomings. While rural workers, small farmers, and fishers produce most of the food we eat, many of them do not have access to the latest knowledge and technology to improve their productivity. That's a problem, because although we produce enough food to feed everyone, there are more hungry people in this region than any other. By 2050, with a global population in excess of nine billion people, we will need to dramatically increase our food production or the situation will be far worse. For many developing countries in Asia and the Pacific, that will mean an increase in production of more than 75 percent in just a generation.

This publication looks at how RAP is working with constituents and partners to meet the challenges. It examines how we produce food and how we can improve the way we do so for the benefit of the many, not the few. It questions why so much food is lost or wasted in post-harvest production and at the retail and consumer levels. This is food that isn't making it to the mouths of anyone, particularly those of the hungry.

Progress has been made. RAP's hunger reduction strategy for Asia and the Pacific was a success, greatly reducing hunger in the region. In 1990, the proportion of chronically hungry people in Asia and the Pacific was 24 percent. Today in 2015, with hard work by all concerned, it has been reduced to 12 percent, meeting the MDG Target 1.C to reduce the proportion of hunger by half by 2015. The Asia-Pacific region also saw the largest reduction in the absolute number of undernourished people in the world. But progress has been uneven across the region, and Asia-Pacific remains the region with the largest number of hungry people.

The challenges ahead are serious. Asia and the Pacific Islands face increasingly severe and more frequent storms caused by climate change. In recent years, high prices for food and farm inputs, things like fertilizer and high-yielding seeds, are pricing many poor farmers and fishers out of business. Conflicts and civil unrest also threaten food security in parts of the region, driving people off their farms and onto food assistance programmes. Agriculture, fisheries and forestry are the sectors most severely affected by these threats, which disproportionately strike at poor farming and fishing communities.



To help people deal with these threats, RAP shares technical expertise and policy knowledge with member countries and their food producers. It provides a neutral forum where member countries can discuss agriculture, fisheries and food issues, including food quality and safety regulations. RAP trains farmers, fishers and foresters how to produce more food without damaging the environment. It also offers technical courses that enable people to establish sustainable businesses that store, process and transport safe nutritious food to consumers. RAP also helps fight plant, animal and aquatic pests and diseases.

But RAP's work in the region isn't just about boosting food production, it is also about the support activities that make farming, fishing and forestry more sustainable. For example, FAO urges member countries to recognize legal rights for farmers, fishers and foresters, explaining the need for clear and fair title to the land and waters where they work.

Because many women are farmers and food producers, gender is an important issue in the region. Too often, the work of women is undervalued. In fact, closing the gender gap in agriculture could end hunger for as many as 100 to 150 million people.

Two billion people suffer micronutrient deficiencies, which stunt physical growth and brain development in children. There are other serious health problems in the Asia-Pacific region, too. For example, 1.6 billion people are overweight and 500 million of these are obese. Many overweight and obese people suffer from diabetes and other related circulatory non-communicable diseases like high blood pressure and this puts a strain on healthcare.

While the world is riddled with economic challenges and wracked by a lack of social justice, the fundamental human right to food for all, for all practical purposes, has been ignored. Volatile food prices widen the gap between rich and poor consumers. The wealthier among us consume and waste an abundance of food, while the poor, far too often, have barely enough food to survive. This is the dilemma facing all of us, globally and in the Asia-Pacific region.

Now, having achieved the MDG 1 hunger target, FAO's RAP is working to eradicate hunger completely. The Zero Hunger Challenge, initiated by the UN Secretary-General in 2012, and the new Sustainable Development Goals will serve as our road map to a hunger-free region in the coming years. We can rise to the challenges – we must. Working together with our constituents and partners, we are constantly searching for new and innovative ideas in food production and extending that knowledge to others. FAO's Regional Office for Asia and Pacific is all about improving people's lives. I hope you enjoy reading about the work of RAP and encourage you to contact us directly for any further information.



Hiroyuki Konuma
Assistant Director-General and
Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific



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List of acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank	HPAI	Highly pathogenic avian influenza
AEC	ASEAN Economic Community	ICARDA	International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
ACISAI	Asian Centre of Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture Intensification	ICRISAT	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
AFA	Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development	IEE	Independent External Evaluation
AFC	Asian Football Confederation	IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
AFD	French Development Agency (Agence Française de Développement)	IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
AFoCo	ASEAN-Republic of Korea Forest Cooperation	IPM	Integrated Pest Management
AFS	Agriculture and Food Systems	IRRI	International Rice Research Institute
AIPP	Asia Indigenous Peoples' Pact	IWGIA	International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs
AIT	Asian Institute of Technology	IWMI	International Water Management Institute
AMG	Administration Group	JIRCAS	Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences
AMICAF	Analysis and Mapping of Impacts under Climate Change for Adaptation and Food Security	MASSCOTE	Mapping System and Services for Canal Operation Techniques
AOC	Appellation d'origine contrôlée	MDG	Millennium Development Goal
APCAS	Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics	MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
APFC	Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission	MSSRF	M S Swaminathan Research Foundation
APFC	Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission	NARS	National Agricultural Research Systems
APFNet	Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation	NRE	Natural Resources and Environment Group
APHCA	Animal Production and Health commission for Asia and the Pacific	NZHC	National Zero Hunger Challenge
APPARI	Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions	OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
APPPC	Asia-Pacific Plant Protection Commission	PACER	Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations
APRC	Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (FAO)	PICTA	Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement
ARD	Agricultural Research for Development	PIF	Pacific Islands Forum
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	PWA	Pacific Week of Agriculture
CA	Conservation Agriculture	PWB	Programme of Work and Budget
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund	RAP	United Nations Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
CIMMYT	International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maíz y Trigo)	RPF	Regional Priority Framework
CGIAR	Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers	SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer	SDGs	Strategic Development Goals
ECTAD	Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases	SFM	Sustainable forest management
ERAG	External Rice Advisory Group	SIRP	Sustainable intensification of rice production
ESP	Economic, Social and Policy Assistance	SMEs	Small and medium enterprises
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	SO	Strategic objective
FNN	Farmer and Nature Net	SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
FPG	RAP Field Programme Groups	SSC	South-South Cooperation
GDP	gross domestic product	TFT	Table for Two
GEF	Global Environmental Fund	TOF	Trees Outside Forests
GI	Geographic indication	UN	United Nations
GIAHS	Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
		UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
		UR	Unit Result
		WB	The World Bank
		ZHC	Zero Hunger Challenge

History of the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific



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FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) was founded in Quebec City, Canada on 16 October 1945 just eight days before the United Nations was established. At the time, much of the world lay in ruin following a devastating world war and it was far from certain that there would be enough food produced to prevent

widespread famine. Five countries from the Asia-Pacific region – Australia, China, India, New Zealand and the Philippines – signed FAO's charter.

The FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Far East first opened in China, but in 1947 FAO's governing bodies decided to temporarily move the office to

Bangkok, Thailand the following year. In 1953 the move became permanent. Today, Asia-Pacific regional membership stands at 46 countries and one associate member country. A Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands has been set up in Apia, Samoa and there are now 13 country offices, five of which support two or more countries.

46 member countries and 1 associate member country:

- Afghanistan
- Australia
- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- Brunei Darussalam
- Cambodia
- China
- Cook Islands
- Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- Fiji
- France
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran, Islamic Republic of
- Japan
- Kazakhstan
- Kiribati
- Lao People's Democratic Republic
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Marshall Islands
- Micronesia, Federated States of
- Mongolia
- Myanmar
- Nauru
- Nepal
- New Zealand
- Niue
- Pakistan
- Palau
- Papua New Guinea
- Philippines
- Republic of Korea
- Russian Federation
- Samoa
- Singapore
- Solomon Islands
- Sri Lanka
- Thailand
- Timor-Leste
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- United States of America
- Uzbekistan
- Vanuatu
- Viet Nam
- Tokelau, Associate Member country

Extending FAO's overarching goal to the most populous region in the world

FAO's global goals are:

- Eradicating hunger to ensure a world in which all people at all times have sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life;
- Eliminating poverty and promoting economic and social progress for all, with increased food production, enhanced rural development and sustainable livelihoods; and,
- Sustainably managing and using natural resources, including land, water, air, climate and genetic resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

FAO has adopted five strategic objectives (SOs) to guide its activities and initiatives:

- SO 1 Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition
- SO 2 Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable
- SO 3 Reduce rural poverty
- SO 4 Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems
- SO 5 Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises



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FAO's regional vision, mission and priorities



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FAO's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP) has developed a Regional Priority Framework to align the Organization's global objectives with the needs and priorities of the region.

In 2007, the Report of the Independent External Evaluation of FAO (IEE) called for a new and clear role of FAO Regional Offices with greater delegation of authority and decision-making roles. It called for Regional Offices to prepare a report for the Regional Conference with the aim of offering strategic direction to the Organization by providing guidance on the major food and agricultural issues and concerns in the region, and identifying regional programmes and priorities.

The FAO/RAP formulated a concept paper – the Regional Priority Framework (RPF) – and, after extensive consultations with all stakeholders and subsequent revisions, the RPF was endorsed in 2010 at the 30th FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, held at Gyeongju, Republic of Korea.

The RPF focuses on broad priority areas which allow for better alignment of regional priorities with FAO's Global

Vision: A food-secure Asia-Pacific region

Mission: To help member countries halve the number of undernourished people in the region by 2015 by raising agricultural productivity and alleviating poverty while protecting the region's natural resources base.

Five strategic priority areas are identified:

1. Strengthening food and nutritional security.
2. Fostering agricultural production and rural development.
3. Enhancing equitable, productive and sustainable natural resource management and utilization.
4. Improving capacity to respond to food and agricultural threats and emergencies.
5. Coping with the impact of climate change on food and agriculture.

Strategic Framework 2010-2019 in conformity with the Organization's integrated results-based approach.

The RPF ensures that RAP's biennial Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) and regional Unit Results (URs) are formulated based on a regional perspective in line with the regional priorities as defined in the RPF, and that the RPF

itself reflects the needs and priorities of the Asia-Pacific region, and thus contributes to the formulation and adjustment of FAO's global priorities and Organizational Results.

In short, the RPF is a road map aimed at maximizing RAP's contribution to FAO's strategic global goals in accordance with its available resources.

ACHIEVED: Millennium Development Goal No. 1 – Reducing the proportion of hunger by half by 2015

In recent decades, the Asia-Pacific region has achieved the fastest rate of economic growth and that has led to improvements in reducing hunger. In May 2015, FAO announced that the region, as a whole, had achieved the MDG 1.C hunger target of reducing the proportion of people suffering from hunger by half by the 2015 deadline.

In announcing the breakthrough, Hiroyuki Konuma, FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, called it “an historic achievement, a great milestone of which the Asia-Pacific region should be proud.”

Since 1990, the Asia-Pacific region has witnessed a reduction in the proportion of those suffering from hunger – from 24 percent to 12 percent. In other words, while one in four people were undernourished more than 25 years ago, today one in eight remains hungry. The region has also achieved the world’s largest reduction in the overall number of undernourished – some 236 million people.

Some of the greatest achievements in proportional reductions were recorded in China (60.9 percent), Indonesia (61.6 percent), Thailand (78.7 percent) and Viet Nam (75.8 percent). However, the gains made have been uneven across subregions, with East Asia and Southeast Asia achieving the greatest reductions in hunger, while South Asia was unable to reach the MDG target.

In addition, a high rate of economic growth has not benefitted everyone equally. It has resulted in widening income disparities and social inequalities between the rich and the poor in many countries in Asia.

Towards Zero Hunger

Despite the overall achievements, there are still 490 million people in Asia and the Pacific who suffer from chronic hunger – nearly two-thirds of the global estimate. So while we acknowledge the region’s

achievements, there is no time to rest. With 12 percent of the region’s population still undernourished, countries in Asia and the Pacific must focus their attention on actions that would help those who remain hungry, and are left behind from the benefits of economic growth and who are the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in our society.

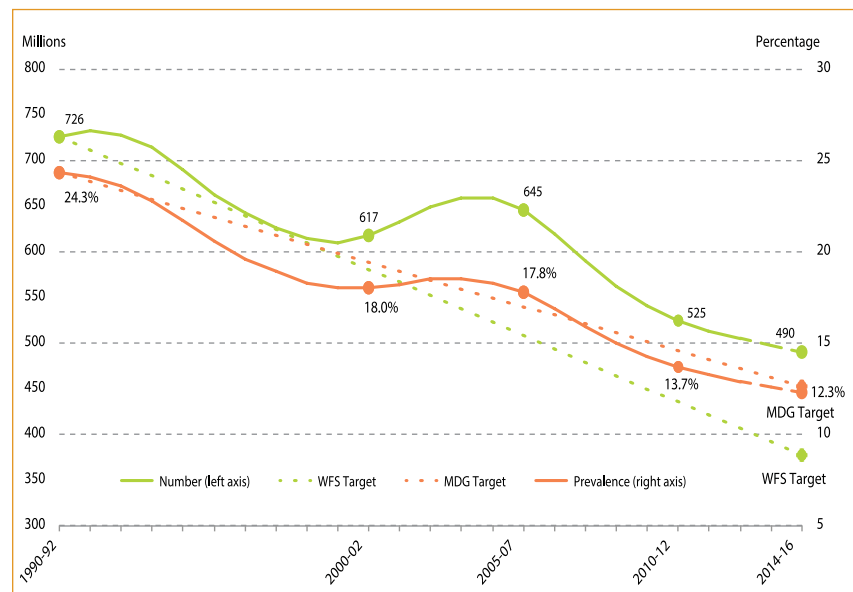
The Zero Hunger Challenge, launched in 2012 by the United Nations Secretary-General, must be taken on across the region so that hunger can be made a relic of the past. The world presently produces enough food to feed everyone and the

Asia-Pacific region has contributed to the present state of abundance.

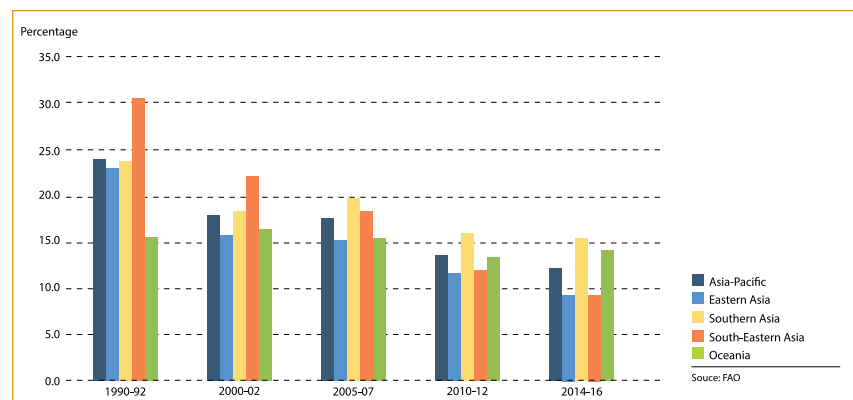
Moving from beyond the MDGs to the Sustainable Development Goals, policy commitments, institutional and technological innovations combined with effective social protection measures will be needed in an overall framework of sustainable growth that is more equitably shared and environmentally sustainable.

Reaching “Zero Hunger” is not an impossible dream. It can be achieved – with the commitment of all stakeholders who can make it happen.

The trajectory of undernourishment in Asia and the Pacific: actual and projected progress towards the MDG and WFS targets



Prevalence of hunger in Asia and the Pacific by subregion, 1990-92 - 2014-16



Future outlook and challenges – Towards 2050

As the world population grows to more than nine billion by 2050, more food will be required to ensure our children and future generations are food secure.

Among the challenges is rapid urbanization. At present, half of all the people in the world live in cities. By 2030, that will likely increase to 60 percent and nearly 70 percent by 2050.

Diets are also changing, leading to increased demand by people in Asia and the Pacific for foods high in protein such as meat and fish and a dramatic increase in demand for dairy products across the region. While many people in this region (though clearly not all) have benefited from growing economies, daily per capita food consumption has increased, averaging 2 770 calories a person per day in the mid-2000s, up from 2 370 calories at the

beginning of the 1970s. The proportion of these calorie increases is identical across regions. FAO's provisional projections show average world consumption is expected to be more than 3 000 kcal a day per person in 2050. In East Asia, per capita consumption is expected to approach saturation levels of 3 225 calories a day per person.

Globally, by 2050, agricultural production will have to increase by about 60 percent, or 77 percent in developing countries (with a baseline period of 2005/07). However, most arable land is already in use, meaning science and innovation will be important in finding solutions. The effects of climate change will add further uncertainty. Water scarcity and droughts, already issues faced by many countries, are further challenges to increasing food production as agriculture already consumes 70 percent of the planet's water resources.

Further obscuring food forecasts is the amount of food lost or wasted after harvest. As much as 45 percent of fresh fruits and vegetables and some 30 percent of cereals destined for markets are never consumed. Some food is lost during harvest and in post-harvest transport, storage and other activities. But there is also a lot of food wasted in restaurants and homes.

In Europe, North America and industrial Asian countries, some 15-25 percent of food waste occurs after cooking, when the food reaches the dining table. Finding ways to reduce post-harvest food losses and consumer waste could reduce the amount of food increases necessary by 2050. Put simply, we need to change the way we harvest, transport and store food while at the same time changing our own personal food preparation and consumption habits.



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Proposed Sustainable Development Goals – Ending hunger and achieving food security by 2030

The 17 proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a new universal set of goals, targets and indicators under consideration by UN member States, were designed to help countries frame and shape their development agendas and political policies until 2030. SDGs were designed to move the global development agenda forward following the expiration in 2015 of the MDGs.

The Strategic Development Goals (SDGs) are specific in nature. While they set goals, they also provide guidance on what's needed to achieve those goals. For example, SDG II (end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture) provides FAO with a clear mandate. But many of the other SDGs also provide an entry point for FAO's technical interventions and assistance to its member countries' development plans.

Zero Hunger Challenge

Launched in 2012 by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, the Zero Hunger Challenge (ZHC) calls on all countries worldwide to ensure every person has adequate nutrition and that all food systems are resilient, thereby ending global hunger. The ZHC has five elements: to ensure equitable access to nutritious food; end stunting in children; maintain sustainable food systems; increase smallholder productivity; and put an end to the loss and waste of food.

Asia-Pacific countries launched their Regional ZHC in 2013, calling for an end to hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition by 2025. The launch came at the 69th Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. The Regional Guiding Framework for Achieving Zero Hunger in Asia and the Pacific was formulated by the UN Regional Thematic Working

The five elements of the Zero Hunger Challenge:

1. 100 percent access to adequate food all year round
2. Zero stunted children less than two years old
3. All food systems are sustainable
4. 100 percent increase in smallholder productivity and income
5. Zero loss or waste of food

Group on Poverty and Hunger and was released in December 2013.

National Zero Hunger Challenges

Many FAO member countries in Asia and the Pacific have responded positively to the UN Secretary-General's Zero Hunger Challenge. So far, six

countries have launched National Zero Hunger Challenges (NZHCs), beginning with Timor-Leste in January 2014, followed by Myanmar and Nepal in October and December of that year. Viet Nam launched its NZHC in January 2015, followed by Cambodia and Lao PDR in May of that year. Several other countries across the Asia-Pacific region have indicated they too will launch NZHCs.



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Asia-Pacific regional rice strategy

Rice is the most important staple food of the Asia-Pacific region and some 90 percent of the world's rice is grown in the region. Its production dominates the agricultural landscape and is an important base of economies, the environment, culture and livelihoods for hundreds of millions of farmers.

However, the rice economy is suffering from resource scarcity, notably water and land, while rice farming is also blamed for greenhouse gas emissions and degrading natural resources. Rice consumption per person is declining as household incomes grow and diets change.

In 2012, at the 31st FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific in Hanoi, Viet Nam, FAO member countries asked the Organization to coordinate the development of a regional rice strategy.

In response, FAO established the External Rice Advisory Group (ERAG) to formulate a region-wide rice strategy. Professor M S Swaminathan, one of the pioneers of India's green revolution, agreed to chair the ERAG working with the group's team leader, R B Singh, a former FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific.

ERAG is composed of executives and rice experts from the following organizations: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), International Water Management Institute (IWMI), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Asian Development Bank (ADB), M S Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), The World Bank (WB), Farmer and Nature Net (FNN), Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA), an advisor to Thailand's Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives, and a distinguished Harvard Professor of development studies.

A regional rice strategy is critical to the region. An increased rice production



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through sustainable intensification is vital to the region's food security because Asian economies are experiencing structural changes that will result in agriculture contributing less to the gross domestic product (GDP) of most countries in the region. Agriculture will also employ a smaller proportion of the pop-

ulation as economies continue to grow.

Ultimately, the regional rice strategy aims to improve lives, especially those of smallholder and family farmers, a majority of whom depend upon rice for their livelihoods, economically, socially, and environmentally.

Goals of the regional rice strategy:

- Sustainable increases in productivity and higher nutritional value of rice to meet growing global demand;
- Minimize the environmental footprint of rice production and enhance the ecosystem functions of rice landscapes, including the protection and promotion of rice heritage and culture;
- Improve mitigation and adaptation of rice farming to climate change and improve the capacity of farmers to cope with risks;
- Enhance the rice value chain by improving food quality, diversity and food safety, while reducing post-harvest losses;
- Improve the efficiency, reliability and fairness of domestic and international rice markets to stabilize rice price and supply, while ensuring equitable access by the poor and promoting regional collaboration;
- And, to enhance the wellbeing and livelihoods of small holders, women and a new generation of rice producers by improving adjustments to long-term changes in demography, farm size and labour supply.

FAO regional initiatives for Asia and the Pacific

FAO's RAP, in consultation and collaboration with its member countries and other stakeholders, has tailored many diverse initiatives, programmes and projects to help countries in the region fight hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition.

In March 2014, at FAO's 32nd Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, RAP's member countries endorsed proposals for four major regional initiatives: Zero Hunger Challenge in Asia and the Pacific; Regional Rice Initiative (Phase II); Blue Growth; and Value Chains for Food Security and Nutrition in the Pacific.

1. Zero Hunger Challenge in Asia and the Pacific – a regional initiative

In order to assist its member countries to take forward the Zero Hunger Challenge, RAP has formulated, and is implementing, the Regional Initiative on

Support to the Zero Hunger Challenge in Asia and the Pacific.

Initially, this will be implemented in Bangladesh, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal and Timor-Leste. The regional initiative places emphasis on three specific and complementary areas of work identified on the basis of their critical importance for achieving the ZHC as well as of FAO's comparative advantages and experience in the region.

The regional initiative to support the Zero Hunger Campaign in Asia and the Pacific is one of the means by which FAO's Strategic Objective No 1 "Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition", is to be attained.

Areas of work:

1. Formulating or operationalizing national food security and nutrition policies and investment plans by

drawing lessons from the successful model of the National Food Policy Capacity Strengthening Programme in Bangladesh;

2. Improving capacity for measurement and calculation of undernourishment;
3. And, improving child nutrition and reducing stunting.

The Regional Initiative Delivery Team includes staff from the FAO Representations in the five focus countries, FAO headquarters and the RAP.

RAP anticipates that the initiative will help eliminate hunger in the Asia-Pacific region by 2025. But it also acknowledges that, in order to do so, a comprehensive effort will be required by all stakeholders to ensure every man, woman and child has access to adequate and nutritious food at all times. Furthermore, women will need to be empowered to become full participants in achieving zero hunger, and food systems must become sustainable and resilient.





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Implementing this regional initiative will require increased investment in agriculture, rural development, access to decent work, social protection and equality of opportunity.

Success will bring with it important additional benefits. Conquering hunger will improve nutrition, especially for women at the beginning of pregnancy and for children under the age of two. It will also reduce poverty and encourage peace and social and economic stability.

2. Asia and the Pacific's regional rice initiative (Phase II)

Rice-based farming systems and the rice economy have been experiencing significant structural changes and challenges, including the 2008 rice price crisis and environmental issues. These challenges have prompted governments around the world to come up with sustainable ways of rice farming as well as formulation of overarching rice policies and strategies.

Areas of work:

1. Support rice farmers and producers for applying innovative and sustainable rice farming practices through the effective provision and utilization of rice ecosystem services and goods;
2. Build a knowledge base and evidence for resource use and production efficiency to demonstrate the effectiveness of the sustainable rice ecosystem-based approach;
3. And, realize food-secure, better nourished and prosperous rice farmers and consumers in the Asia-Pacific region by contributing to policy processes, especially the formulation and implementation of national rice strategies or policies, building on the strategic options laid out by the Regional Rice Strategy for Sustainable Food Security in Asia and the Pacific.

To achieve the objectives, an array of options which are more productive, sustainable and efficient in resource use are available. These include: rice-fish, rice-livestock and rice vegetables

systems, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Trees Outside Forests (TOF), Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS), Mapping System and Services for Canal Operation Techniques (MASSCOTE), and the Analysis and Mapping of Impacts under Climate Change for Adaptation and Food Security (AMICAF). These applications are integrated in the overarching Save and Grow paradigm, i.e. producing more and better with fewer inputs, through Farmers Field Schools, to realize sustainable intensification of rice production (SIRP).

3. Blue Growth – a regional initiative

In Asia, fish currently supply about 20 percent of the protein in people's diets. Due to the increasing population and economic growth, by 2030 fish consumption in Asia is estimated to surge by 30 percent. Aquaculture is seen as the only way to meet the increasing demand due to the stagnant production from capture fisheries.

The goal of this regional initiative is to achieve sustainable growth of Asian

aquaculture, which will contribute to food and nutritional security by helping to meet the increasing regional and world demand for fish, while working towards poverty alleviation and by making aquaculture an attractive and resilient livelihood option. It will contribute to blue growth of the economy through more efficient and sustainable use of aquaculture resources.

Areas of work:

1. Support member countries in identifying options for addressing key governance issues in achieving sustainable aquaculture growth through appropriate regional and national consultation processes, develop relevant regional and national policies, strategies and action plans.
2. Increase farmers' adaptability to climate change impact and resilience to natural disasters and socioeconomic risks through development and promote innovative aquaculture management concepts and practices.
3. Reduce negative environmental and social impacts of aquaculture intensification through promoting innovative farming technologies and management practices, establishing effective aquaculture bio-security and disease surveillance and control systems, application of appropriate planning and management tools, and responsible use of resources.
4. Support the member governments to improve the access of poor rural aquaculture farmers to quality production inputs, sustainable production technologies and markets for improved productivity and economic efficiency.
5. Improve management of forestry (mangroves), water, land and tenure that will contribute to sustainable intensification of aquaculture.

4. Value chains for food security and nutrition in the Pacific Islands – a regional initiative

The declining export competitiveness of farmers and fishers in the Pacific Islands, coupled with increased dietary dependence on imported food, has led



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public and private sector stakeholders in the Pacific to prioritize improving the capacity of their agricultural sectors to meet their domestic food needs.

As a result, there is an urgent need for public and private sector cooperation in order to facilitate the investment in greater productivity and value chain efficiency required to deliver more local food of high nutritional value to domestic markets, including growing tourist markets.

The Pacific regional initiative which commenced in 2014 aims at developing local value chains for food and nutrition security. It focuses efforts from FAO to strengthen capacities of local food producers and businesses to supply more food to domestic and tourist markets to meet demands for a balanced and nutritious diet and to reduce food and feed imports. This includes supporting the development of policy

and regulatory frameworks which, in turn, rely on improvements in capacity to assemble, integrate, analyse and disseminate information on food, nutrition and natural resources.

In addition, capacity to participate in the development of international standards relevant to the food systems of the Pacific Islands is being enhanced and national systems strengthened to assure compliance with such standards. Complementary efforts are made through field projects to support the creation of sustainable and inclusive value chains.

Areas of work:

1. Building the evidence base;
2. Establishing the regional enabling environment;
3. And, national level actions in three focus countries (Cook Islands, Fiji and Samoa).



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Other important thematic areas of FAO work in Asia-Pacific



Save Food Campaign

Food loss is a major issue for developing countries. Between 15 and 50 percent of fruits and vegetables, and 12 to 37 percent of grains produced for human consumption in Asia and the Pacific are lost between the farm and the market. This is largely due to poor production planning and technical factors, such as the lack of modern post-harvest technologies and transport systems to support proper handling, treatment and temperature management. Poor organization in the supply chains and deficiencies in infrastructure are other causes.

Limited access to credit and the limited science-based knowledge of stakeholders in post-harvest handling and packaging are critical underlying factors that must be addressed to improve the current situation.

Food waste is prevalent in developed countries of the region and in urban centres of most developing countries. FAO's data indicates that consumers in industrialized Asian countries (Republic

of Korea, Singapore and Japan) waste on average 80 kgs per capita per year. For South and Southeast Asia, the average is 11 kgs per capita per year. However, food waste at the consumer level is a growing problem across the region, particularly in urban centres, and 11 kg per capita per year may be conservative.

To address these issues, RAP convened a high level multi-stakeholder consultation on Food Loss and Food Waste in August 2013, during which the Save Food Asia-Pacific Campaign was launched. The regional campaign was endorsed by senior officials from 21 member countries who issued a joint communiqué committing to fight against food loss and food waste in the region.

The regional campaign is being implemented under the umbrella of the Global Save Food Initiative and is in line with the fifth element of the Zero Hunger Challenge, launched by the UN Secretary-General in 2012.

The five major goals of the Save Food Asia-Pacific Campaign are:

- To raise awareness on food losses and food waste in the region and to advocate for action to reduce food losses and waste.
- To identify the underlying causes of post-harvest losses and food waste and their impacts on food security, nutrition, hunger and the environment.
- To develop joint initiatives and efforts at different levels to reduce post-harvest losses and food waste and to promote sustainable food consumption.
- To strengthen regional/sub-regional coordination and cooperation, and promote partnership and multi-stakeholder networking to reduce post-harvest losses and food waste across the region.
- To increase support for the development of national and regional/sub-regional policies and strategies to reduce food losses and food waste.

Campaign partners include governments, research and development bodies, educational institutions, the private sector, civil society organiza-



tions (CSOs), regional bodies (such as Association of Southeast Asian Nations [ASEAN], South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC], Secretariat of the Pacific Community [SPC] and Pacific Islands Forum [PIF]) and UN organizations. Beneficiaries include those working in the food sector and the public at large.

Campaign messages are delivered through the distribution of promotional materials in print, as well through various forms of media, including news briefings, television reports, the regional website www.savefood.net, and social media. Awareness of the campaign is also raised through various regional and international forums.

Public engagement has been through the conduct of exhibitions during major events that draw attention to the issues such as World Food Day celebrations, a promotional marathon in Bangkok, a photo competition and the airing of a public service announcement on national television in Thailand, and on college campuses in the region.



The Campaign places a high level of emphasis on promoting the value of food by highlighting the extensive human effort, energy and natural resources that are required to grow, harvest, process, package and deliver food intended for human consumption to consumers.

Campaign activities are both nationally and regionally focused. National campaigns have been launched, in two countries to date – Mongolia (2014) and Thailand (2015) and are being planned in Bangladesh, Malaysia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste.

The first national Save Food Network was formed in Thailand in September 2014. It is made up of government, private sector, civil society, academic bodies and research institutions. The network is expected to serve as a model for development in other countries of the region. Important activities include awareness-raising of school-aged children.

Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)

For centuries, farmers, fishers and pastoralists across Asia and the Pacific have, by necessity of their own survival, developed and inherited their own farming practices and adapted them in ingenious ways to meet their subsistence needs. They've often done so without much reliance or reference to modern agricultural technologies.

FAO underlined the importance of indigenous farming practices in the region when it hosted a three-day workshop on GIAHS for Asia and the Pacific in May 2015. Participants from more than 20 countries attended the workshop.

Millions of small family farmers and indigenous peoples practice resource-conserving farming today, which is testament to the remarkable resiliency of these agro-ecosystems. They practice their traditional agricultural systems in the face of continuous environmental and economic change,



while contributing substantially to household food security, conservation of biodiversity and traditional cultural heritage.

FAO supports GIAHS in order to help small farmers, indigenous communities and rural peoples living in and around these native systems establish and strengthen them in order to take advantage of changing governance and economic processes that include better access to markets for their products.

There are a total of 32 designated GIAHS sites in 14 countries worldwide, including China, India, Iran, Japan, the Philippines and Republic of Korea. Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam are in the process of actively formulating GIAHS proposals and interest is growing in other countries.

Geographic Indication (GI) of regional foods

FAO's RAP partners with the Department of Intellectual Property of the Ministry of Commerce of Thailand, the French Embassy in Thailand and the French Development Agency (AFD), on an Asia-Pacific project that encourages rural development by promoting the concept of geographical indication (GI), or as it is known in French, "Appellation d'origine contrôlée" (AOC).

Geographical Indication (GI) is a comprehensive guarantee of quality and origin of agricultural and agro-food products and handicrafts that have received the GI designation. Developed in France more than a century ago, GI has also been adopted by the European Union and has been applied in

Southeast Asia for the past 20 years. Today, the ASEAN region is one of the most active areas in the world for GI registration, accounting for more than 100 official national GIs.

Thailand leads the region with 50 GIs registered, having gained protection in early 2013 for its first GI registration in the European Union for Thung Kula Rong-Hai Hom Mali rice. Cambodian Kampot Pepper is also a protected product under GI.

Many GI protected foods are global household names, such as Champagne, Roquefort, Cognac, Darjeeling, Parmigiano Reggiano, Prosciutto di Parma and Gruyere. In France alone, GI products contribute more than 15 billion euros annually to the country's GDP.

GI is an important value-added tool for food and agriculture. The strong and often complex links between the local environment and human know-how, from which the GI results, provide guaranteed quality produce for consumers who are looking for high quality, traceable and traditional products. The GI system also benefits rural development, tourism, biodiversity and the preservation of cultural heritage.

Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD)

The understanding that a pathogen that predominantly causes losses in livestock and other animals can also jump to humans and cause epidemics and pandemics has spurred politicians and decision makers to broaden their scope of interest and invest in the problem of emerging infectious diseases.

FAO has been at the forefront of global efforts to control highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI H5N1). In 2004, FAO established the Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) in response to the global threat from HPAI. In 2005, ECTAD opened its regional office at RAP in Bangkok in the face of growing poultry mortality and human infections caused by HPAI in Asia. Since

then, FAO has developed a large HPAI control programme in Asia with a South Asia Subregional ECTAD Unit based in Kathmandu and country ECTAD units located in eight Asian countries.

The Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) at FAO headquarters is also Head of ECTAD and works closely with the ECTAD Regional Manager in Bangkok and country Team Leaders. The ECTAD group provides an effective model for emergency implementation of high-impact emerging disease control programmes with the capacity to quickly detect, diagnose, report and respond to a disease emergency.

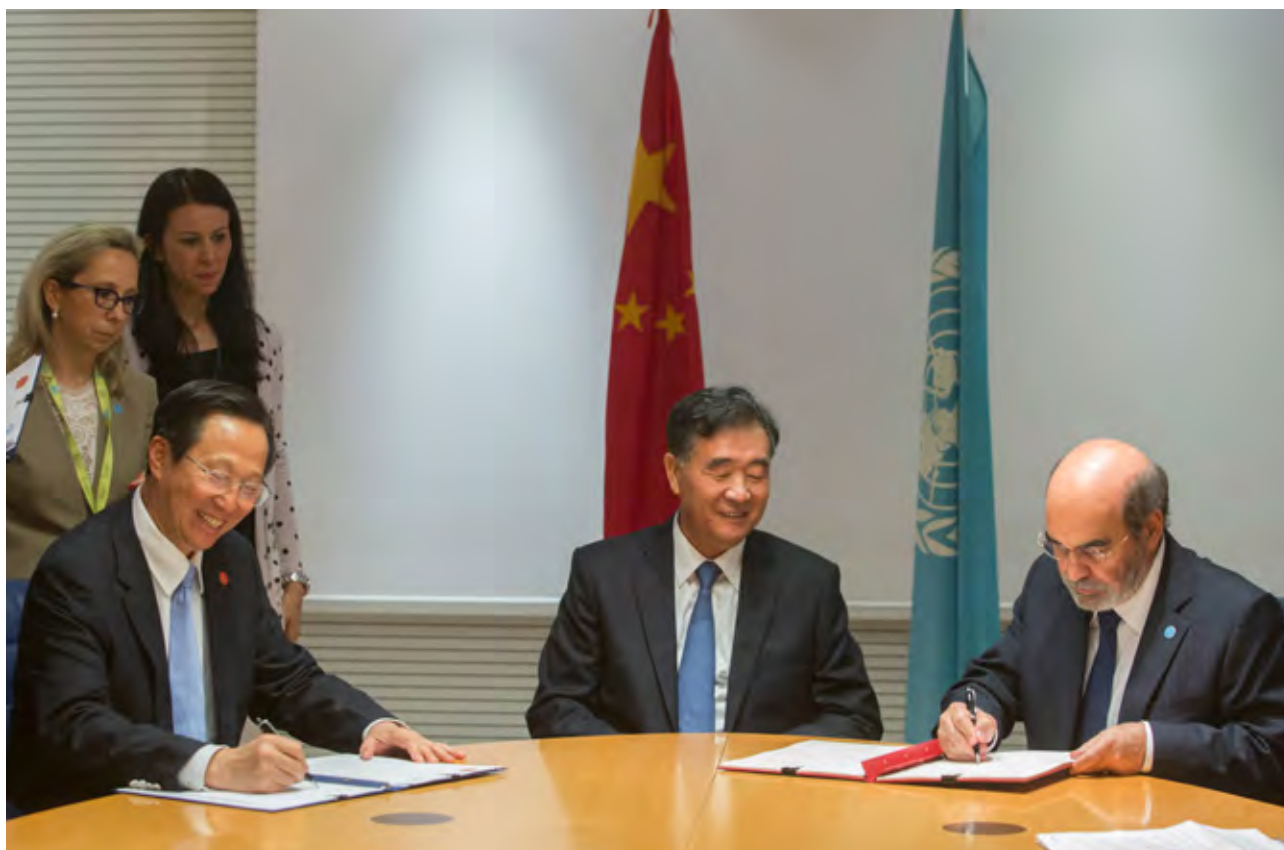
FAO's formal relationship with agriculture ministries in member countries has enabled the rapid development, establishment and implementation of national HPAI programmes as well as transboundary.

FAO has enhanced regional coordination and cooperation and promoted greater transparency in sharing disease information by establishing regional laboratory and epidemiology networks in collaboration with regional organizations. The emergence of the novel H7N9 virus in China in 2013 has showcased ECTAD's emergency response expertise in the mitigation and control of influenza viruses.

With over ten years of hands-on experience at sub-national, national and regional levels, and with engagement of a broad spectrum of donors, partners and sectors, ECTAD is effective in addressing high-impact infectious diseases that affect livestock and human beings. Today, ECTAD is grounded in institutional values of collaboration, transparency in information sharing and a rigorous scientific and evidence-based approach to disease threats.



South-South Cooperation (SSC) in FAO



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The Asia-Pacific region has made great strides in addressing food security issues since the 1970s and some FAO member countries with significantly high levels of per capita income have also become members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Most countries in the global South are keen to learn from the Asian experience as many are addressing similar issues that were menacing realities in Asia not long ago.

Obviously, levels of development in Asia vary significantly among countries and even within countries. There is, therefore, significant potential to share Asia's know-how and experiences with other countries, not only within the Asia-Pacific region, but also in other parts of the global South. This was clearly demonstrated during the FAO Conference in June 2015 when China signed a South-South Cooperation (SSC) agreement backed with resources of some US\$50 million.

FAO has focused attention on the further promise of SSC by hosting a two-

day Regional Consultation in Bangkok (July 2015) that included both potential recipient and supplying countries that were willing to share their knowledge and experiences in the fields of food, agriculture and rural development.

The consultation brought together policy makers and practitioners from member countries, multilateral and bilateral organizations as well as other stakeholders in the region with a view to enhance efforts to facilitate SSC and realize its potential. SSC promises

significant potential in bridging the technological gap in food and agriculture as well as the rural economy in general.

The consultation offered a platform for member countries and other stakeholders to exchange experiences, know-how and identify solutions to fill the knowledge gap and contribute to hunger and poverty eradication. It highlighted practical steps that can further foster collaboration and networking in support of SSC.



FAO's partnership with regional organizations



RAP supports policy dialogue and capacity development of key regional organizations, such as ASEAN, SAARC, and the PIF to build food security by enhancing the contribution of the food and agriculture sectors to regional economic integration and development.

Joint initiatives with ASEAN countries support food and nutrition security as well as sustainable livelihoods for farmers through the ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework. With the roll out the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015, FAO is providing support to help ASEAN formulate vision statements, objectives and goals for the food, agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors well beyond 2015.

Guided by the FAO's Strategy on Partnerships, RAP's collaborative work with partners in Asia and the Pacific focuses on these main areas: policy dialogue, normative work, technical and field programmes, advocacy and communication, joint use and mobi-

lization of resources, and knowledge sharing. RAP's cooperative initiatives include the aforementioned Zero Hunger Challenge in Asia and the Pacific and the Save Food Asia-Pacific Campaign.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

FAO has a rich history of engagement and cooperation with the members of ASEAN, providing policy advice, analysis and technical assistance in agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forestry, natural resources management and food security in its commitment to support resilient livelihoods and enhance food security towards the realization of the AEC.

ASEAN-FAO cooperation on food security, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and sustainable development was formalized when letters between the ASEAN Secretariat and FAO were exchanged

in 1999 and 2000. Since that time, FAO has been actively collaborating with ASEAN in a number of regional projects and activities.

In 2013, ASEAN and FAO signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) agreeing to strengthen cooperation in agriculture and forestry with the goal of reducing hunger in the region and improving food security. In the same year two ASEAN Member States – Brunei Darussalam and Singapore – became members of FAO, making all ten ASEAN Member States also Members of FAO.

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

Partnering with SAARC, FAO supports strengthening the capacity of SAARC institutions and regional policy initiatives on food security by enhancing

FAO's ongoing support to ASEAN includes:

- Regional Cooperation Programme on Highly Pathogenic and Emerging Diseases in South and Southeast Asia;
- Development of The ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework and Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security (2015–2020);
- Strengthening the capacity of ASEAN in coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework and the Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security;
- Development of vision, objectives and goals for ASEAN cooperation in food, agriculture and forestry towards 2015;
- FAO support for ASEAN on food security information systems a AFSIS;
- FAO support for the development of vision, objectives and goals for ASEAN cooperation in food agriculture and forestry towards 2025;
- FAO support in harmonizing countries' bioenergy and food security policy in ASEAN;
- FAO support to ASEAN on food safety;
- FAO support to ASEAN on nutrition;
- Eradicating hunger and reducing food loss and food waste in ASEAN countries (ZHC and Save Food Campaign).

nutrition and boosting agricultural productivity in South Asia.

South Asia is home to more than half of the population facing chronic hunger in Asia. Partnering with SAARC, FAO supports strengthening the capacity of SAARC institutions and regional policy initiatives on food security by enhancing nutrition and boosting agricultural productivity in South Asia.

FAO was requested by SAARC to organize the "SAARC-FAO Consultation Meeting with Development partners" in February 2012 to brief the key priorities in line with its strategy and emerging needs of the region.

In April 2015, through FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme, the regional project "Strengthening the Capacity of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in the

Development, Co-ordination and Monitoring of a Regional Food Security and Nutrition Framework, Strategies and Programmes" was approved.

Though this project, FAO is assisting SAARC secretariat to develop a regional food security and nutrition framework and strategic plan of action in support of capacity building for programme and project development and implementation.

Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)

FAO partnered with PIF in the area of trade facilitation through the annual FAO Round Table Meeting. The meeting aimed to understand the impact of key trade agreements on the Pacific Islands region. These included the World Trade Organisation trading system and the

Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER).

FAO also helped facilitate the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA) and other agreements. The participants were decision/policy makers from the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors of FAO Pacific members, private sector representatives, and resource personnel.

FAO and PIF have collaborated on conducting studies linking agriculture to tourism and the opportunity to reduce foreign exchange "leakage" from the tourism sector in Pacific Island countries through policies to supply the tourism sector by local producers.

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

FAO has successfully partnered with SPC through Letters of Agreement to address a number of issues, including: support of the Pacific Regional Roundtable; improved capacities on enhanced production technologies and animal disease surveillance; information sharing on trans-boundary pests and diseases and pesticides' management, linking to the Rotterdam Convention; management of protected areas; and awareness of the Voluntary guidelines of the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of national food security.

FAO will collaborate with SPC and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) to develop a detailed approach to the organization of the first biennial Pacific Week of Agriculture (PWA) which will be hosted in Vanuatu in 2017.

Ministers of Agriculture will convene at inter-ministerial meetings, in addition to other sessions, such as seminars and workshops, organized by various institutions and agencies to discuss regional issues. The event will also offer an exhibition opportunity for participants to showcase their products.

FAO's partnership with civil society organizations (CSOs)

RAP also has partnerships with civil society, the private sector and foundations. CSOs play a crucial role in food security and poverty reduction, because of their technical expertise, proximity to the rural poor and representation of various social constituencies.

In recent years, CSOs have contributed their capacity and expertise to high quality policy and normative discussions. RAP has established the FAO-CSO coordination network in Asia and the Pacific to promote constructive engagement and partnerships in the region. CSOs through this network are able to participate in dialogue with FAO member countries at FAO's biennial Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC).

Just prior to the opening of each APRC, the CSO network convenes its own meeting to consider the main agenda

items of the APRC. FAO participates in the CSO meeting as a technical resource partner and the APRC Secretariat provides a RAP Official to act as intermediary between the CSO network and the APRC. The CSO network is provided with opportunities to make interventions from the floor during the APRC and these are taken into consideration by the member countries represented at the conference.

FAO's Partnership with Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)

Indigenous peoples are among the most vulnerable groups when it comes to food insecurity, therefore recognition of their rights, particularly to their practices of shifting cultivation, are central to their future food security needs and environmental sustainability.

In 2015, FAO, working with AIPP and the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA), jointly published case studies from seven countries in the region focusing on shifting cultivation practices of indigenous peoples and the challenges they face when their rights to shifting cultivation practices are not protected or properly recognized.

FAO has recognized that in order to reach the goal of Zero Hunger, indigenous people must be supported as a top priority. Therefore, FAO has established a multidisciplinary working group on indigenous food systems.

The Government of Indonesia has offered to host the next regional meeting between FAO, indigenous peoples and governments in the Asia and Pacific region. The proposed topic for the regional meeting is: Challenges faced by the region's nomadic coastal indigenous people.



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Table for Two (TFT)

In 2013, FAO and Table for Two International (TFT), a leading international non-governmental organization, signed a MoU with a common goal of achieving food security and improved nutrition, ultimately for a world without hunger.

TFT's unique "calorie transfer" programme is based on saving food and sharing with hungry people. The TFT programme gained considerable public support in Japan, the United States of America and other countries as over 500 global companies signed on to support it. TFT partners with private restaurants, corporate cafeterias, company canteens and university dining halls to serve healthy low-calorie food options.

The reduced calories in the meals are monetized at a rate of about US\$0.25 a meal and that money is donated to feed hungry people, especially children, in developing countries.

Asian Football Confederation (AFC)

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and the FAO have worked together in the joint Asian Football Against Hunger campaign, where fans were urged to unite and offer their support to poor Asian communities facing hunger and food insecurity.

AFC and FAO raised over US\$400 000 during the AFC Asian Cup 2011 in Qatar which financed 43 Telefood projects offering concrete solutions to people in need, helping them to feed themselves and build a better life.

The partnership between AFC and FAO began in 2010 with a clear set of objectives:

- to promote and advocate for the fight against hunger in the Asian region and at the world level involving its strategic partners and the media;
- to undertake and promote at the

best of its abilities a series of initiatives involving its Members and affiliated football clubs as well as professional football players and renowned football celebrities, by informing and creating maximum awareness to the public on the issues relating to food security as well as combating hunger and poverty;

- to organize with FAO and its goodwill ambassadors solidarity campaigns for advocacy, awareness and fund raising in support of FAO initiatives such as national/regional programmes for food security and Telefood small-scale, hunger-fighting projects in developing countries; and
- to organize and promote with its public and private partners, in collaboration with FAO, conferences, cultural and sports events in support of the work of FAO in the areas of agriculture (*sensu lato*), food, nutrition, climate change, bioenergy and the environment.

FAO's partnership with academic institutes

RAP works with academic institutions in the region to expand the Organization's outreach to both the institutes and their students – the next generation of young agricultural scientists who will be critical to solving future food security challenges.

Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)

RAP and the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) have worked together on the Save Food Asia-Pacific advocacy and public information campaign. Another partnership initiative with AIT worked directly with farmers in a number of Southeast Asian countries boosting rice productivity and improving rural life for farmers. A MoU outlined the following areas of collaboration and activities for implementation 2014.

FAO experts provide lectures at AIT on subjects of mutual interest and FAO invites AIT professors/lecturers to attend FAO global and regional meetings and conferences. The agreement also involves a number of internships between RAP and AIT.

Collaborative projects have included Action Research in partnership between AIT's Asian Centre of Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture Intensification (ACISAI) and FAO on the System of Rice Intensification in four countries in the lower Mekong River basin, under the lead of AIT, and supported by the European Union. Also, Action Research on Fruit Fly Management in context of the Asian Fruit Fly Integrated Pest Management Project of ACISAI, with national IPM Programmes.

Meiji University

One of Japan's top-ranked and most popular private universities has teamed up with RAP to improve the regional



Model UN Conference

knowledge base and promote joint efforts to fight against hunger and under-nutrition.

The MoU was signed by FAO's Hiroyuki Konuma, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific and Ken-ichi Fukumiya, President of Meiji University.

Meiji University was founded in January 1881 as the Meiji Law School and later expanded to cover ten disciplines, including agriculture. With more than half a million graduates since then, the university has contributed vastly to the progress of society and has worked closely with RAP in the field of agriculture. In 2013, four Meiji students were awarded internships in RAP. Meiji students have also participated in a FAO hosted "UN Model Conference" where

they shared ideas and wisdom for ending hunger and malnutrition.

Under the MoU, the FAO and Meiji will further expand their collaboration and will pursue an overall goal of promoting knowledge sharing and partnership, and contribute to human resource capacity building towards sustainable development through a joint effort and collaboration. The co-operation would primary focus on activities in the Asia-Pacific region, but could expand to other regions if a need arises.

University of Tsukuba

Another of Japan's top-ranked academic institutions, University of Tsuku-

ba, signed a MoU with RAP in early 2015.

The MoU was signed on behalf of FAO by Hiroyuki Konuma, Assistant Director-General and FAO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific and Kyosuke Nagata, President of University of Tsukuba. At the ceremony, University of Tsukuba was represented by Dr Caroline Benton, vice president, and Professor Kazuo Watanabe.

In an age where agricultural studies have been on the decline worldwide, this partnership with one of Japan's top ten and well respected universities is expected to promote agriculture education and raise awareness of the importance of food, agriculture and food security.

The University of Tsukuba was originally founded in 1872 and formally established in 1973. Today it has more than 15 000 students and is formally recognized as one of Japan's top "global" institutes of higher learning. It has developed a very strong science programme that has produced three Nobel Prize winning scientists.

The University has a leading agriculture/horticulture science research programme with a special emphasis on sustainable food supply and its knowledge service is being developed and

disseminated through four research centres, closely linked to the college of Agro-biological Resource Science as well as a variety of partners.

Model UN Conference

Meiji University of Japan joined Kasetart University and Srinakarinwirot University in 2014 to hold a "Model UN Conference", supported by RAP.

The Model United Nations Conference provides students with a forum to contemplate issues related to poverty and hunger in the region and offers them a chance to actively participate in discussions in an international environment. Students learned about specific United Nations protocols under which the Conference was conducted.

The students were split into six country teams and acted as ambassadors or representatives of a particular country – Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand – to discuss issues related to food security, specifically through the improvement of research and development and the reduction of food loss and waste.

The role of younger generations who study agriculture or are engaged in

agricultural research will be critically important as they will play a key role in promoting agricultural productivity and securing food for future generations.

Forestry Debate

On the occasion of International Day of Forests, FAO partners with a number of United Nations agencies and educational institutions in the region. RAP and partners have organized annual Forestry Debates. One of the more recent topics debated among university students focused on the pros and cons of whether "keeping people out of the forests" is the best approach to better protect the natural environment of forests, while students from two international secondary schools debated the proposition "that trees should be preserved, not logged".

The International Day of Forests is celebrated annually on 21 March to help raise awareness of the importance of forests to people. More than 1.6 billion people depend on forests for their livelihoods, medicine, fuel and food. More than 17 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions result from deforestation and forest degradation. By reducing or eliminating deforestation and forest degradation, forests offer the quickest, most cost-effective and largest means of decreasing global emissions.



FAO's partnership with research institutes

RAP works with research institutions in the Asia-Pacific region to expand the Organization's outreach to researchers and to mutually benefit from the collaboration of research and sharing of information.

Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APPARI)

RAP works closely and regularly with the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APPARI).

APPARI Vision 2025 states: Agricultural Research for Development (ARD) in the Asia-Pacific region is effectively promoted and facilitated through novel partnerships among National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) and other related organizations so that it contributes to sustainable improvements in the productivity of agricultural systems and to the quality of the natural resource base that underpins agriculture, thereby enhancing food and nutrition security, economic and social well-being of communities and the integrity of the environment and services it provides.

Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers (CGIAR)

RAP collaborates with the Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers (CGIAR), an important global research partner, with a joint aim of achieving a food-secure future. Through the CGIAR Consortium, RAP works with CGIAR's research partners, including: IRRI, a non-profit independent rice research and training organization; the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), a non-profit research and training organization; the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT); and the International Center for

Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA).

Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS)

FAO and JIRCAS are collaborating on matters of mutual interest as outlined in a MoU, which jointly identified activities for implementation. FAO and JIRCAS provide resources to enhance information analysis for decision making and appropriate policy formulation, such as development of food demand-and-supply modelling which can be used commonly in the ASEAN region. FAO has invited JIRCAS experts to contribute to its activities, particularly those relating to climate change, GIAHS and soils.

Under the MoU, FAO and JIRCAS will continue to share their publications and knowledge products. They will jointly continue to raise awareness of the magnitude of food losses and food waste in the Asia-Pacific region and advocate initiatives to counter such losses and waste.

FAO and JIRCAS will also continue to promote Conservation Agriculture (CA) practices in Asia and the Pacific and underutilized food resources such as sago palm. In 2015, JIRCAS was supporting the international symposium on sago palm to be held in Japan.

ASEAN-Republic of Korea Forest Cooperation (AFoCo)

In 2015, RAP formalized its collaboration with the ASEAN-Republic of Korea Forest Cooperation (AFoCo) during the signing of a MoU, at FAO's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. The signing took place between Hiroyuki Konuma, Assistant Director-General and FAO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific and Hadi S. Pasaribu, Executive Director of AFoCo.

The MOU is designed to provide a framework for co-operation between FAO and AFoCo with the overall goal of promoting technical cooperation, policy development, capacity building and partnership in areas related to sustainable forest management (SFM) and in particular the rehabilitation of degraded forest land and prevention of deforestation and degradation.

The continued collaboration and partnership between the Parties will focus on activities in the ASEAN region. The forest areas of ASEAN as a whole have recorded an annual rate of decline of 0.7 per cent over the period 1990 to 2010, and a total loss of 32.97 million ha – around or eight percent of the total land area.

Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet)

RAP and APFNet Secretariat signed a MoU in Beijing, China, where the APFNet Secretariat is based. The MoU aims to provide a framework for continuous collaboration between FAO and APFNet on activities of common interest supporting the areas of SFM and rehabilitation in Asia and the Pacific.

APFNet and RAP have a long and fruitful record of collaboration on joint studies, projects, workshops, meetings and training events. APFNet collaborated with RAP in organizing the strategic forestry planning workshop and forestry college deans' meeting during the 25th session of Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission in Rotorua, New Zealand.

Further cooperation envisaged under the MoU would see mutual contributions to capacity development and better access and exchange of information, knowledge and expertise in the areas of FAO's five Strategic Objectives and the next five-year Strategic Plan of APFNet.

FAO's partnership with the private sector



FAO recognizes that the private sector is a key player in the fight against food insecurity, malnutrition and rural poverty. FAO takes an open and pro-active approach, optimizing the benefits of closer private sector collaboration by engaging with all private sector entities, including small and medium enterprises (SMEs), cooperatives and producer organizations, local companies and multi-national corporations.

FAO has initiated a number of successful Save Food Partnerships in Thailand with Central Retail Corporation and Tesco Lotus focusing on reducing supermarket and consumer food waste.

Successful partnership with the private sector in the region is visible in numerous TeleFood Projects, all of which address food security at the local level. Collaboration with foundations are also being pursued with recent initiatives focusing on agricultural employment for people with disabilities.

Ilshin Architects & Associates Co., Ltd (Ilshin) was first established in

1977 in Busan, Republic of Korea. The company's core business is architecture, planning and landscaping. The company also publishes the country's most influential journal on architecture. As part of its corporate social responsibility programme, Ilshin has donated US\$10 000 to support a Telefood project in Thailand. Technical inputs and support to the project is also supported through FAO's Regular Programme.

The project is currently being implemented by FAO in Mae Hong Son province in collaboration with the Mae La Noi District Agriculture office. Huai Ha village coffee farmers' cooperative is the main beneficiary.

Ilshin is providing a start-up inventory of packaging materials and equipment to support improvements in the quality and packaging of Huay Hom coffee, with an aim to promote the income of poor villagers in Mae Hong Son province. Currently more than half the population of the province suffers from food insecurity.

Ilsung Construction Co., Ltd (Ilsung),

was established in 1978 in Incheon, Republic of Korea. The company builds apartments, roads and highways, and has engaged in numerous Social Overseas Capital projects in Paraguay, Mongolia and Malaysia. Ilsung has committed to support one Telefood project in the Asia-Pacific region valued at US\$10 000.

TeleFood Projects are funded by FAO's annual TeleFood broadcasts, concerts and other events that raise awareness about world hunger and mobilize resources for hunger-fighting projects. TeleFood centres around World Food Day, which commemorates the founding of FAO on 16 October 1945.

Since its inception in 1997, TeleFood has collected more than US\$9 million and financed over 1 000 TeleFood projects in more than 100 countries around the world. TeleFood provides poor farmers tools that they can use to grow crops, raise livestock and fish and process food to sell at better prices. The money is spent on inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, irrigation pumps, silos and fish smoking ovens.

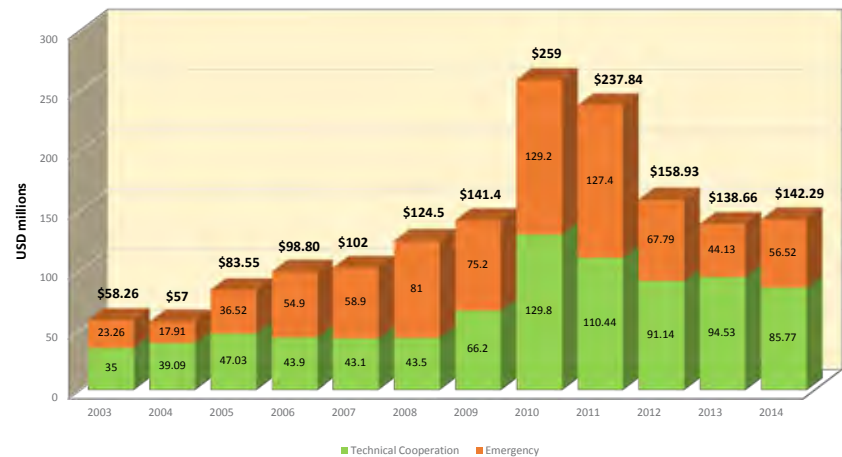
FAO's field programme delivery and collaboration with resource partners

FAO extra-budgetary resources have stabilized in recent years at US\$130 to 160 million annually, used in technical cooperation and emergency field programmes and projects throughout the Asia and Pacific region. The extra-budgetary funding for these initiatives comes from countries and organizations around the world and account for 80 percent of RAP's extra-budgetary resources. There are presently some 350 field projects underway.

In 2010, RAP's highest delivery year to date, US\$259 million was delivered followed by US\$238 million in 2011. This was largely reflected in the number of European Union funded food facility projects following the food price crisis. In general, delivery rates are three times higher than 2003.

Major donors to FAO's Asia-Pacific technical cooperation and emergency field programme and projects in recent years have included the United States

Total delivery of RAP Field Programme by type of assistance (Development and Emergency) 2014



of America, Japan, European Union, the United Kingdom and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Netherlands, Australia, Global Environmental Fund (GEF) and Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian

Affairs (UNOCHA) contributed to multi-donor trust funds. FAO's middle-income member countries also contribute their own resources, entrusting FAO to provide technical assistance through a unilateral trust fund mechanism, and they also make substantial contributions to RAP's work in the region.



RAP's cooperative relationship with host country Thailand

As host country of FAO's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, FAO has enjoyed a close working partnership with the Royal Thai Government since 1948. RAP's Thai Affairs Section collaborates with the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives and the Office of the National FAO Committee.

Today, Thailand is considered an upper middle-income country, participating as a donor in regional projects through its own SSC programme. Thailand has development initiatives being implemented in several developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. Thailand has also provided a number of Pacific Island countries with Annual International Training Courses which have been conducted in agriculture, public health, the environment, technology and trade, and provided a number of scholarships.

The deep interest and personal involvement of Thailand's Royal Family in agricultural and rural development in the countryside have been crucial elements of the evolving partnerships between Thailand and FAO.

Her Royal Highness, Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, has graced the annual World Food Day ceremonies at FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific as guest of honour for more than three decades.

The FAO-Thailand relationship has seen many FAO projects carried out in the country between 1950 and 2013. These projects helped Thailand revolutionize aquaculture and shrimp farming and improve rice productivity and quality, as well as establish dairy farming and a solid food safety and quality regime. It has also helped with livestock production, climate change, forest reservation, the environment, sustainable use of soils and zoning policies.



Though Thailand's economy suffered from the impact of the global financial crisis in the late 2000s, poverty and hunger have declined drastically in Thailand over the last three decades.

The country achieved both the MDG on hunger reduction (Target 1.C) and World Food Summit goal, thus reducing both the proportion and the absolute number of hungry people from 15 million in 1990 to a projected 7.5 million in 2015 thanks to targeted poverty reduction programmes that met basic human needs, including improved nutrition.

Special projects initiated by the government, such as the debt restructuring schemes, the Village Fund, the Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) fund, and the 30 Thai Baht universal healthcare scheme all helped to drive down the proportion of poor and hungry people in Thailand.

Thailand's agricultural sector went from self-sufficiency to commercial success, making the nation one of the world's premier food exporters. Thailand is a leading exporter of rice, rubber, chicken, shrimp, sugar, fruits and tapioca products.

Today, Thailand plays an important role as a regional food centre, designating itself as "kitchen of the world". It not only feeds its own population, it contributes to the food security of people in the rest of Asia and beyond.

The future of the FAO-Thai relationship is expected to strengthen as Thailand's role in development becomes broader and more regional under ASEAN. In the future, FAO assistance will respond to the priority needs of the country through projects that are more regional in nature.



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Honours for their Majesties the King and Queen of Thailand

Throughout the close relationship between FAO and Thailand, the United Nations food agency has recognized the continuous agricultural and rural development initiatives of the Royal Family, by awarding two medals to His Majesty the King and one medal to Her Majesty the Queen.

The Ceres Medal, presented to Her Majesty the Queen in 1979



Citation read to Her Majesty the Queen by Edouard Saouma, FAO Director-General, prior to presenting a Gold Ceres medal bearing her portrait on 11 May 1979 at the Chakri Throne Hall.

The Agricola Medal, presented to His Majesty the King in 1995



FAO presented His Majesty the King of Thailand with the Agricola medal on 6 December 1995.

The TeleFood Medal, presented to His Majesty the King in 1999



The first TeleFood Medal was minted for His Majesty the King of Thailand and presented on 26 November 1999, by FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf at the Chakri Throne Hall during the royal audience granted to the diplomatic corps and FAO.

Structuring RAP to meet the needs of a dynamic region

As RAP responded to priorities identified by the Regional Priority Framework, a flatter management structure was adopted and multidisciplinary technical teams were established to better serve the needs of the region.

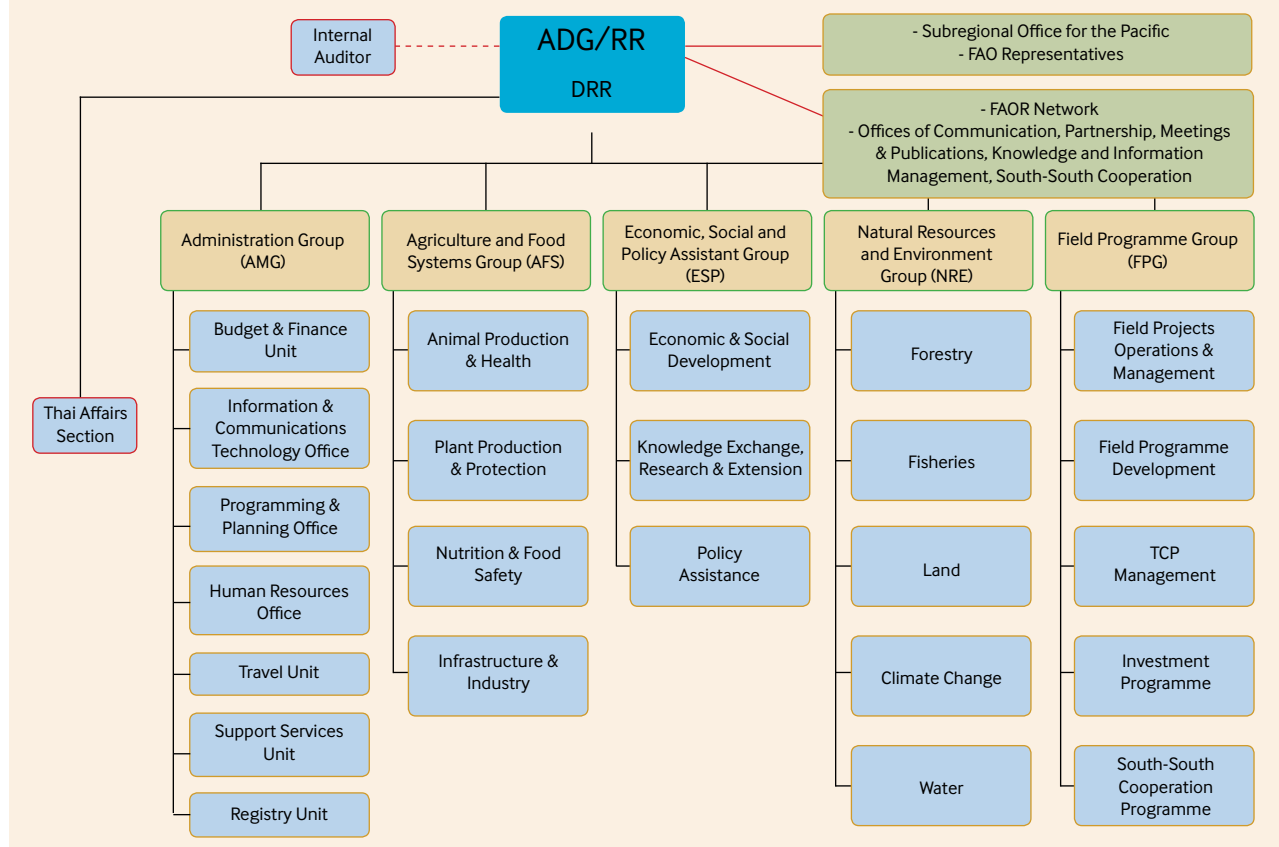
With RAP programmes and activities in the region increasing, beginning

in 1994 a number of functions were gradually transferred from FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy to RAP, effectively decentralizing FAO operations.

In the first phase, the regional and subregional offices took over policy assistance work, field programme development and most technical support services for on-going pro-

jects. In a second phase, operational responsibility for national projects passed from the regional offices to FAO country offices. The third phase, in 2010, decentralized the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme by transferring coordination and management responsibilities of the FAO country offices from Rome to the RAP regional office.

Organizational structure of FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP)



RAP's frontline working groups

As decentralization gathered pace, more FAO staff members were transferred from FAO Headquarters to the Regional Office. RAP organized the Professional Officers into technical groups, corresponding to the technical departments at

Headquarters, and a Policy Assistance Branch.

This ensured both the quality of regional activities and their full integration within the Organization's corporate programme of work. The decentralization of most of

the Field Operations Division to the Regional Offices created effective synergies and ensured that technical officers, policy assistance officers and operations officers are in a position to work on field projects as a team, during both the preparation and the implementation stages.

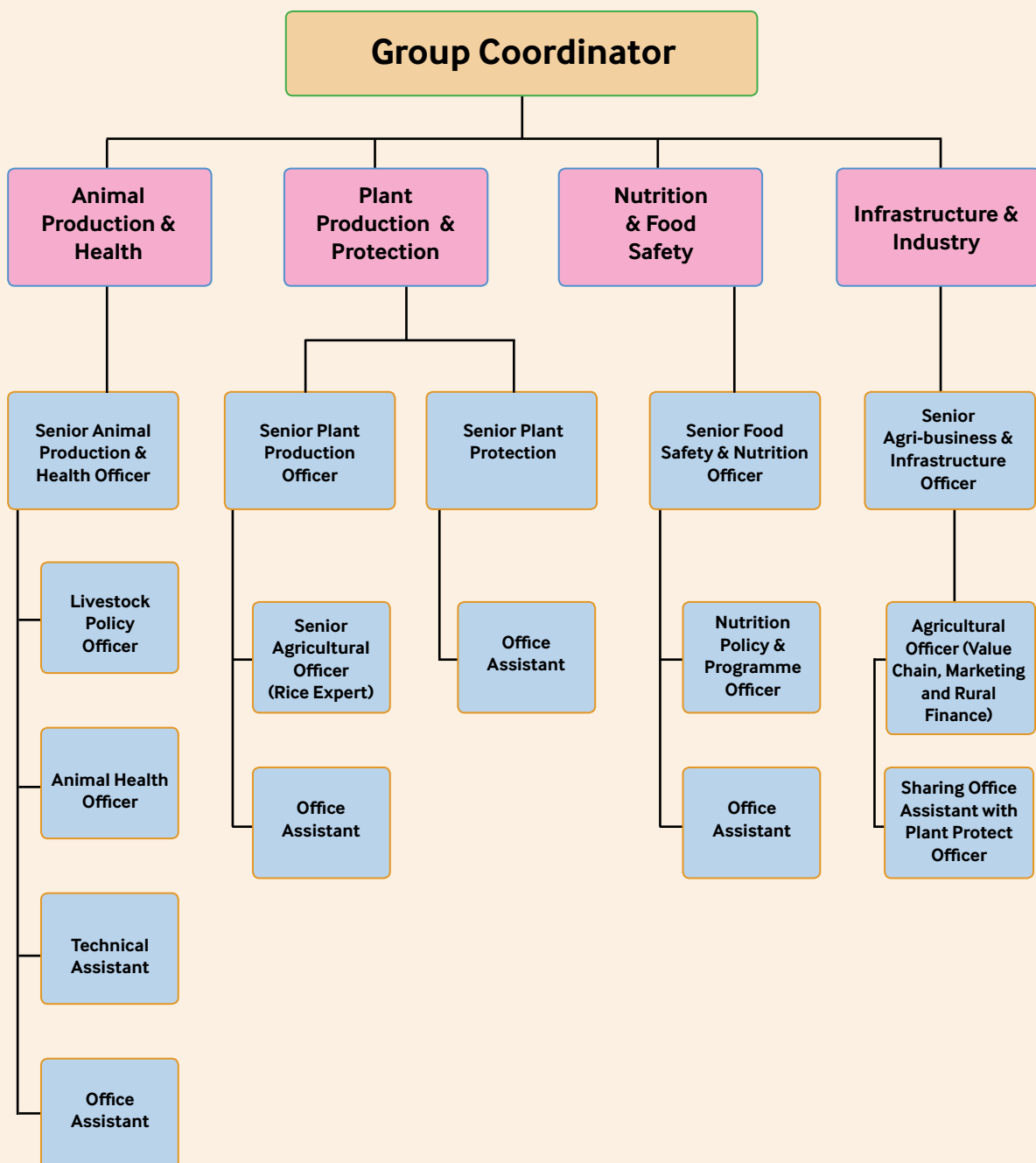
Agriculture and Food Systems Group (AFS)

When the food that arrives on dinner tables across the Asia-Pacific region is healthy, nutritious and safe, it is the result of a complex set of systems that stretch from fields and factories to markets. FAO's Agriculture and Food Systems (AFS)

Group plays a supportive role in ensuring that food in the region is produced in ways that serve the best interests of farmers, consumers and societies as a whole. The AFS achieves this by providing technical expertise to a range of interested parties in four core areas:

- Animal production and health
- Plant production and protection
- Rural infrastructure and agro-industries
- Nutrition, safety and consumer protection

Agriculture and Food Systems Group (AFS)



Economic, Social and Policy Assistance Group (ESP)

Because policies are most effective and successful when based on sound analysis and evidence, FAO's Economic, Social and Policy Assistance (ESP) Group at RAP assists countries with technical advice that helps them formulate national strategies, policies and programmes for agriculture, food and rural development, and provides technical assistance for

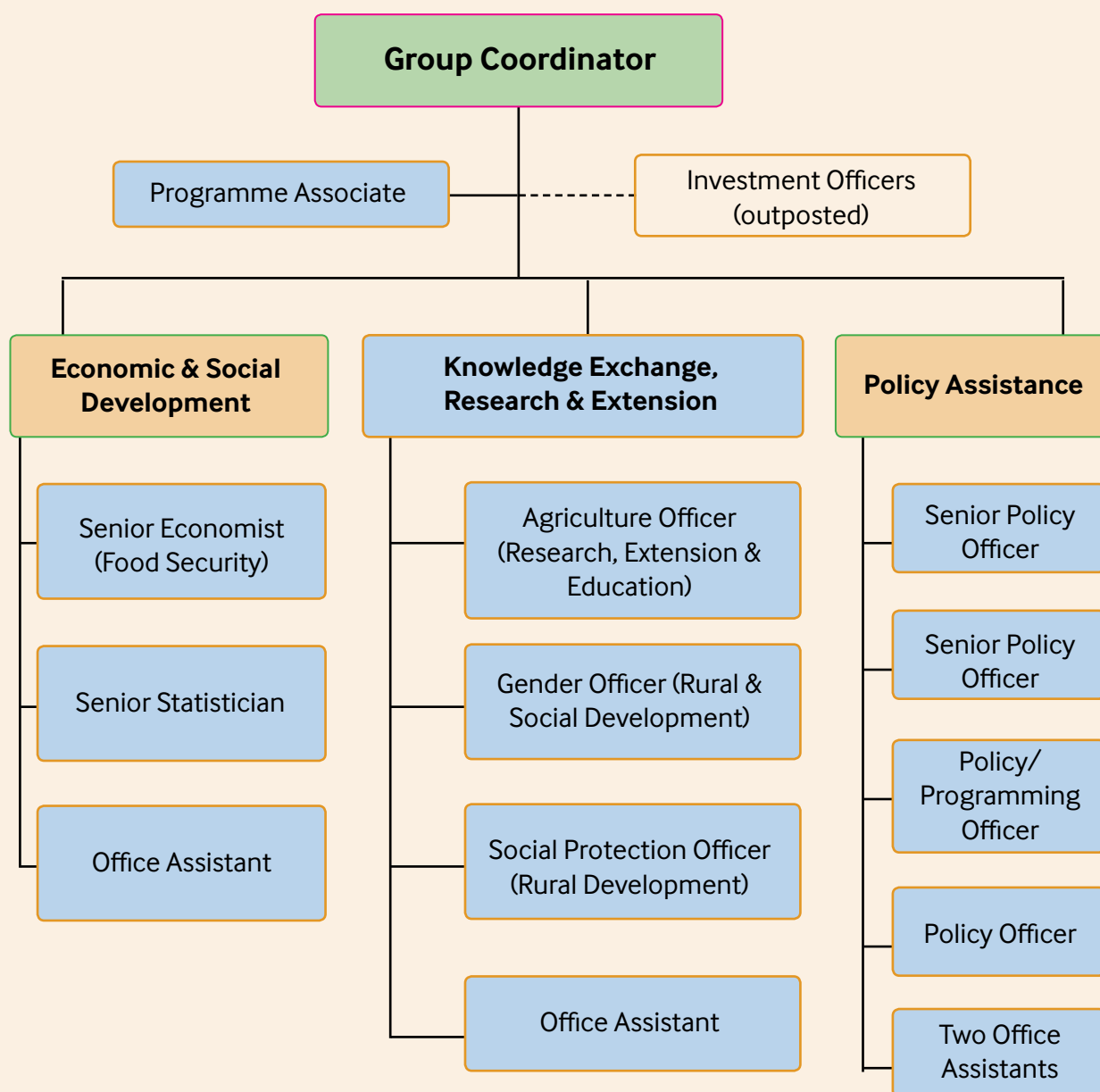
the design and establishment of effective data collection systems.

The Group helps countries undertake necessary analysis for designing these policies along with support for collecting and analysing statistics necessary for this purpose; for example, food balance sheets and agricultural censuses. The work of ESP Group covers seven

major themes:

- Food security analyses and policy
- Food security governance and the right to food
- Food security in emergencies
- Economics of sustainable agriculture
- Smallholders and rural poverty
- Markets, prices and trade
- Long-term perspectives

Economic, Social and Policy Assistance Group (ESP)



Natural Resources and Environment Group (NRE)

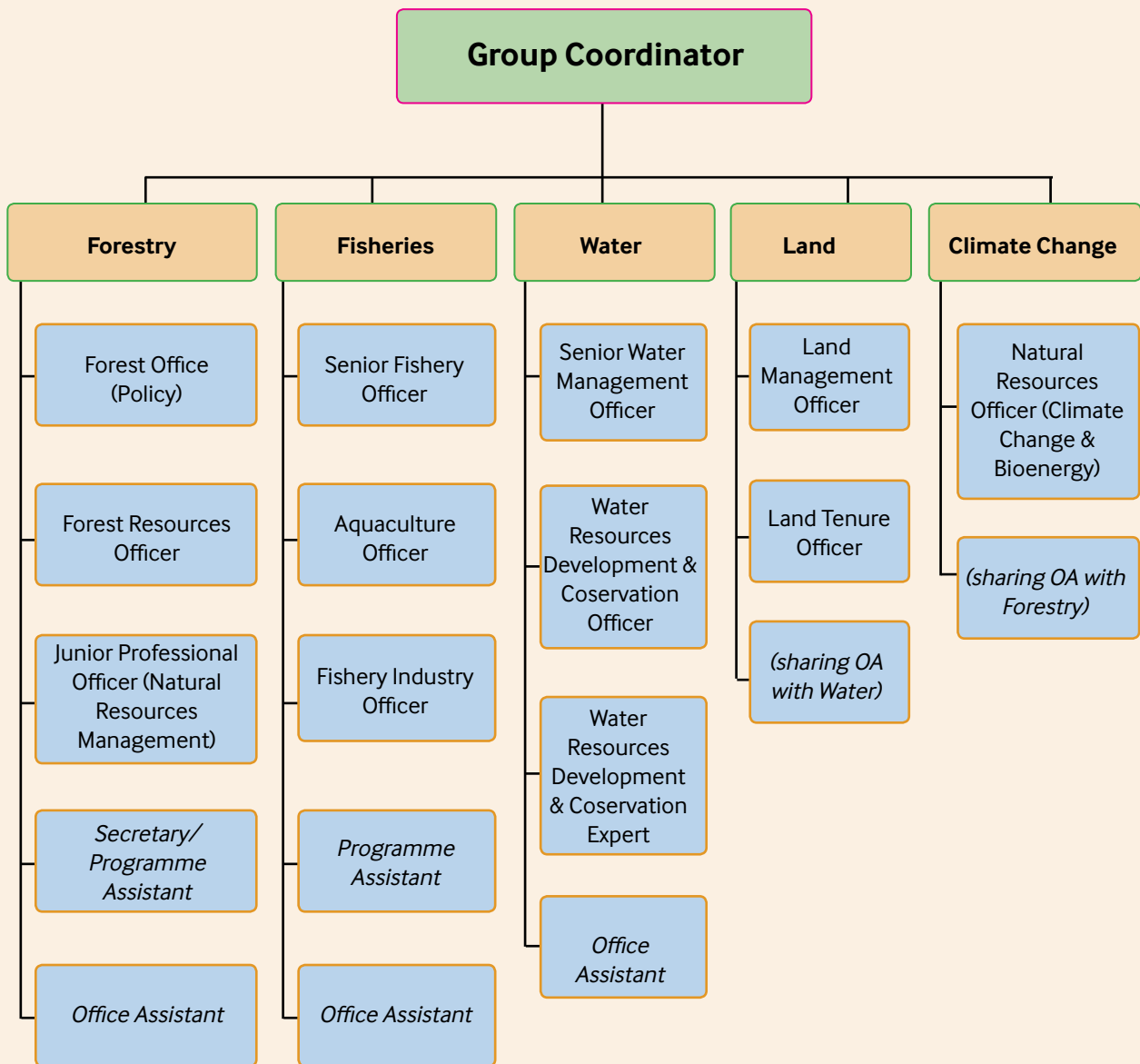
Continuing population growth in Asia and the Pacific and robust economic development are having a major impact on the region's environment and natural resources. Rising food needs, increasing demand for commodities, rural transformation and rapidly expanding infrastructure have led to soil degradation, destruction of forests,

polluted water resources and depleted fish stocks. The effects of climate change are becoming more readily apparent and debilitating. Natural resources, particularly water, and food sectors are increasingly coupled with the energy sector. The Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) Group at FAO's RAP works to reverse these trends. The Group provides pol-

icy advice and technical assistance to a wide range of partners in member countries to promote equitable, productive and sustainable use, development and management of natural resources.

The NRE Group focuses its work on five interrelated areas: 1. Land; 2. Water; 3. Fisheries; 4. Forestry; 5. Climate.

Natural Resources and Environment Group (NRE)



The RAP Field Programme Group (FPG)

The value of FAO's Field Programme (FPG) in the Asia-Pacific region has grown significantly over the past ten years, increasing from US\$58 million in 2003 to between US\$130 and 160 million in 2013. FPG funding reached US\$259 million in 2010 when RAP successfully implemented the European Union Food Facility

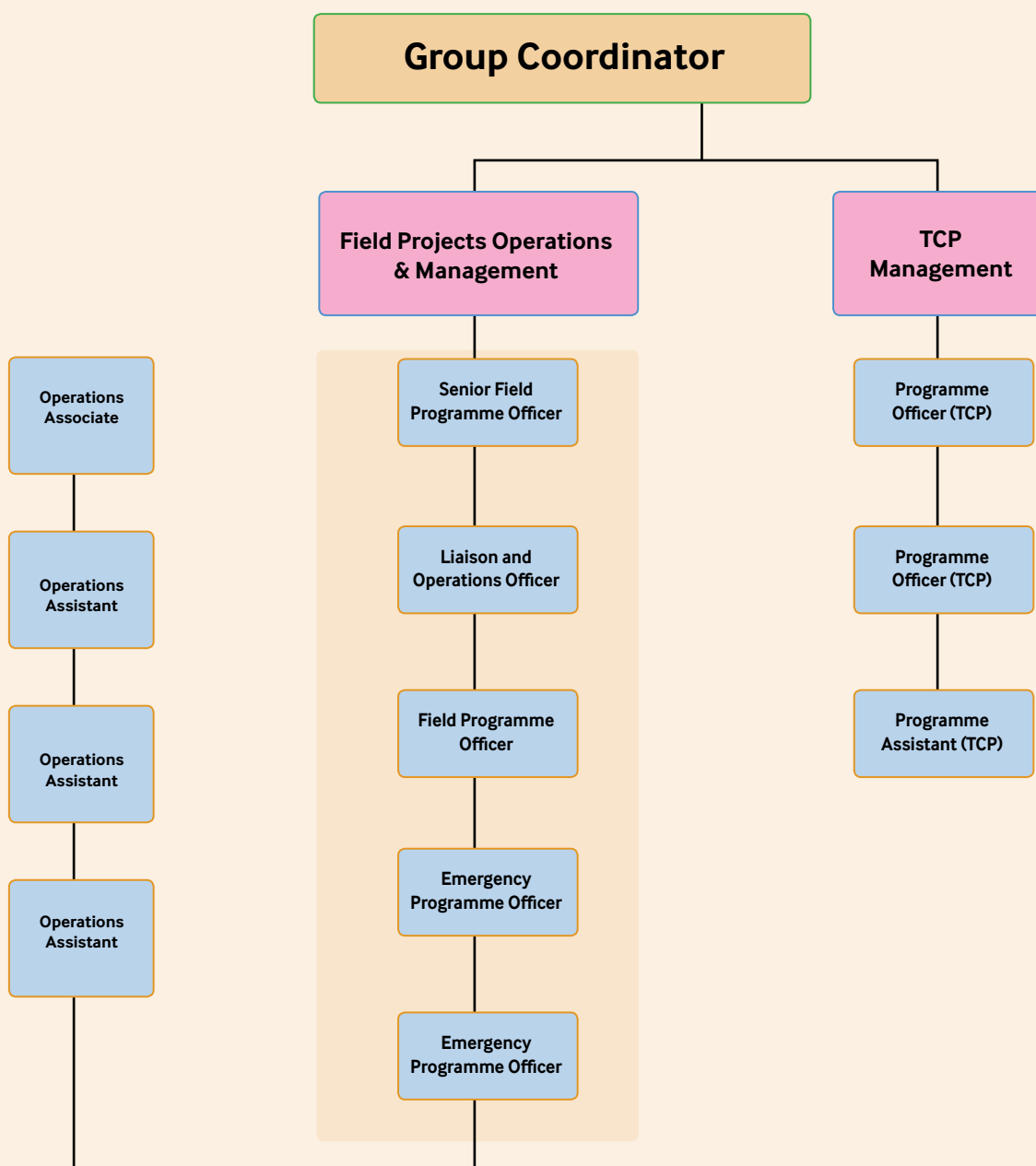
programme in response to soaring food prices in developing countries.

The identification, formulation and implementation of projects and programmes that make up the field programme in the Asia-Pacific region are carried out by FAO Representatives and the FPG, which oversees, advises

and supports FAO Country Offices and the Regional Office on all operational matters.

FPG is comprised of ten officers and an international consultant working under the overall supervision and coordination of the Senior Field Programme Officer. The Group is composed of four units.

RAP Field Programme Group (FPG)



RAP's Regional Commissions

RAP's five Regional Commissions provide a unique opportunity to set priorities for sectoral work and to guide decisions on new programme initiatives – both for collaborative country actions and for FAO RAP's work in the region. The specific regional focus of the Commissions offers legitimacy and ownership to regional policy studies, outlook studies and the development of codes of practice. Solid relationships with key sectoral policy makers in the region ensure that the Regional Commissions are an integral part of FAO's global knowledge network.

RAP serves as the secretariat for all five Asia-Pacific Regional Commissions, dealing with animal production and health, agricultural statistics, fisheries, forestry and plant protection.

Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC)

The APFIC was founded in 1948 to promote the full and proper use of living aquatic resources in the region from the Indian Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. The Commission assists member countries to achieve their objectives by helping with the development and management of fishing and culture operations, processing and marketing. APFIC works to improve understanding, awareness and cooperation concerning fisheries issues in the Asia-Pacific region. A total of 21 countries are now members of the Commission.



APFIC Mission

APFIC is committed to acting as a regional consultative forum, providing member countries, regional organizations and fisheries professionals in the region with the opportunity to review and discuss the challenges facing the region's fisheries sector and helping them decide on the most appropriate actions to take.

Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC)

Created in 1949, APFC is one of six FAO Regional Forestry Commissions. APFC is a forum for advising and taking action on key forestry issues in a region of diversity and rapid change. The Commission meets every two years to review progress, discuss problems and set new

agendas. Balancing technical and policy issues, the objectives of APFC are to provide advice on forest policy formulation; review and coordinate implementation of forest policy at the regional level; exchange information on suitable practices and solutions for technical problems; and develop and support appropriate recommendations for member governments and FAO.

APFC Mission

APFC is dedicated to discussing and analysing forestry issues and key problems of regional significance to promote environmentally sound, socially acceptable and economically efficient forest management practices. It strives to encourage implementation of appropriate policies in line with changing trends in forestry. Participation and decision making by member countries is a cornerstone on which policies and operations of the APFC are based.

Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC)

The Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) convened for the first time in 1956. The Commission administers the Regional Plant Protection Agreement for Asia and the Pacific. It reviews the plant protection situation at the national level in member countries, and also at the regional level. Coordinating and promoting development of regional plant protection, assisting



member countries to develop effective plant protection regimes, phytosanitary measures, and facilitating information sharing are among its key objectives. A total of 25 countries are members and the APPPC meets at least once every two years.

APPPC Mission

APPPC is committed to protecting plant, human and animal health and the environment, facilitating trade, and protecting the sustainability of agriculture. The Commission provides a regional forum for cooperation and the full implementation of the Plant Protection Agreement for the Asia and Pacific region. It assists in the development of measures for plant protection, including regional standards for phytosanitary measures, promotion of IPM and the Code of Conduct for Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific (APHCA)

The establishment of APHCA within the framework of the FAO was initiated by Asian nations at the 5th FAO Regional Conference on Animal Production in 1974. The Commission became operational in December 1975 and today has 18 member countries. It supports sustainable improvement in rural livestock agriculture and resource use through information sharing, disease control, enhanced organizational efficiency, and diversification of farm production, value-chain development, and other



initiatives. APHCA works on the principles of collective self-reliance and mutual assistance between the developing countries.

APHCA Mission

APHCA's mission is to enhance the level of nutrition and standard of living of livestock keepers, especially small-holders, livestock value-chain actors, and communities at large through equitable, sustainable and safe livestock sector development. This is achieved by promoting information generation

and exchange, providing normative guidance and coordinating joint action among member countries and other stakeholders.

Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (APCAS)

Founded in 1966, the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (APCAS) is a statutory body of FAO bringing together senior statistics officials from member countries in the Asia and Pacific region that are responsible for the development of agricultural statistics in their respective countries. They meet biennially to review recent developments in their agricultural statistical systems and exchange ideas with experts from FAO and other organizations on the state of food and agricultural statistics in the region.

APCAS Mission

The Commission provides a unique forum for understanding the needs and priorities of the member countries for developing a sound statistical system capable of providing data for planning and policy making in the food and agriculture sector, with the aim of raising living standards and nutritional status of people, especially the rural poor.



The FAO Representation Network for Asia and the Pacific

As part of FAO's continuing efforts to decentralize, in 2010 many functions of direct relevance to the support of country offices, known as FAO Representations, were transferred to RAP from headquarters. These included planning and allocation of financial resources, monitoring and evaluation of budget performance, and management of posts in country offices. In addition, RAP assists in the selection, appointment, evaluation and extension of country office staff, briefs new FAO Representatives on the regional context upon their entry on duty, prepares regional management reports, and ensures that in-service training is planned and delivered.

Other functions decentralized to RAP include provision of policy assistance, field programme development and most technical support services for on-going projects. As part of the decentralization the Regional Office also took on full responsibility for organizing regional conferences of FAO's governing bodies and meetings of other regional bodies, such as the FAO Commissions.

Today the network of FAO Representations in Asia and the Pacific is well-established. It has proven to be more effective to undertake activities within the region than from headquarters because officers based at

RAP are aware of the regional context and able to respond to requests more quickly and cost-effectively. The FAO Representation Network:

- brings the Organization's technical and operational expertise closer to the countries where FAO operates;
- reduces the cost and increases the timeliness of delivering that expertise; and
- makes the best use of national capacities, which have increased substantially over the last few decades.

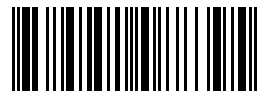
The FAO Representation Network results in improved service to FAO member countries.



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