

Report of the

SIXTEENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Jakarta, 1-11 June 1982



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

FAO Member Nations in the Asia Region

Bangladesh	Indonesia	Papua New Guinea
Bhutan	Japan	Philippines
Burma	Lao	Republic of Korea
China	Malaysia	Samoa
Democratic Kampuchea	Maldives	Sri Lanka
Democratic People's	Mongolia	Thailand
Republic of Korea	Nepal	Tonga
Fiji	Pakistan	United Kingdom
India		Viet Nam

FAO Member Nations in the Southwest Pacific Region

Australia	New Zealand	Tonga
Fiji	Papua New Guinea	United Kingdom
France	Samoa	United States of America

Date and place of FAO Regional Conferences for Asia and the Pacific

First	–	Bangalore, India, 27 July – 5 August 1953
Second	–	Kandy, Ceylon, 20-25 June 1955
Third	–	Bandung, Indonesia, 8-18 October 1956
Fourth	–	Tokyo, Japan, 6-16 October 1958
Fifth	–	Saigon, Republic of Viet Nam, 21-30 November 1960
Sixth	–	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 15-29 September 1962
Seventh	–	Manila, Philippines, 7-21 November 1964
Eighth	–	Seoul, Republic of Korea, 15-24 September 1966
Ninth	–	Bangkok, Thailand, 4-15 November 1968
Tenth	–	Canberra, Australia, 27 August – 8 September 1970
Eleventh	–	New Delhi, India, 17-27 October 1972
Twelfth	–	Tokyo, Japan, 17-27 September 1974
Thirteenth	–	Manila, Philippines, 5-13 August 1976
Fourteenth	–	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 25 July – 3 August 1978
Fifteenth	–	New Delhi, India, 5-13 March 1980
Sixteenth	–	Jakarta, Indonesia, 1-11 June 1982

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JAKARTA CONSENSUS ON EQUITY, GROWTH AND STABILITY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Facing as we do, a resource-short world of growing hunger and malnutrition, the Member Nations of FAO, meeting here in Jakarta, from 7 to 11 June 1982, for the Sixteenth FAO Regional Conference, adopt this Consensus on Equity, Growth and Stability in Development.

We note with grave concern the growing number of people forced to live under unacceptable conditions of "absolute poverty" and thereby denied their full human potential and alienated from the mainstream of development.

We are alarmed by the accelerating tempo of environmental degradation that threatens our life support systems and their capacity for sustained production to provide adequate food for us and our children.

We are further alarmed by the rising cost of fossil fuel and the steady depletion of sources of energy crucial for achieving increased agricultural production.

We recognize that, in spite of continuing efforts by national governments and international organizations and the protection offered by national and regional food security arrangements, like the Emergency Rice Reserve of ASEAN, our Region remains vulnerable to crop failures.

We observe that adverse international economic trends have affected agricultural development and food self-sufficiency efforts within the Region.

We are concerned by a growing tendency towards protectionism and erosion in the prices of primary agricultural commodities, causing serious balance of payment problems and a decline in the already meager income of this Region's farmers;

We emphasize that in a world racked by recession and inflation, it is the low-income countries and the rural poor within them who are most adversely affected when food prices spiral.

We affirm that it is only through collective self-reliance at the national, sub-regional and regional levels that enduring solutions can be found to solve the problems of food and agriculture in the developing countries of the Region.

We recall that these concerns have been addressed by the world community in three universal documents, namely: the Declaration of Principles and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, where our Governments committed to broaden the access of the small farmers to land, water and other production assets; the World Soil Charter where our Governments recognized that land is an irreplaceable resource and the imperative of protecting the thin mantle of fertile top soil, the World Conservation Strategy, where our Governments pledged to maintain the essential ecological processes for sustainable production.

In keeping with these Charters, the Member Nations of FAO for Asia and the Pacific, meeting here in Jakarta, agree that growth oriented policies and programmes towards raising the productivity of the rural poor is crucial. In this connection, special attention should be given to accelerated growth in food production for landless labourers, subsistence farm cultivators, artisanal fishermen and the urban poor.

We also agree that the attainment of production targets is not enough. They should be unequivocally geared to the objective of social equity and justice. More equitable participation of the rural poor in the benefits of growth provide the only solid foundation for national, regional as well as global stability.

We further believe that together with equity and growth, the attainment of stability must be a central concern in formulating food and agriculture policies and strategies. Sustained improvement in the welfare of the poor and their quality of life is possible only by establishing stable systems of production and ensuring adequate supplies of food.

We call upon Governments to base their national, regional and global strategies and programmes for food and agricultural development, leading to food security, on these three tenets of growth, equity and stability.

We request the Director-General of FAO to keep under review action taken to implement the above strategy and to assess periodically the developments in the Region in growth, equity and stability.

RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Resolutions

Resolution 82/1

FOOD SECURITY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE,

Considering that despite the efforts made in the past by the national governments and the international agencies in increasing food production, many countries in the Asia and Pacific Region are still experiencing frequent food shortages and that the problem of hunger and malnutrition continues to persist;

Noting that the food security issues of developing countries are integrally linked to the problem of poverty, which needs to be tackled by broad-based economic and social development programmes as highlighted in the WCARRD Programme of Action;

Recalling the relevant recommendations of the World Food Conference, Resolution 3/79 on World Food Security of the Twentieth FAO Conference, Resolution 80/1 on World Food Security of the 15th FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, the Plan of Action on World Food Security and the recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security;

Reaffirming the urgent need for all governments in the Region to implement effectively the FAO Plan of Action on World Food Security within the Region, and to take further innovation measures for strengthening food security in the Region, taking into account the interests of both food deficit and food exporting developing countries;

Expressing concern over the lack of a specialized forum at the Regional level to coordinate and promote the regional and sub-regional food security efforts and to encourage coordinated action in the implementation of global food security arrangements and recommendations in the light of needs and circumstances and sub-regional levels;

Invites the Director-General to take necessary steps to establish a Commission on Food Security for Asia and the Pacific within the existing legal and administrative framework of the Organization for the purpose of enhancing action programmes on food security in the Region with the following functions:

- a. To keep under review the food security situation in the Region, including current and prospective demand, supply and stock position for foodstuffs;
- b. To assist member countries in the formulation and implementation of action programmes aimed at strengthening food security within the Region, bearing in mind the need for directing efforts towards the vulnerable groups of the population, the small and marginal farmers and the areas with unfavourable soil and climatic conditions;
- c. To promote collective self-reliance in food supplies among member countries at regional or sub-regional levels, while paying due regard to the interest of both food exporting/importing developing countries, through:
 - (i) arrangements for mutual assistance to meet short-term food security difficulties, particularly in times of crop shortfalls;

- (ii) identification of the requirements for and making recommendations with respect to the establishment of food security reserves and infrastructure, including storage, marketing, processing and transportation;
 - (iii) identification of long-term food security problems including constraints on production and possible ways of overcoming them.
- d. To make a continuing assessment of the food security assistance requirements of developing countries in the Region and to recommend ways of mobilizing the necessary resources within the framework of the FAO Special Action Programme including FSAS and PFL, as well as other relevant multilateral and bilateral programmes;
 - e. To encourage the exchange of technical experiences, technologies, and expertise in the formulation and implementation of food security programmes among member countries particularly through TCDC within the framework of efficient food production management and distribution systems;
 - f. To further improve the state of preparedness against acute food shortages as recommended by the Committee on World Food Security, and to encourage the development of food information and early warning systems at national, sub-regional and regional levels;
 - g. To assist member countries in implementing the recommendations on food security by FAO and other relevant international bodies.

Requests the Commission to seek full cooperation with ESCAP and other relevant international organizations and agencies, including UNCTAD, UNDP, WFC, WFP, the World Bank, IFAD, APDC and the ADB so as to assure their active participation in the work of the Commission since such cooperation is necessary to harmonize activities carried out by various agencies in the Region and to avoid duplication of efforts.

Requests the Director-General to report to the next FAO Regional Conference on the progress made in implementing this Resolution.

Resolution 82/2

NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY IN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE,

Recalling the priority given to rural energy in the Nairobi Programme of Action, adopted by the United Nations Conference on new and renewable sources of energy (1981);

Recognizing the crucial importance of energy inputs to achieve desirable rates of growth in agricultural production and to raise the standard of living of people in rural areas;

Noting the rising cost of fossil fuels and of related agricultural inputs;

Recognizing the need to make the most effective use of new and renewable sources of energy which are locally available such as recycled organic materials, biological nitrogen fixation, biogas, wood energy, small scale hydro-power, draught animals and the application of solar and wind energy;

Recognizing that close to 31 million people in the Region are afflicted daily by acute scarcities of fuelwood and that by the year 2000, this number is likely to increase to 53 million;

Aware of the pre-eminent need in the Region for increased production and efficient use of fuelwood and other forms of wood-energy;

Emphasizing the need to formulate national energy policies which ensure that essential inputs of energy are allocated to the agricultural sector;

Recommends that FAO:

- Prepare a plan of action for the development of new and renewable sources of rural energy, specifically geared to the needs of the Asia and Pacific Region, with special attention to integrated systems of energy supply;
- seek financial support for regional programmes to assist member countries in developing new and renewable sources of rural energy, particularly to increase production and promote efficient use of bio-gas, draught animals, fuelwood and other forms of wood-energy and to strengthen social forestry activities;
- collect and disseminate information on experience gained by developing countries in the use of new and renewable sources of rural energy, and in the optimization of commercial energy utilization in agriculture;
- assist member countries in identifying needs and problems related to rural energy and in implementing action programmes at the national, sub-regional and regional levels.

Resolution 82/3

PROMOTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF INTEGRATED FARMING SYSTEMS IN ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE,

Recognizing that farming is a way of life for millions of farmers in Asia and the Pacific;

Noting that the proportion of small marginal and landless farmers has been steadily increasing in the Asia and Pacific Region;

Realizing that these small farmers have limited access to land, water, and production inputs and inhabit largely marginal areas, including the vast rainfed, tidal and semi-arid lands;

Noting that poverty restricts their capacity to invest in production inputs with consequent low yields that exacerbate their poverty;

Aware of the importance of water conservation and harvesting for relieving the moisture stress resulting from unreliable monsoons;

Recognizing further the need for promotion of appropriate and intensive watershed management practices;

Believing that crop/livestock/fish/forestry integration would result in better and fuller utilization of the limited resources available to the small farm households;

Recommends that:

- Integrated (crop/livestock/fish/forestry) farming systems for better and fuller utilization of the limited resources available to the small farm households should be promoted;
- More financial and technical support from national and international sources should be directed to intensify research in raising the productivity of the small farmers through adoption of integrated farming practices;
- The International Research Institutes should increase their outreach activities in the Region to better serve the research and development needs of agriculture on rainfed, semi-arid and tidal lands;
- Assistance should be provided to member countries in integrated land management programmes with a view to increasing the productivity of small farmers;
- Funding support to FAO/UNDP project preparatory assistance for "Development of Integrated and Mixed Farming System and Water Conservancies in Rainfed Areas in the Region" should be followed by a full fledged regional project; and
- Calls upon the member governments, FAO, and other International multilateral and bilateral agencies to promote Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) in order to develop and improve Integrated Farming System (IFS) so that the existing and growing vast pool of experience and the expertise is fully utilized in solving the common problems of the small farmers and fishermen of the Region.

Resolution 82/4

RETIREMENT OF DR. DIOSCORO L. UMALI

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE,

Noting that Dr. Dioscoro L. Umali will retire from the Organization at the end of June 1982, after ten years of dedicated service as Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific;

Noting also his earlier and distinguished service to his country and the Region as a plant breeder and as a leader in tropical agriculture education.

Appreciating his unflagging dedication to working with the small farmers of the Region to help them raise their standards of living;

Recognizing his diplomatic skills in fostering greater cooperation between countries in programmes to alleviate hunger;

Recognizing further his outstanding services and unfailing dedication to the aims of the Organization;

Expresses to Dr. D.L. Umali its thanks and sincerest appreciation for the distinguished contributions he has made to agriculture in Asia and the Pacific and the work of FAO, and conveys to him its warm wishes for a continued active life of service, good health and happiness.

B. Recommendations

FAO Programme in the Region and its Implementation

1. The following six priority areas which accurately reflect "regional" needs must be carried out with renewed emphasis on alleviation of poverty:

- (i) Promotion of active participation of small farmers in socio-economic development and increasing their productivity and income;
 - (ii) Development of rainfed and semi-arid agriculture;
 - (iii) Promotion of food security and prevention of pre- and post-harvest losses;
 - (iv) Promotion of crop/livestock/fish integrated farming systems;
 - (v) Development of aquaculture and fishing and socio-economic improvement of small fishermen; and
 - (vi) Promotion of forestry for local community development.
2. FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and the country offices should be given a greater role in the implementation of FAO Programme in the Region.
3. FAO Programme in the Region should be as decided by the conference and indicated under paras 122-145.

New and Renewable Sources of Energy in Agriculture and Rural Development in Asia and the Pacific

1. The highest priority should be given to allocating critical energy inputs to agriculture, in order to meet future targets of agricultural production.
2. Special attention should be given to adequately meeting the energy needs of subsistence farmers at appropriate prices.
3. FAO should prepare a plan of action for the development of new and renewable sources of rural energy for the Region and present it at the next Regional Conference.
4. FAO should seek financial support for regional programmes to promote efficient use of bio-gas, draught animals, fuelwood and other forms of wood-energy.
5. FAO should assist countries with information on experiences gained in developing countries in the use of new and renewable sources of rural energy. Action programmes of member governments in this field should be supported on a priority basis.

Improvement and Stabilization of productivity of Food, Cash Crops and Livestock, Particularly in Small Holdings (Integrated Farming Systems).

1. Better and fuller utilization of the limited resources available to the small farm households should be promoted through integrated (crop/livestock/fish/forestry) farming systems.
2. Special emphasis should be given to the intensification of efforts to improve production of food, cash crops and livestock by the small farm sector.
3. Further financial support should be extended to the preparatory assistance phase of the FAO/UNDP project "Development of Integrated and Mixed Farming System and Water Conservancies in Rainfed Areas in the Region" and it should be expanded into a full-fledged regional project.
4. Steps should be taken to increase livestock production by maximizing feed resources, and recycling of animal waste.
5. Financial and technical support from international sources should be increased to intensify research in raising the productivity of the small farmers.
6. The International Research Institutes supported by CGIAR should increase their outreach activities in the Region to better serve the research and development needs of dryland farming/rainfed agriculture.
7. The experience and expertise in the Region should be utilized to promote TCDC in small farmer development.

FAO World Conference on Fishery Management and Development

1. The scope, objectives and format of the World Conference should be as outlined in the secretariat document approved by the Technical Committee, particularly as regards the need for the World Conference to formulate strategies and action programmes.
2. Inland fisheries and aquaculture should also be covered by the World Conference in view of their substantial contribution to food production.
3. Priority issues to be considered by the World Conference should include:
 - Improvement of socio-economic conditions of small-scale fishermen;
 - Monitoring, control and surveillance aspects of fishery management;
 - Special problems of small island states;
 - Role of joint-ventures in the promotion of technical cooperation and transfer of technology;
 - Fostering involvement of developing countries in the international trade in fish and fishery products; and
 - Promotion of stability of markets for fish and fishery products.

Development Policies and Programmes for Social and Economic Improvement of Small Fishermen and Fish Farmers in Rural Communities

1. FAO's Small Farmers Development Programme should be expanded to cover small fishermen in more countries.
2. Funding support for FAO's programmes in developing aquaculture, especially seafarming in coastal areas and integrated fish/crop/livestock farming in inland areas should be increased.
3. Programmes to promote the role of women in fisheries should be given high priority.
4. Special emphasis should be given to promote TCDC in the transfer of experiences and appropriate technology.

Regional Implications of a Strategy for Forest Resources Development

1. Forestry strategies should be directed at the eradication of poverty giving local communities greater access to goods, and services generated by forestry and forest based activities.
2. FAO should prepare, seek funds and establish a regional project to assist countries, in the implementation of programmes for increased production and efficient use of wood based energy (fuelwood/charcoal/wood residues).
3. Special emphasis should be given to exchange of seeds, plant material and technical know-how to establish plantations of quick growing species. A TCDC approach should be adopted and national institutions should be the main instruments of implementation.
4. Governments should consider the need for maintaining a minimum forest cover to safeguard environmental quality, conserve soil and water resources and ensure ecological balance crucial for successful agricultural and rural development.
5. Transfer of forest lands to non-forestry uses should be monitored and controlled. FAO should assist member governments in this task.

6. Domestic processing of forest produce should be encouraged. Cooperative measures in classification, standardization and marketing of forest products on regional and sub-regional basis should be promoted.
7. Training facilities in the region should be expanded and reoriented, particularly to meet forestry extension needs.
8. Research on agro-forestry, integrated agricultural and forestry systems, and multiple use forestry should be intensified.

Follow-up to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD)

1. Countries should take action to implement WCARRD Programme of Action particularly in respect of agrarian reforms.
2. The design of rural development projects should reflect the problems and needs of the rural poor.
3. Countries should promote the involvement of non-governmental organizations (NGO's) in the implementation of WCARRD Programme of Action.
4. National and International resources devoted to the Small Farmers/Fishermen Development Programme (SFDP) should be increased.
5. The list of socio-economic indicators for monitoring and evaluation should be based on available data and be kept to the minimum.
6. Countries should submit to FAO reports on the progress made by early 1983 to enable the Secretariat to prepare the consolidated analytical report for the 1983 FAO Conference.
7. FAO should assist, - as appropriate, - member countries with report outlines, guidelines for monitoring and evaluation, and indepth country studies.
8. Governments should consider restraining the transfer of rural savings to urban sector. FAO should convene a workshop on this important subject. It should also be included in the schedule of periodical monitoring and evaluation of agrarian reform and rural development.
9. FAO should hold the Third Inter-Governmental consultation on WCARRD follow-up if possible in 1983 preferably before the FAO Conference.
10. All member governments are urged to join CIRDAP and encouraged to provide additional financial and technical support.

Food Security in Asia and the Pacific

1. Food production in low-income food-deficit countries should be accelerated to provide a fundamental solution to food insecurity.
2. As food security issues of the developing countries are integrally linked to the problem of poverty, massive and broad-based economic and social programmes should be introduced to increase the incomes and the purchasing power of the poor people as highlighted in the WCARRD Programme of Action.
3. High priority should be given to investments in food security infrastructure, and where appropriate, the establishment of national food reserve stock.
4. National preparedness to meet the acute and large-scale food shortages in the light of the recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security and its Ad Hoc Working Party on Preparedness should be improved.

5. National early warning systems should be strengthened within the framework of the Global Information and Early Warning System and as appropriate sub-regional and regional early warning systems should be promoted.

6. High priority should be given to expansion of irrigation, appropriate water management, supply of adequate production inputs and maintenance of ecological balance.

7. Food losses should be reduced through a series of interrelated measures in crop protection, harvesting, drying, quality control, transportation, distribution, etc.

8. FAO should continue to assist countries in organizing consultation meetings of donors at Country level; where appropriate, and in promoting TCDC and ECDC activities.

9. The Director-General is invited to take necessary steps to establish a Commission on Food Security for Asia and the Pacific Region within the legal and administrative framework of the Organization for the purpose of enhancing action programmes on food security in the Region.

Development and operation of Regional Programmes and Projects

1. Inter-country and inter-agency consultations should be held to establish priorities in developing regional projects.

2. Appropriate linkages should be established between country projects and inter-country projects.

3. Priority should be given to utilizing the expertise and technology available within the region in implementing regional programmes.

4. Considering that the existing allocation to agriculture sector was not commensurate with the needs, it was strongly urged that UNDP should allocate an increased share from its regional IPF to agriculture.

5. The allocation of funds to regional programmes and projects should reflect the priorities mandated by the FAO Regional Conference.

6. The development and operation of regional programmes and projects should continue to be on the Agenda of future FAO Regional Conferences. The Secretariat should consider providing additional information in the shape of individual project profiles including information on regional projects supported by trust funds.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Sixteenth FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific was held in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 1 to 11 June 1982.
2. Twenty four member countries participated in the Conference namely: Australia, Bangladesh, Burma, China, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United States of America and Viet Nam.
3. There were observers from: The Holy See, Netherlands, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, International Labour Organization, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, World Food Programme, Asian Development Bank, Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific, Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, Asian Productivity Organization, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Planned Parenthood federation and World Federation of Trade Unions.
4. The Technical Committee held its meetings from 1 to 5 June 1982 to discuss the substantive items of the Agenda. It prepared a report of its deliberations for consideration by the plenary. The Conference held its Plenary Session from 7 to 11 June 1982.
5. Participants are listed in Appendix A of this Report. Documents issued, during the course of the Conference, are listed in Appendix B. The Agendas of the Technical Committee and the Plenary Session appear in Appendix C.
6. The Inaugural Session of the Conference was held on 7 June at Istana Negara, Presidential Palace, Jakarta. The Minister of Agriculture of Indonesia, Prof. Soedarsono Hadisapoetro, reported on the arrangements for the Conference. He proposed that the general theme of the Conference should be: "Equity, Growth and Stability for Agricultural Development".
7. "The Director-General of FAO then welcomed President Soeharto, the delegates, diplomatic corps, members and observers. He conveyed the appreciation of the delegates and of FAO for the hospitality extended by the Government of Indonesia.
8. President Soeharto delivered the inaugural address. He emphasized that agricultural development constitutes the basis for the spiritual and material well-being of the people. Indonesia wants to build a modern and advanced society, firmly rooted in its culture and heritage. Within this framework, Indonesia seeks a balanced economic structure where wide ranging industrial activities are supported and sustained by a strong agricultural base.
9. In development, Indonesia adheres to the principles referred to as the "Triology of Development": equitable distribution of development gains to achieve social justice; adequate economic growth; and national stability. The "Eight Paths of Equitable Distribution", which include provision of food, clothing, housing, education, and public health to all people, guide the movement towards social justice.
10. Achievements as well as problems of Indonesia's agriculture were cited. Indonesia achieved considerable progress in increasing production of rice and other food stuffs. However, millions of people are still constrained by lack of land, technical know-how and capital necessary to carry forward agricultural development.
11. The President observed that increases in food production will not lead to food self-sufficiency. Food self-sufficiency can be reached only through a simultaneous increase in production, employment opportunities and purchasing power.
12. He called for liberalisation of international trade to provide greater opportunities to developing countries to export their agricultural products. UN agencies were urged to specifically deal with this issue in the context of creating a New International Economic Order.

13. The President urged the international community to give the highest priority to combating poverty and hunger. It should effectively utilize available resources through coordinated effort.

14. The President concluded his address by noting: The Conference offered a unique opportunity to the countries of the Region to exchange information, share experiences and be infused by a new spirit of international cooperation. Resolutions and recommendations, adopted by the Conference, would be of significance to FAO, other international organizations and governments of the Region as they sought to improve the lives of hundreds of millions of farmers, fishermen, and others engaged in the field of agriculture.

15. At the conclusion of the inaugural function at Istana Negara, Presidential Palace, the Conference delegates reassembled at Jakarta Convention Hall for the main session.

16. The delegates elected unanimously Prof. Soedarsono Hadisapoetro, Minister of Agriculture of Indonesia, as Chairman of the Conference.

17. The Conference also elected all the Ministers present as Vice-Chairmen.

18. The Conference adopted the Provisional Agenda and Timetable prepared by the Secretariat. The Agenda appears in Appendix C.

STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

19. The Director-General then addressed the delegates. He noted improvement in world production of cereals enabled replenishment of stocks. The last harvest in Asia had been good. But optimistic global figures could conceal both regional differences and the sharp erosion in commodity prices. An increasing number of countries were constrained to take recourse to IMF compensatory financing facility for food imports.

20. Asia and Pacific need sharp increases in agricultural production and in yields. The Region must also reverse environmental degradation. The Soil Charter offers scope for useful work in the years ahead, he said.

21. FAO's Progress Report and Programme of Work indicated much useful work has been done. But this effort must be seen in the context of unmet human needs in the Region. He recommended the Conference reconfirm the six priority areas for FAO's work.

22. The Director-General reviewed the follow-up to WCAPRD, the fuelwood crisis and energy needs. In a region dominated by small farms, only a massive investment programme, underpinned by agrarian reforms that mobilize the small farmer and artisanal fishermen can unlock the potentials of agriculture.

23. He reviewed steps taken to ensure world food security. Progress has been slow, despite useful steps like establishment of the global information and early warning system. He expressed regret that six years of negotiations towards a grains agreement had ground to a halt. The world remains vulnerable to food crisis.

24. It is Asia and the Pacific which are most threatened by the lack of food security arrangements at the global level. Regional reserves were thin. He observed that existing food stocks were thousands of miles away. Geography and time were not allies. FAO would support whatever arrangements on food security the Conference would decide to implement, at regional level.

25. He announced the impending retirement of FAO's Regional Representative. Dr. Umali's work for impoverished small farmers offered a simple but profound lesson. That service to those service to those dehumanized by poverty helps retain what is most human in us.

26. He also announced the appointment of Mr. S.S. Puri, former Ambassador of India to EEC as Regional Representative. He appealed to countries to extend the same cooperation to the incoming Regional Representative. Full text of the Director-General's Statement appears as Appendix D.

27. The Conference noted, with appreciation, the excellent work done by the Technical Committee's Drafting Committee. The Conference requested that its report be prepared by the same Committee. Accordingly the following delegates were appointed to serve as the Drafting Committee: Mr. Salmon Padmanegara, Indonesia (Chairman); Mr. D. Hussey, Australia; Mr. Kaliopate Tavola, Fiji; Mr. P.D. Srivastava, India; Mr. Thongphet Sithammavong, Lao; Mr. Abubakar bin Mahmud, Malaysia; and Mr. Ram Prakash Yadav, Nepal.

MAJOR ISSUES HIGHLIGHTED IN THE COUNTRY STATEMENTS

28. Country statements were presented by the delegates of the following countries:

Australia	India	New Zealand
Bangladesh	Indonesia	Pakistan
Burma	Japan	Philippines
China	Korea, Republic of	Sri Lanka
Democratic Kampuchea	Lao	Thailand
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Malaysia	United States of America
Fiji	Maldives	Viet Nam
France	Mongolia	
	Nepal	

The broad perspectives and major issues highlighted in the country statements are summarized below.

Perspectives

29. Reviewing the overall situation in food and agriculture, governments noted that, in the two years since the Fifteenth Regional Conference, the conditions have further deteriorated. Malnutrition is wide spread and affects a quarter of the Region's population. Dependence on rain-fed agriculture, vulnerability to floods and droughts, adverse weather conditions continue to create serious production shortfalls and threaten the Region's food security.

30. Many countries have resorted to increasing imports of cereals. The burden of rising imports has not been eased by a matching increase in food aid.

31. Governments also noted with grave concern that by and large the pursuit of economic growth over recent decades bypassed the poor in the developing countries of the Region. More equitable participation of the rural poor in the benefits of growth was seen as the most important priority in the Region.

32. Development efforts should be oriented towards raising the income and creation of employment opportunities for the marginal farmers, the share croppers, the landless and the shifting cultivators.

33. Delegates recalled that President Soeharto, in his inaugural address, also underscored the above concerns when he declared that commitment to agricultural development constitutes the basis for the spiritual and material well-being of people.

34. He had observed that more increases in food production will not lead to food self sufficiency. Food self sufficiency can be reached only through a simultaneous increase in production, employment opportunities and purchasing power of rural population. Delegates reiterated these themes in their discussions of the draft of the Jakarta Consensus on Equity, Growth and Stability for Development which they later adopted unanimously.

35. The heightened awareness among the delegations on the continuing threat of hunger, the persistence of rural poverty, the deteriorating environment and the critical energy needs was reflected in most statements.

Food Security

36. Delegations were unanimous that developing countries in the Asia and the Pacific Region are vulnerable to periodic crop failures. Consequent shortages of food affect millions of people. Food security arrangements should, therefore, receive the highest priority.

37. Most countries expressed the view that national food strategies should be based on increasing domestic production, equitable and efficient distribution and creation of purchasing power among people.

38. The importance of stable remunerative markets to encourage domestic production was emphasized. Several countries also observed that trade liberalization holds the key for food-self sufficiency in a food-short world.

39. Governments unanimously expressed the opinion that FAO has a fundamental and major responsibility to assist countries with food security arrangements. They also stressed the need for increased international food aid to low-income food deficit countries.

40. Australia stated that it is stepping up its food aid, through WFP, from 80 000 tonnes a year to 200 000 tonnes a year. China declared that its general policy is one of buying food in the world market at times of global surplus and desisting from doing so when there is global food shortage, so as not to compete with other developing countries in greater need of food. India reported that it made available, on easy terms, some one million tonnes of rice and 500 000 tonnes of wheat to countries affected by food shortages.

41. China also stated that food security arrangements should go beyond short term measures to secure supplies. They should encompass steps to increase production, distribution and such socio-economic activities as raise purchasing power of the poor and reduce population growth rates. International support for food security in the Region should aim at a gradual build-up of food reserves within the Region through voluntary participation.

42. DPR Korea stressed that an independent foundation based on modern irrigation, extensive mechanization and applications of fertilizers is essential to achieve food self-sufficiency. On the other hand, Fiji, Republic of Korea, Japan, Maldives and Sri Lanka stressed the need for international cooperation in the field.

43. Indonesia called for further measures to strengthen food security in the Region with particular reference to ASEAN. Nepal supported sub-regional arrangements. Bangladesh suggested that sub-regional food security reserves should be established with the ultimate objective of linking them all in a regional net-work. Several delegations suggested establishment of a regional food security commission for Asia and the Pacific for assisting member governments with food security arrangements on a coordinated and continuing basis.

Agricultural Production

44. Land and water constitute the basic resources for agricultural production. They are relatively limited and unevenly distributed in the Region. Improving soil productivity, adoption of modern water management practices, using improved seeds and fertilizers were seen by several delegations as essential requisites for increased agricultural production.

45. Bangladesh reported that in recent years, they adopted a water-seed-fertilizer technology to spear-head agricultural growth. Water conservation and management, expansion of irrigated acreage, flood control and drainage, selective mechanization and use of the abundant labour underpinned their strategy for increasing agricultural production.

46. The strategy followed by Burma, labelled "Whole Township High Yielding Rice Production Programme" is based on the use of high-yielding varieties, high density planting, proper tillage, increased use of farmyard manure, improved water management and effective control of pests and diseases. The success of this strategy for rice led them to adopt the same for 19 other crops including maize, oil seeds and pulses.

47. China has launched a vigorous programme of readjustment of past policies. Basic units of production were given greater autonomy. Peasants were allowed to sell their surplus produce freely, after fulfilling the procurement quotas set by the government. House-hold based economy was encouraged to supplement and co-exist with state owned farms. Scientific research and agricultural extension were strengthened. All these measures resulted in a 5.7 percent increase in agricultural production in 1981 compared with 1980.

48. DPR Korea attached the highest priority to developing irrigation facilities. The country now has 2 000 large reservoirs, 40 000 km of irrigation channels and numerous other local water facilities. Farm mechanization and fertilizer use were vigorously promoted. DPR Korea reported that average per hectare grain yields have reached 7.2 tons for rice and 6.3 tons for maize.

49. Several delegations, including India, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Lao, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam and Pakistan, stressed the role of increasing irrigation potential and proper water management for achieving stable agricultural production.

50. Indonesia, Bangladesh and DPR Korea among other countries stressed the need for promoting agro-industries and establishing a firm linkage between agriculture and industry to spur agricultural production.

51. Lao stated that lack of investment funds to improve physical infrastructure like transportation and irrigation facilities is a serious bottle-neck to improve agricultural production in least developed countries. They urged that international assistance should be directed to least developed countries on a priority basis to reduce their dependance on food aid.

52. Several delegations observed that agriculture in the developing countries of the Region uses only a very small proportion of fossil fuel. Yet, this small proportion is critical for achieving rapid increases in agricultural production required by a growing population. Provision of commercial energy inputs to agriculture sector is therefore of utmost importance. Equitable access to energy, at appropriate prices, to small farmers was emphasized by many delegations.

53. Developing integrated energy systems in rural areas was seen by many delegations as the most promising way out of the energy squeeze. Each system could consist of a combination of different sources of renewable energy including biomass, solar, wind and water power.

54. India appealed to FAO to provide effective leadership within the framework of a possible programme of action in identifying and developing appropriate rural energy systems. It strongly urged regional action.

55. Republic of Korea underscored the fact that high energy costs are detrimental to increasing food supply. It stressed the need for rapidly developing alternative sources of energy, more particularly those relating to recycling of farm produce.

56. Indonesia asserted that efforts should be directed to more efficient use of fertilizers and developing simple but effective energy saving farm equipment.

57. Australia, Bangladesh, Nepal, Maldives, India, Indonesia, among other delegations, cautioned that the fuelwood crisis in the Region has widespread repercussions. It affects the whole rural energy system.

58. Excessive cutting of fuelwood leads to deforestation, soil erosion, siltation of reservoirs and lack of water for irrigation. Diversion of crop and livestock residues from organic fertilizer to burning as fuel affects food production. Increased use of human energy for fuelwood collection means less time spent on food production. There is no alternative to an integrated approach to solving the rural energy problem.

Small Farmers

59. landless labourers, share croppers, and marginal farmers constitute the majority of rural population in the developing countries of the Region. These people have generally been by-passed by economic development.
60. Governments were unanimous that policy orientation and programme implementation to increase the productivity of small farmers should be reinforced. All supplies and services should converge to benefit the small farmer.
61. The delegation of Japan emphasized that human resource development, at the grass root level, is essential for improved agricultural production.
62. Malaysia stressed that a majority of small farmers will be left out of the main stream of the society and remain poor, ignorant and unproductive, if schemes for human resource development are not vigorously implemented. It called for greater adaptive research, expanded delivery systems, in-service training and technology transfer through extension services. Studies in Malaysia have shown that subsidy programmes were instrumental in motivating farmers to adopt appropriate techniques of farming.
63. Indonesia underscored that government services including research, education, extension, marketing and credit should be reoriented to meet the needs of small producers.
64. India has introduced a package of services to enable farmers, irrespective of the size of their holdings, to benefit from modern technology.
65. Nepal reported that its Small Farmer Development Programme, which was initiated with assistance from FAO Regional Office in 1975, has now been expanded. Loans are being provided even without collateral directly benefiting a large number of small farmers.
66. Pakistan said that a Land Utilization Authority has been set up to extend technical and financial help to small farmers. Farmers are encouraged to form cooperative societies to take advantage of government provided inputs. An innovative feature is the creation of a special cadre of mobile credit officers who extend on the spot credit to small farmers. The Pakistan Agricultural Research Council has been given a mandate to develop a technology package for small farmers.
67. In the Philippines, the government has recently launched the Kilusang Kabuhayan Kaunlaran (KKK) movement. This seeks to establish self-reliant productive communities to be owned and managed by the people themselves. Priority in granting loans is given to organized upland farmers and landless rural workers who implement viable KKK projects.
68. Republic of Korea drew attention to the fact that, in their country, as industrial development expanded, the availability of farm labour decreased considerably. To counter this trend, a special fund to attract youth to farming has been established. Giving incentives to increase agricultural productivity is important.
69. In New Zealand youth are being specially encouraged to become land owners in their own right.
70. The need for promoting small farmer crop insurance schemes was highlighted by Indonesia and Pakistan.

Follow-up of WCARRD

71. Governments were unanimous in their support for the declaration of principles and programme of action of WCARRD. Many countries have achieved progress in launching follow-up action but the pace of implementation is, in general, slow.
72. To bring about agrarian reform, India is following a three-fold strategy: abolition of intermediaries, setting of ceilings on agricultural holdings; and security to tenants. Minimum wage legislation is being enforced to ensure reasonable wages are paid to agricultural workers.

73. The focus in Indonesia is on developing programmes and activities aimed primarily at improving the social and economic well-being of the weaker sections of society. Peoples' participation in the institutions and systems which govern them is being encouraged. Special emphasis is being laid on the involvement of women, rural youth, landless labourers, small farmers and fishermen. One of the innovative approaches adopted is the creation of consultation fora ("Mimbar Sarasehan") from the village to the national level for maintaining regular contact between farmers and the government.

74. The Japanese delegation stated their own experience shows that agrarian reform and comprehensive rural development are the keys to agricultural growth.

75. The U.S. delegation reiterated its support for the WCARRD Action Programme. It urged FAO to assist member countries on follow-up activities. The U.S. President, it was recalled, offered at Cancún to send agricultural task forces to assist countries in developing agricultural strategies. Currently, a presidential mission is undertaking this task in Thailand. The U.S. hopes to send similar missions to other countries of the region as well.

76. The Philippines reported that it has maintained momentum in agrarian reform implementation. The Agrarian Reform Coordinating Council, headed by the Minister of Agrarian Reform, harmonizes agrarian reform policies. Access to land for actual tillers and tenurial security were achieved through major programmes relating to leasehold, land, transfer, and resettlement. By end of May 1982, more than half a million farmers received agricultural leasehold contracts. Beneficiaries of land transfer total some 400 000 tenant-farmers. Comprehensive services are being provided to some 52 000 settler families to promote their overall welfare. To encourage peoples' participation, Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association, with more than a million members in 14 000 chapters at the village level, has been organized.

77. Mongolia stressed that land reforms have a crucial role to play in the attainment of food self-sufficiency in the region. It strongly supported action programmes relating to agrarian reform and rural development.

78. The Republic of Korea commended the progress made by FAO in taking WCARRD follow-up action. They appreciated the work of CIRDAP. The Republic of Korea had already made several structural changes in the farmers' cooperatives and established farming support centres and Agricultural Policy Council in line with WCARRD Programmes of Action.

Integrated Farming Systems and Rainfed Agriculture

79. Several delegations, particularly China, India, Indonesia and Thailand stated that intensification of research and agricultural extension to deal with location specific problems is needed to introduce integrated farming systems in rainfed areas. Most countries recognized that national and regional food security depended on the stabilization of productivity in rainfed areas, which cover nearly 70 percent of agricultural land and stressed that greater efforts must be devoted by the countries, international agencies and aid-giving institutions.

80. Burma welcomed the initiatives of FAO in encouraging integrated farming systems. Their own experience confirms the appropriateness of these methods. Burma has started a combined training course on agriculture and livestock as well as bee-keeping to increase farmers' incomes.

81. China has long experience with integrated farming techniques. At the grass roots level, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, animal husbandry and side-line occupations are well integrated.

82. Viet Nam highlighted the role of multi-disciplinary planning, at the district level, in promoting integrated approach to farming and rural development. The economic structure of each district is based on cooperative farms and agricultural production collectives where integrated approach to farming including crop production, livestock development and tree farming are practised.

83. Nepal commended the efforts of FAO in promoting integrated farming systems. It regretted that specialists still tended to view each sector in isolation instead of considering the farming system as a whole in its relationship with the eco-system.

84. Malaysia welcomed the initiatives of FAO in promoting integrated farming systems. It reported that consolidation of small-holdings and diversification of crops have shown promise in Malaysia. Malaysia is also implementing smallholder livestock rearing as an integral part of mixed farming systems.

85. Sri Lanka cautioned against over-dependence on rainfall for expansion of food production. It had invested in a massive programme of harnessing available resources of water to benefit the dry areas. It sees the introduction of integrated farming systems as particularly suitable to rainfed areas.

Small Fishermen

86. Thailand said to improve the welfare of small fishermen, Government has launched a programme of improving infrastructure, equipment, landing and storage facilities for fishing in five southern provinces. It also allocated 225 million for a village fish-pond programme under which 3 000 community fish ponds would be built in five years.

87. In the Philippines, Government reserved a seven kilometre area from the shore line exclusively for use of small fishermen. Credit facilities were liberalized for small fishermen. Area specific management of under exploited areas and development of new fishery resources received considerable attention.

88. In Pakistan, interest free loans are extended to small fishermen. Inland fisheries are being developed by stocking rivers, canals, lakes and ponds with better variety of fish.

89. Maldives commended FAO for its assistance to fisheries sector through TCP. Since fish constitutes its chief export item, Maldives was deeply concerned with fisheries development. It even designated the 10th of December of every year as "Fishermans' Day" to signify the importance of fisheries to Maldivian economy. The slump in world prices of fish and poaching in Maldivian waters are of major concern.

90. Malaysia emphasized that development of fisheries in the EEZ is inadequate. Socio-economic problems can be solved only through parallel assistance to artisanal fishermen.

91. Indonesia noted that world attention is focussed on the Law of the Sea and the EEZ. But it strongly feels that more attention ought be given to improvement of the socio-economic well-being of small-scale fishermen and fish farmers.

Environment and Forestry

92. India stressed the need for following the guiding principle of "Development without Destruction" in promoting policies of growth. The Prime Minister of India had asserted "it is necessary to achieve growth within the confines of a sustainable environmental resource base".

93. Nepal observed that environmental degradation, resulting from deforestation, has assumed severe proportions and is affecting agriculture. The King of Nepal has said that "agriculture, water and forests are so inter-related that one cannot be conceived of without the other".

94. Several delegations emphasized the role of forests in maintaining environmental quality, conserving soil and water resources and ensuring ecological balance. These are crucial for successful agriculture and rural development. In general, there is greater awareness of environmental damage caused by an increasing rate of deforestation. Many governments reported on measures being taken to prevent ecological disaster.

95. Social forestry aimed at establishment of small wood lots in tree-poor areas to help rural communities obtain cheap fuel and timber for local uses. This approach is receiving pronounced support in many countries. Agro-forestry is becoming increasingly popular. Indonesia is carrying out pioneering work in this field in Java.

96. Pakistan has launched a campaign to involve people in tree planting programmes, particularly on private lands. Seedling supply, at nominal prices, demonstration and training are important elements in this programme. Watershed management and afforestation are also receiving priority attention.

97. The Philippines has launched a new programme known as the Integrated Social Forestry Programme. Through this programme, Government is encouraging shifting cultivators to settle permanently on identified areas. Financial and technical support, as well as social amenities are provided.

98. Thailand is launching a forestry development programme at the village level. This seeks to induce community responsibility and participation of people, in conserving the existing forests, and create new wooded areas. Thailand has also taken several measures to protect wild life: some 21 500 sq.km. of forest area were constituted into national parks.

99. Sri Lanka has launched a major programme of reforestation. Island-wide tree planting campaign has been initiated.

100. Japan stressed that environmental safeguards are necessary to sustain agricultural production. Forestry plays a vital role in maintaining the natural environment. The extensive experience of FAO in tropical forestry should be made available to member countries to promote forestry and safeguard the environment.

Trade

101. Several delegations observed that developing countries of the region are facing exceptional difficulties in their attempts to expand the volume of their exports. With rising import needs, their terms of trade are deteriorating.

102. New Zealand expressed regret that despite negotiations, over the past three decades, very little progress has been made in liberalizing quantitative restrictions affecting agricultural exports from the developing countries. New Zealand shared with developing countries their frustrations resulting from policies of agricultural protectionism in export markets.

103. Malaysia called for liberalization of trade policies in order to facilitate access to markets for agricultural commodities from developing countries.

104. Thailand drew attention of the Conference to their country's dependence on export of agricultural produce. It pleaded for abolition of trade barriers and protectionist measures.

105. The U.S. delegation stated its commitment to working for an open international trading system, as reaffirmed at the Versailles Summit. It joined the countries of the Region in deploring the rising tendency towards protectionism.

Inter-Agency Cooperation

106. Japan commended the role played by FAO Regional Office in promoting activities in Food and Agriculture sector in the region. It rates the performance of the Regional Office very highly. The need for effective inter-agency cooperation was stressed.

107. Australia cautioned that distractions such as parochialism and inter-agency rivalry inhibits cooperative international effort. It emphasized the role of FAO and stressed that Australia intends to assist the Organization to bring their expertise to bear upon regional problems in a cooperative and harmonious interaction with other UN Agencies.

108. New Zealand delegation called for improved liaison among multilateral agencies, bilateral donors and regional organizations including ESCAP and SPEC.

STATEMENTS BY THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

109. Statements were delivered by representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), World Food Programme (WFP), Centre for Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) and the International Pepper Community.

110. The representative of the United Nations Development Programme stated that agriculture continued to be one of the most important sectors for UNDP and FAO was a major partner. It had closely cooperated with member Governments and the FAO in the promotion of active participation of small farmers in socio-economic development and in increasing their productivity and income. UNDP supported the FAO's special programme for the prevention of food losses and was prepared to provide financial support for exploratory missions and for the identification and preparation of projects. It also supported FAO's areas of priorities in the Region, including new and renewable sources of energy for agriculture and rural development. UNDP welcomed FAO's plan to convene a World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development in 1983 and expected to participate actively in the Conference. The net value of UNDP resources available was declining over the last few years. Therefore there was increased need for more serious application of priorities for implementing technical assistance in a cost-effective manner.

111. The representative of the International Fund for Agricultural Development gave a brief account of the collaborative activities carried out by FAO and IFAD and stated that the quality of cooperation between the two institutions is excellent. IFAD's approach to agricultural and rural development favours promotion of self-reliant endeavours. The small farmer development project of Nepal was cited as an example. It was built on small farmers' own initiative for which FAO had earlier provided technical support. IFAD had allocated 51 percent of its total resources to this Region to increase food production and to assist small farmers and the rural poor.

112. The Representative of the International Labour Organization (ILO) welcomed the emphasis given by the Conference to helping the rural poor, small farmers and agricultural labourers as this was also the priority area of ILO. ILO is interested to see that people's participation is understood as both an objective and a means for rural development efforts. There are many areas of mutual interest offering enhanced scope for ILO/FAO cooperation, such as rural energy, rural women's work, rural technology and rural infrastructure development. Development of cooperatives is another area where new thrust and a new approach is required.

113. The representative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) reviewed the periodical consultations and the joint cooperative programmes of FAO and UNIDO. There is effective consultation and close cooperation both at policy and field level between the two organizations. He stated that the FAO/UNIDO Inter-Secretariat Committee is doing useful work in this regard. He specially mentioned a few of the recent cooperative activities between the two organizations in the broad areas of: food and agricultural products; food processing industry; fertilizers; leather and leather products industry and meat and dairy development. He said that the focus of UNIDO system of consultations is to examine the ways and means of increasing developing countries' share of world production. Industrial financing and training of industrial man-power received priority attention.

114. The Representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) stated that the level of food consumption in developing countries was not adequate. The uneven distribution of food had affected particularly the most vulnerable group - the 500 million

children and mothers in the world. He pointed out that in 1981, 100 million children went to sleep hungry at night and 10 million children became disabled. Some 40 000 children died each day. The UNICEF representative said that there was close cooperation between FAO and UNICEF at both operational and policy levels. UNICEF was cooperating with FAO in several countries in the Region in the integration of agricultural activities as components of the nutrition programme.

115. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP, reviewed the work of ESCAP in the field of Food and Agriculture. He stated that ESCAP is giving high priority to this field particularly in food supply and distribution following the adoption of a resolution on food supply and distribution by the 38th (1982) ESCAP Session. He called for greater cooperation among national and international agencies in order to optimize benefits to member governments from limited resources available to the United Nations Systems. He referred to the ESCAP/FAO Joint Annual Review of Work Programmes as a successful example of such cooperation in avoiding overlap and duplication of efforts and enumerated the joint ESCAP/FAO projects that have been implemented.

116. The Economic Advisor to WFP said that in view of the declining terms of trade of several countries in the region, food aid still constitutes a critical element in current development plans and policies of these countries. During 1980-81 food aid amounted to 8.4 million tons. Although there is a decline in regular food aid, emergency food aid has increased substantially. Large scale relief operations were undertaken in Democratic Kampuchea, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Transmigration schemes also received significant WFP aid. WFP also catalysed aid from multilateral and bilateral agencies. For the coming biennium pledges to the extent of US \$1 200 million are targetted. Pledges from countries of the Region have registered a four-fold increase.

117. The Director of the Centre for Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) said that the main focus of work of CIRDAP continues to be promoting TCDC/ECDC among neighbouring countries; particularly on follow-up action to WCARRD. CIRDAP, being autonomous, acts as a bridge between multilateral agencies, governments and bilateral agencies. He called for increased support and participation of member governments.

118. The permanent Representative of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) said that the organization has 119 million members, mainly from the agriculture sector. He said that 853 million Asians are living in conditions of hunger and poverty. WFTU places great emphasis on agrarian reform and rural development and is actively cooperating with other international organizations in the region to promote the welfare of agricultural workers.

119. The Executive Director of the International Pepper Community stated that India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Brazil are the members in this commodity community whose main objective is to obtain remunerative returns to producers. Since small farmers stand to benefit from their efforts, he stressed the need for FAO and other international organizations giving full support to the community.

REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

120. The Conference considered the Report of the Technical Committee which had earlier discussed the following agenda items:

- FAO Programme in the Region: Report on the FAO Activities in the Region including Action taken on the Resolutions and main Recommendations presented at the previous Regional Conference;
- New and Renewable Sources of Energy for Agriculture and Rural Development;
- Improvement and Stabilization of Productivity of Food, Cash Crops and Livestock, particularly in Smallholdings;
- Report on the Preparations of the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development;
- Development Policies and Programmes for Social and Economic Improvement of Small Fishermen and Fish Farmers in Rural Communities;
- Regional Implications of a Strategy for Forest Resources Development (Conservation, Utilization and Management);
- Follow-up to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD): A Progress Report;
- Food Security in Asia and the Pacific;
- Development and Operation of Regional Programmes and Projects; and
- Representation of the Region on the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

121. The Report of the Technical Committee, as amended and adopted by the Conference, is presented below. The introduction to Technical Committee's report appears as APPENDIX F.

Implementation of the FAO Programme in the Region (APRC/82/2)

122. The Regional Representative introduced this Agenda Item. He recalled the six priority areas mandated by Governments, at the 1972 Regional Conference, and reconfirmed by subsequent conferences. Document APRC/82/2 summarized FAO's programme in the Region in each of these priority areas.

123. In compliance with directives of member governments, first priority had been given to small farmers' development. In addition to expansion of the on-going programme in Bangladesh, the Philippines and Nepal, new projects were launched in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

124. A broad range of activities were carried out by FAO in the other priority areas of rainfed agriculture; food security and prevention of pre- and post-harvest losses; integrated farming systems; aquaculture and socio-economic improvement of small fishermen, and the programme on "Forests for People".

125. The Regional Representative reviewed trust fund activities and the role FAO played in promoting TCDC in the fields of food and agriculture. He highlighted the work of regional technical bodies.

126. At the outset, the Conference paid tribute to Dr. D.L. Umali for his dedicated and outstanding service to agricultural and rural development, in his capacity as FAO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific from 1971 through June, 1982. They praised his role in orienting FAO programmes to serve the needs of the poor and for acting as an articulate spokesman for the Region's poor and downtrodden. The common theme that ran through the statements were appreciation for Dr. Umali's competence, human approach, accessibility and regret over his departure.

127. The Conference strongly supported the focus of FAO programmes as reflected in its priority areas. It also noted with satisfaction the higher allocation of resources to Asia and the Pacific Region during 1982-83, compared with the previous biennia. It was however observed that the needs of the Region outweighed assistance received from FAO and other international agencies.

128. The Conference further noted that considerable progress had been made in food and agriculture, by the member countries with assistance from FAO. However, the food and agricultural situation in the Region is still unsatisfactory. Malnutrition and hunger continue to prevail.

129. Increases in food production by itself will not alleviate hunger. Stress should be laid on projects designed to enhance the purchasing power and the income levels of rural people.

130. The Conference re-emphasized the WCRRD principles and programme of action. It stressed that people's participation in the institutions and systems which govern their lives is essential for social and economic development. Decentralized decision making should be encouraged.

131. Extension services should be reoriented to meet fundamental needs in rural human resource development. Improvement of man's capabilities and making him self-reliant are more important than welfare-oriented assistance.

132. Efficient use of land, including development of marginal lands, and the conservation of soil resources, in accordance with the World Soil Charter, were emphasized. Emphasis should also be placed on improving water management practices in the Region.

133. It was suggested that farmers' conventions to exchange ideas on priorities, programmes and activities should be encouraged. ASFAN has already convened such assemblies and found them useful. Priority should be given to improving marketing systems for small farmers.

134. The Conference stressed the need for small farmer crop insurance to minimize the risk of crop losses. It requested FAO to organize a workshop for dissemination of knowledge on current experiences in this field.

135. Agricultural production is still largely subject to the vagaries of weather and other risks and uncertainties. An effective food security system, including among others, the strengthening of early warning systems was recommended.

136. The Conference appreciated FAO's Programmes in the prevention of food losses and urged increased funding for this work.

137. The Conference strongly endorsed FAO's TCDC approach to development in the Region. In this connection, it was suggested that the exchange of expertise and skills among the countries of the Region should be further encouraged.

138. Information exchange on the availability of skills, technologies, institutions and investment capabilities within the Region was stressed. To facilitate this, it was suggested that FAO compile a Directory of Information giving an abstract of activities, needs and skills in the countries of the Region.

139. The Conference supported FAO activities in information dissemination and recognized the particular contribution made by AGPIS, CARIS, and efforts in developing audio-visual programmes directed to rural people. It was emphasized that countries should make greater and more effective use of information and communication material already available.

140. Man-power training continues to be a vital need. FAO's role in designing and executing national and regional projects was highlighted. FAO assistance in planning, policy analysis and project formulation was also emphasized.

141. The Conference appreciated the stress laid on the role of women and youth, particularly in farming and fishing projects. It urged further measures to expand their role.

142. The Conference also endorsed the general thrust of activities in orienting programmes to serve small fishermen.

143. Several delegations stressed the importance of forestry programmes. Particular reference was made to the contribution that forestry can make to the alleviation of the rural energy crisis. The importance of conserving forest resources and the need to integrate forestry with crop, livestock and fisheries production were emphasized.

144. The Conference stressed the need for increased efforts, by all concerned, in seeking greater inter-agency cooperation and joint action, both within and outside the UN System, to effectively utilize available resources for development of food and agriculture.

145. Appropriateness, and cost effectiveness should be the major criteria in effecting technology transfer in developing countries. A new energy-saving system of agriculture is emerging in the Region. It incorporates both innovative approaches and traditional technologies.

New and Renewable Sources of Energy in Agriculture and Rural Development in Asia and the Pacific (APRC/82/5)

146. The Chairman of the FAO Inter-departmental Working Group on Environment and Energy introduced this agenda item. He stressed that the use of commercial energy in agriculture is at present relatively small. But it is of crucial importance. For developing countries in Asia and the Pacific, it is estimated use of commercial energy would increase five-fold between 1980 and the year 2000, if the desirable rates of growth in both crop and livestock production are to be achieved.

147. With rising costs of fossil fuels and of related agricultural inputs, major efforts are required to use available commercial energy more efficiently and make maximum use of locally available and renewable sources of energy.

148. A review was made of renewable sources of energy which could make a significant contribution to agriculture: Biological fixation of nitrogen (through azolla and blue-green algae in irrigated areas and through rhizobium in combination with leguminous crops), recycling of organic residues, wood energy biogas, upgrading of draught animals, solar and wind energy. The production of liquid fuel from energy cropping and producer gas require additional research and testing.

149. Special attention should be given to wood and charcoal which are widely used sources of energy in rural areas. Deficits in fuelwood supplies are already apparent in higher density population areas. If present trends remain unchecked, fuelwood supplies will be unable to meet minimum energy needs in large parts of the Region. A plan of action to remedy this situation is therefore urgently required.

150. A brief report was presented on the regional cooperative programmes on renewable sources of energy. This had been initiated by FAO in cooperation with member governments and other international organizations.

151. The Conference recognized that developing countries in the Region are now in a stage of transition: from traditional agriculture towards more energy-intensive forms of agricultural production. In this respect, the importance of allocating essential commercial energy inputs to agriculture, in order to increase production and improve standards of living of rural populations, was emphasized.

152. The cost of commercial energy and the competition for it from other sectors of the economy made it necessary to make the best possible use of renewable sources of energy. Among the various techniques which are currently being developed, the Conference identified the following as the most promising for Asia and the Pacific Region: integrated plant nutrition systems (combining mineral fertilizers with organic sources of plant nutrients), biogas, wood energy, upgrading of draught animals, micro-hydropower, and solar drying.

153. It was stressed that cost-effectiveness of the various techniques would determine the extent to which renewable sources of energy would be applied by the farmers. Special attention should be given to the needs of subsistence farmers who do not draw cash returns from outlays for additional energy inputs.

154. The Conference emphasized the need for formulating national energy policies to meet agricultural and rural development requirements. These policies should ensure equitable access to energy at appropriate price.

155. The Conference also stressed the need for an adequate flow of resources to develop new and renewable sources of rural energy, particularly fuelwood resources in areas subject to acute scarcity.

156. The Conference recommended that FAO develop a Plan of Action on new and renewable sources of rural energy for the Region, in line with the Nairobi Programme of Action and the recommendations of the Twenty-first Session of the FAO Conference. This Plan, to be presented to the next Regional Conference, should be specifically geared to the needs of Asia and Pacific Region. The Conference emphasized the importance of wood as a source of energy in developing countries. It also urged that the Plan of Action cover comprehensively the various renewable sources of energy. Special attention is to be given to integrated systems of energy supply.

157. The Conference drew particular attention to the need for FAO to collect and disseminate information on experience gained and progress made in developing viable sources of renewable energy in the different countries. Training, research networks, and pilot schemes should be further developed in order to promote the transfer of appropriate technologies, through TCDC approaches.

158. The Conference endorsed the priority given by the Director-General to energy programmes in the current biennium. It requested FAO to assist member countries in identifying needs and problems related to rural energy and in implementing action programmes, both at national and regional levels.

159. The need for close cooperation, at regional level, among government institutions, FAO and other regional and international organizations involved in the development of new and renewable sources of energy, was stressed.

Improvement and Stabilization of Productivity of Food, Cash Crops and Livestock, Particularly in Small Holdings (APRC/82/6)

160. The Regional Animal Production and Health Officer introduced this agenda item. He observed that a major constraint to production was the scarcity of land for cultivation. The Region's land-man ratio is the lowest in the world. It slipped to 0.21 ha. per person in 1980 from 0.28 ha. per person in 1963. Majority of farmers had extremely small holdings.

161. Production of food, cash crops and livestock by the small farmers in the Region was reviewed. It was significant that, in several countries, farm productivity was by and large neutral to farm size. Experience of many countries shows lack of literacy or formal education did not come in the way of small farmers learning and adopting new technologies.

162. Constraints on improvement of productivity were discussed under three headings, namely: socio-economic, institutional and technological. To overcome these constraints, adoption of integrated farming systems was suggested. Crop/livestock/fish/forestry integration would result in better and fuller utilization of the limited resources available to the small farm household.

163. The Conference agreed on the urgent need to intensify efforts to improve production of food, cash crops, coarse grains, legumes, tubers, roots, and livestock by the small farm sector.

164. The Conference also recognized that millions of small farmers in the Region follow time-tested traditional agricultural practices, based on complementary integration of land, labour, livestock, crops and water. These were fully adapted to their environment. It is therefore desirable to draw on and improve these traditional integrated farming methods.

165. The Conference was informed that preparatory assistance for "Development of Integrated and Mixed Farming System and Water Conservancies in Rainfed Areas in the Region" has been approved by FAO/UNDP. It hoped that this assistance would result in a full fledged regional project. Cooperating countries might then benefit from the pool of experiences and expertise, available in the Region, for improving the productivity of the small farmers.

166. The Conference recognized the important role of livestock in improving the economic condition of the farmers by providing employment and augmentation of food supply. It recommended that steps be taken to increase livestock production by maximizing feed resources, through better utilization of farm by-products, non-conventional feed resources, and recycling of animal waste.

167. The importance of research in raising the productivity of the small farmers was recognized. More financial and technical support from international sources is needed for research. In this connection, the activities of the Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops (CGPRT) located at Pogor, Indonesia, were mentioned and closer cooperation suggested.

168. The Conference noted the need to institutionalize the small farm support services such as input supply and credit.

169. Research and development needs of dryland farming were highlighted. The International Research Institutes, supported by the CGIAP, were requested to increase their outreach activities in the Region.

170. FAO was requested to help in strengthening the marketing facilities for agricultural products, specially perishable commodities.

171. The Conference further underscored the usefulness of promoting TCDC in small farmer development. The similarities of basic small farmer problems and the vast pool of experience and expertise in the Region indicated there is tremendous potential for technical cooperation in the Region.

Report on the Preparations for the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development (APRC/82/7)

172. The Assistant to the DG, Fisheries Department, introduced this agenda item. Discussions were summarized by the Secretary-General Designate of the World Conference.

173. The Conference agreed that the proposed Conference was both timely and essential, in view of the recent changes in the regime of the sea and the general acceptance of the two-hundred-mile exclusive economic zone concept. It expressed unanimous support for scheduling the Conference in Rome: a technical phase in the autumn of 1983 in conjunction with the fifteenth session of the Committee on Fisheries; and a policy phase in the spring of 1984.

174. There was consensus on the broad objectives of the proposed Conference. Of major interest would be strategies and programmes to achieve optimum utilization of fishery resources under the new regime of the sea. This might cover activities from harvesting through marketing to distribution, bearing in mind the possible contribution of fish and fishery products to world food security. Other objectives suggested include: self-reliance of developing countries, and higher economic, social and nutritional benefits from rationally managed fishery resources.

175. The Conference agreed that the World Conference should deal not only with marine fisheries, but also with inland fisheries and aquaculture. This is particularly important for landlocked countries.

176. In addition to the discussion on objectives, the Conference suggested important issues for deliberation at the proposed Rome meeting. The included: adoption and adjustment of national policies and legislation; appropriate management techniques encompassing monitoring and control mechanisms and protection of the environment; improvement of socio-economic environment of small-scale fisheries; resolution of possible conflicts between small-scale and industrial fisheries; impact of energy issues in fisheries and the prevention of post-harvest losses.

177. At the international level, important issues identified were: cooperative arrangements in the management of shared fish stocks, especially, functions of the FAO sub-regional management and development committees; adequacy of technical support for these sub-regional fishery management committees; special problems in the management of tuna, owing to extensive migration of several species; conditions of access to fishery resources in licensing agreements; promotion of technical cooperation among developing countries in the fishery sector; expansion of international trade in fish and fishery products; and the special problems of island states.

178. The Conference suggested that the joint sessions of the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission and the Indo-Pacific Fishery Commission, scheduled to be held in Indonesia in November 1982, discuss in greater detail the preparations for the World Conference. The Conference Secretariat should tap the experience of selected developed and developing countries, including that of the private sector.

179. It was suggested that the views of the five regional conferences be synthesized. On the basis of this synthesis, issues to be discussed might be selected. Countries might also be given the opportunity to comment on the selection through a questionnaire survey. It was also suggested that the draft agenda for the Conference be reviewed at an appropriate session of the FAO Council.

180. Noting possible valuable contributions from concerned international organizations, the Conference recommended early consultations with them. Special reference was made to the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SFAFDEC) and the Forum Fisheries Agency.

181. The Conference felt that the World Conference to be meaningful should not only define fishery strategies, but also agree on concrete action programmes. Special mention was made of the need for a comprehensive training programme, and effective transfer of technology to developing countries. It was also stressed that to ensure implementation of the World Conference recommendations, it would be necessary to enlist support of UNDP, donor countries and other financing institutions.

182. The Conference noted that the representative of UNDP expressed support by indicating that the agency would, to the extent possible, participate in the preparations for the Conference and in the Conference itself.

Development Policies and Programmes for Social and Economic Improvement of Small Fishermen and Fish Farmers in Rural Communities (APRC/82/8)

183. The Regional Fisheries Officer and Secretary of the Indo-Pacific Fishery Commission introduced this agenda item. He reviewed the socio-economic status of small or artisanal fishermen and fish farmers in Asia and the Pacific Region. Although the Region is a major fish producer in the world, the small fishermen and the small rural fish farmers are among the poorest. Their incomes are lower than those of non-fishing households.

184. Past fisheries development projects had often concentrated on technological and economic inputs and lacked understanding of communities for whom projects were designed. Consequently they rarely benefitted small fishermen.

185. Small fishermen households in the Region are generally characterized by: low incomes, big family size, low levels of education and health, inadequate nutrition and high indebtedness. Their development is constrained by the lack of capital and credit, inadequate marketing systems, seasonal employment and lack of supplementary sources of income.

186. Member Governments are aware of the poor socio-economic status of small fishermen families. Most of them are undertaking programmes for upliftment of this particular sector.

187. Demographic problems were considered a major factor inhibiting the development of small fishermen. Some countries have undertaken pilot projects with FAO/UNFPA assistance in this field.

188. The role of women in small-scale fisheries development has generally been neglected in the past. Several Member Countries have now started programmes for increased involvement of women and youth, especially in income-generating activities.

189. FAO's Small Farmers Development Programme (SFDP) has, in recent years, been expanded in a few countries to include assistance to small fishermen.

190. As a follow-up to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD), some countries in the Region, particularly the Philippines are now interested in initiating "aquarian reform" for small fishermen and small fish farmers.

191. The Conference recognized the complex and special problems of small fishermen and fish farmers. It noted Member Governments' efforts to assist them with: improved craft and fishing technology, reduction of post-harvest losses, better fish handling, processing, marketing and credit facilities. Other measures taken relate to provision of subsidies and relief insurance, training and extension services, and promoting fishermen's organizations.

192. Development of aquaculture, especially seafarming in coastal areas and integrated fish/crop/livestock farming in inland areas, was emphasized as an effective means to increase incomes of small fishermen and rural fish farmers. FAO assistance in these fields has been valuable and was appreciated by Member Countries.

193. The Conference commended FAO's Small Farmers Development Programme and strongly recommended the expansion of the programme to cover small fishermen in more countries. It requested FAO to seek additional funding support for this programme.

194. The Conference supported the programme on the role of women in fisheries and suggested that the collaborative efforts by FAO/FSCAP be continued.

195. The Conference emphasized the value of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) in the transfer of experiences and appropriate technology. It suggested that FAO should find additional sources of funding for these activities.

Regional Implications of a Strategy for Forest Resources Development (Conservation, Utilization and Management (APRC/82/9))

196. The Regional Forestry Economist introduced this agenda item. He outlined the strategy endorsed by the Fifth Session of the Committee on Forestry and subsequently approved by the FAO Council and Conference. This strategy emphasizes the integration of the productive, protective and social objectives to maximize forestry's contribution to rural development. Equity should reinforce such a strategy of growth. Active and voluntary participation of people living in forest communities should be sought.

197. He reviewed the current situation of forest resources in the Region. The FAO/UNDP study (1981) reveals that the current rate of deforestation of closed forests in tropical Asia is running at some 5 000 ha. per day. If this trend continues, by the year 2000, some 37 million ha. of closed forest area would have been converted to non-forestry uses in tropical areas of the Region. On the other hand, replanting amounts to less than 10 per cent of the area deforested.

198. FAO's Global Reconnaissance Survey of Fuelwood Supplies and Needs estimated that in the Asia-Pacific region, in 1980, close to a billion people lived in fuelwood deficit situation. About 31 million are in acute scarcity areas, unable to meet even minimum energy needs.

199. The extent of deforestation and fuelwood scarcities are interrelated issues. To a great extent, deforestation is a response to increasing demand for timber and fuelwood by a growing population.

200. The approaches to remedy the situation include rational management of existing forest resources and creation of additional resources, through active participation of people.

201. Trends in tropical timber utilization and marketing in the Region were also reviewed. Forestry education, training and research priorities were discussed.

202. The Conference recognized the key role of forestry in rural development. It agreed that forestry strategy should be directed at the eradication of poverty, giving local communities more access to goods and services generated by forestry and forest based activities. It was emphasized that equitable participation of the rural people is a requisite for successful management of forest resources. The importance of improving the living conditions of shifting cultivators was stressed.

203. Forestry strategies should reflect national needs and priorities, the Conference indicated. The forestry sector is an integral component of the national economy. Adequate and appropriate productive resources of land, capital and manpower should be allocated to enable forestry to generate the essential goods and services to complement other sectors of the economy.

204. The Conference emphasized that the role of forests in maintaining environmental quality, conserving soil and water resources and ensuring ecological balance are crucial for successful agricultural and rural development. In this connection, the need for intensifying watershed management practices was stressed. It endorsed the view that minimum forest cover should be maintained to safeguard the environment and that transfer of forest lands to non-forestry uses be monitored and controlled. The need for conservation and rational management of wildlife resources specially in the buffer zones was emphasized. FAO was requested to assist the governments in these tasks.

205. The Conference recommended a thorough assessment of social, economic and environmental effects of fuelwood depletion and implementation of programmes for increased production and efficient use of fuelwood. FAO was requested to assist countries in developing a regional project to exchange seeds, plant material and technical know-how to establish plantations of quick-growing species. The need for supporting land-locked countries and LDCs was specially emphasized. The Conference suggested that work on checking the rate of desertification and management of arid and semi-arid areas should receive sufficient importance.

206. The Conference agreed that domestic processing of forest produce should be encouraged. The need for encouraging cooperative measures in classification, standardization and other aspects of timber trade, on regional and sub-regional basis, was stressed.

207. The Conference expressed concern at the over-exploitation of commercially known major timber species, and emphasized the need for promoting utilization of lesser-known species.

208. The Conference recognized the need for expanding and reorienting training facilities in the Region to meet the emerging requirements, particularly in forestry sector, planning and forestry extension work.

209. The Conference recommended that research on agro-forestry, integrated agricultural and forestry systems and multiple use forestry be intensified. Importance of work relating to seed sources, provenances and clones was highlighted.

Follow-up to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development: A Progress Report (APRC/82/3)

210. The Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department, introduced this agenda item. He recalled the progress made by FAO since the 15th FAO Regional Conference and requested delegates for information on progress made in WCARRD follow-up action in their respective countries. He stated that FAO is committed to assisting member countries in the implementation of the WCARRD Programme of Action. The main thrust of FAO's effort is to promote growth with equity through the broad-based participation of the rural poor. In Asia and the Pacific, this challenge is indeed great in view of the extent and incidence of rural poverty, characterised by large and growing number of landless and small marginal farmers. He stated further that FAO is giving high priority to people's participation and role of NGO's in agrarian reform and rural development. He also dealt with the essential elements of WCARRD follow-up action in the Region with particular reference to re-orientation of national strategies, access to land, strengthening of rural extension and training programmes, integration of women in rural development and the need for monitoring and evaluation with people's participation.

211. The Conference expressed satisfaction with the progress made by FAO in orienting its policies and technical programmes towards the objectives of the WCARRD Programme of Action. The need for allocation of more resources for WCARRD follow-up was emphasized.

212. It recalled WCARRD recommendations on agrarian reforms and agreed immediate action should be taken to implement these recommendations.

213. The Conference laid stress on programmes of participation by the lowest income groups and rural women. The need for providing incentives and motivation to the rural poor was emphasized.

214. Rural development projects should reflect the problems and needs of the people, the Conference emphasized. This is possible only when people are involved in local level planning implementation and evaluation. Furthermore, it is necessary to be sensitive to the needs and aspirations of the people and be accountable to them.

215. The Conference also emphasized the important role that could be played by NGOs in securing people's participation, farmer training, collection of community level statistics and dissemination of information. It urged countries to encourage the involvement of NGO's in the implementation of WCARRD Programme of Action. It noted with satisfaction the activities of the Asian NGO Coalition on WCARRD Follow-up.

216. The Conference recognized the important contribution being made by FAO's Small Farmers/Fishermen Development Programme (SFDP) in increasing income of small farmers and promoting their effective participation in decision making. It recognized the success of SFDP Projects and stressed the need for increased national and international funding for their expansion. IFAD funding, following FAO's SFDP project in Nepal, was cited in this connection.

217. FAO's follow-up action on monitoring and evaluation was endorsed and the Conference endorsed the report of the Regional Expert Consultation on Monitoring and Evaluation held in Bangkok in April, 1982. Several delegates stressed the need to limit the list of indicators in relation to available data.

218. The Conference recognized the need for countries to submit their individual country reports to FAO early in 1983. This will enable the Secretariat to prepare the consolidated report for the 1983 FAO Conference.

219. FAO's proposal to assist countries with country report outlines, monitoring and evaluation guidelines, in-depth country studies and other support was welcomed.

220. The Conference considered the problem of the transfer of rural savings to the urban sector and its adverse effect on rural development. It urged that this transfer should be restrained. This could be the subject of a workshop as well as for periodical monitoring and evaluation.

221. The Conference noted with satisfaction the Second Inter-Governmental Consultation on the Follow-up of WCARRD's recommendations. It endorsed the proposal to hold the Third Consultation in 1983, preferably before the next session of the FAO Conference.

222. The Conference recognized the important role of CIRDAP in promoting agrarian reform and rural development in the Region and urged all member governments to join its work. It noted the assistance of FAO, other UN Agencies, donor countries and organizations and called on all concerned to provide further financial and technical support of CIRDAP's programme of work. The work of ESCAP, APDC, ILO and other United Nations organizations in the Region for promoting rural development was also noted.

Food Security in Asia and the Pacific (APRC/82/4 and Suppl. 1)

223. The Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department, presented the Agenda Item. He noted that harvests had improved in many developing countries in the Region in the past season. Some countries were even approaching self-sufficiency. Yet, the Region as a whole remained a major net importing area of cereals. It was also highly vulnerable to natural and man-made disasters.

224. There has been progress, at national, regional and global levels, in improving food security. But the need for initiatives, recommendations and programmes at the global level to be applied more systematically at the regional and sub-regional levels in Asia and the Pacific remained.

225. The Regional Conference had the opportunity to recommend practical ways of developing a more concerted approach. This could harness energies and strengths of both the developing and developed countries of the Region to achieve progressively a more secure food security position.

226. The Conference noted the policies and programmes which the countries in the Region had adopted to strengthen the food security situation. These covered a wide range of activities and included: production, distribution, reserves, and measures to stabilize supplies and prices in the interests of both producers and consumers. Despite these efforts, many countries were still troubled by food insecurity, arising from fluctuations in domestic production from year to year, as well as from instability in world supplies and prices. The poorest countries and the impoverished sections of the population suffered the most in years of domestic crop shortfalls or of rising food prices in world markets during times of shortages. Food security issues of the developing countries were integrally linked to the problem of poverty. This needed to be tackled by massive and broad-based economic and social programmes which would increase the incomes and the purchasing power of the poor people.

227. The Conference identified five major food security problems. These were: (A) The Region's staple food, rice, was grown mainly under rainfed conditions. (B) A sizeable quantity of food was lost during harvesting, threshing, drying, storage, processing and distribution. (C) Developing countries found it increasingly difficult to finance their import needs as import requirements escalated. This problem was accentuated by poor crop forecasting and resulting uncertainty of import needs. (D) Progress in building national reserve stocks had been slow due to a variety of constraints. (F) Food delivery systems in most developing countries were inadequate. This hindered speedy delivery of food to crisis locations.

228. The Conference stressed that the fundamental solution to food insecurity was accelerating food production in low-income food-deficit countries themselves. In this connection, the need to raise the production of rice and wheat, which are staples for most people, was recognized, although the importance of other foods was also stressed. Particular emphasis was placed on the importance of irrigation and appropriate water management, supply of adequate production inputs and maintenance of ecological balance. Importance of reducing food losses through a series of inter-related measures in harvesting, drying, quality control, transportation, distribution, etc., was also highlighted. The Conference stressed the need for improving food security infrastructure, and where appropriate, national reserve stocks. Measures to improve the preparedness of the countries to meet acute and large-scale food shortages were also needed.

229. The Conference further agreed that national efforts in these areas need to be supported by financial and technical assistance from the international community. It stressed the role that FAO could play in assisting the countries in organizing consultative meetings of donors at country level, where appropriate, and in promoting TCDC and FCDC activities. A number of delegates expressed readiness of their countries to share experiences and expertise in the field of food security with other interested countries in the Region.

230. The Conference recognized that food supply involved several inter-locking components, namely: production security, input security, ecological security, technological security and physical security, i.e. prevention of crop losses.

231. The Conference recognized that to strengthen food security work has to be carried out at national, regional, and global levels. At the global level, a number of initiatives to promote food security already exist. These included the International Emergency Food Reserve, the FAO Global Information and Early Warning System, the Special FAO Action Programmes for Food Security Assistance and the Prevention of Food Losses. The Committee on World Food Security acted as the focal point for global consultations on food security problems.

232. While appreciating the valuable contribution of these global activities to food security, the Conference expressed the need for closer cooperation at the regional and sub-regional levels. It noted that the FAO Five-Point Plan of Action recognized the urgent need for promoting collective self-reliance in the vital sector of food security and urged the international community to extend all necessary support to such efforts. It welcomed that within the Region, the ASFAN countries had pioneered food security cooperation by establishing the first sub-regional emergency food reserve and other supplementary measures aimed at strengthening food security.

233. A number of delegations proposed that a specialized technical forum on food security, at the regional level, should be established by FAO. This body would promote and guide the activities on food security in the Region. FAO is the specialized UN agency for food and agriculture. It has the lead responsibility in respect of food security, through its Committee on World Food Security set up by the United Nations General Assembly. These delegations believed a specialized forum, under FAO auspices in the Region, would enable expertise and experience to be utilized for the promotion of food security in the Region. In their opinion, establishment of a regional forum for food security would be a logical extension of what governments had already agreed needed to be done to strengthen food security in the Region. Similarities in the food security problems, faced by the countries in the Region, called for cooperative action at the sub-regional and regional levels. This could be promoted by a regional forum. Moreover, the experience of some countries in the Region in pioneering sub-regional arrangements for food security could be drawn upon by others, through interchange of experience in a regional forum. This body could also help tap into the accumulated vast pool of technical information and expertise in respect of national food security policies, programmes and schemes including stock management, production planning, food distribution and marketing.

234. These delegations pointed out a regional forum could also help in applying and implementing global programmes of action at regional and sub-regional levels. It would take fully into account the needs and circumstances of the countries in the Region. Similarly, it would provide an excellent vehicle for transmitting the specific problems and requirements of the Region to World Committee on Food Security for appropriate attention and follow-up at global level. A regional forum would set directions for food security activities in the Region and help assess needs, and identify ways of mobilizing resources and of implementing food security programmes and projects.

235. While strongly endorsing the need for closer regional cooperative action towards strengthening food security, some delegates cautioned against possible duplication of efforts and overlapping of activities with those already being undertaken by other organizations in the Region. Some delegates had difficulties in adequately assessing the proposal because of the limited information on how the proposed forum would function, and how it would fit within the existing administrative machinery of FAO in the Region. In particular, they made a reference to the ESCAP resolution for a study on regional food supply and distribution which was expected to be completed by the end of 1983. This Resolution had called for cooperation between FAO and ESCAP in carrying out the study. Establishment of a regional specialized forum should await the outcome of this study. They were doubtful about the usefulness of the setting up of additional UN institutions.

236. Delegations in favour of a regional forum pointed out that the proposal was to set up a continuing action-oriented body similar to the six other FAO technical fora currently working on other subject matters: farm management, fisheries, forestry, statistics, animal production and health. In their view, it would operate as an FAO specialized technical forum and would not conflict with the proposed ESCAP study. In fact, there were also other on-going studies within the UN System in other international organizations on different aspects of food security with a specific bearing on this Region. The results of these would be also considered within a regional forum with a view to formulating action programmes.

237. Delegates supporting the proposal responded: FAO's on-going programmes and projects in the Region encompassed various aspects of food security, including food security infrastructure, national food reserves, training in stock management and policies, food information and early warning system, etc. Such a forum would help a coordinated and integrated consideration of these programmes and projects as well as their regional and sub-regional aspects. In their view, a regional forum could in fact assist in avoiding unnecessary duplication of activities by different agencies. It would lead to greater effectiveness in helping countries to implement food security programmes.

238. It was stated that should such a regional forum be set up, it would be serviced within existing FAO resources in a manner which would not constitute an incremental burden on the FAO budget in the future.

Development and Operation of Regional Programmes and Projects (APRC/82/10)

239. The Chief of the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, Development Department, introduced this Agenda Item. He reviewed the progress made since the last Conference in the development and implementation of the regional programme and projects, with special reference to UNDP supported projects. For 1982-86 there were 29 regional projects approved for execution by FAO. Twelve of these projects were continued from the Second Intercountry Programme Cycle (IPC) and are operational. Another 17 are in the pipeline of which six have been fully formulated and documents are in the final stages of approval. Project formulation is proceeding in the case of 10 other projects. One has been circulated to the governments for endorsement.

240. Funds presently earmarked for projects to be executed in the Third IPC total some US\$ 21.7 million. This is approximately 13.1 percent of the total US\$ 166 million so far programmed. A mid-term review of the IPC is scheduled for 1983 during which the US\$ 60 million earmarked for future activities will be programmed for implementation from 1984 to 1986.

241. He reported briefly on other regional projects, outside UNDP (IPC), in which FAO is involved. The FAO/Government Cooperative Programme funded 22 operational projects with a total value of some US\$ 21 million.

242. He underlined the need for continuous consultations with member governments during the formulation, implementation and follow-up of individual regional projects. Most regional projects should be considered as the initial phase of an inter-country programme based on the network approach. They aim eventually at increasing the exchange of information and communication, expertise and appropriate technologies, among participating countries within the framework of TCDC.

243. The Conference recognized the usefulness of the national and inter-country consultations and the inter-agency consultations in developing regional programmes and projects. This procedure should be continued.

244. It was pointed out that there should be proper linkages between the country and inter-country projects. Inter-country linkages should be enhanced by strengthening regional network systems in the spirit of TCDC. Priority should be given to utilize the expertise and technology as appropriate from the Region to make the regional programmes more cost-effective.

245. The Conference expressed its concern that the share allocated to the agricultural sector from the UNDP regional IPF was not commensurate with the need and importance of this sector in the Region. In this connection, the UNDP was strongly urged to increase the allocation to agriculture from its regional IPF.

246. The Conference noted the explanation given by the UNDP Resident Representative on the objectives of Regional Projects and the procedures for their implementation during the Third Cycle (1982-86).

247. Some delegations felt that the information provided on regional projects was not sufficient. It was suggested that the document submitted to the Conference should provide profiles of the regional projects proposed and/or submitted to the UNDP for funding. This should also include information on regional projects supported by trust funds.

248. It was stressed that allocation of funds to regional programmes and projects should be in line with the priorities mandated by the FAO Regional Conference so as to better meet the needs of disadvantaged groups: small farmers, artisanal fishermen, etc. Priority should be given to integrated farming systems in different agro-ecological zones, rainfed agriculture, WCARRD follow-up, food security, follow-up to the World Soil Charter, and building up national institutional and technological capability through regional projects. It was further suggested that a regional project on buffalo development should be expanded to include nutrition, reproduction and economic feeding systems. A new project to cover such dryland crops as gram and groundnut should also be considered.

249. The Conference recommended that the issues concerning the development and operation of regional programmes and projects should continue in the agenda of FAO Regional Conferences.

Representation of the Region on the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) (APRC/82/11)

250. The Secretary of the Regional Conference introduced this Agenda Item. He requested the delegations to examine the proposal for extending the term of office of elected regional representatives for a minimum of four years with the possibility of a two-year extension for one of the representatives. This will allow continuity in representation.

251. The regional representatives explained their participation in the CGIAR Governing Meeting. They pointed out that the present arrangements constrained the representatives from fully representing the regional research needs and programmes, by lack of finances to travel and contact the countries of the Region which is so vast.

252. The Conference agreed to extend the term of office of the regional representatives for a four-year period.

253. The Conference also decided that the present representatives should continue for another two years. The regional representatives to be elected by the 17th FAO Regional Conference in 1984 should be for a four-year term.

254. The Conference strongly felt the need for the elected Regional Representatives to consult with other member countries. For this purpose, the Conference recommended that FAO should arrange a consultation at the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in consultation with Governments before the CGIAP Meeting as appropriate.

255. The Conference further suggested that in view of the importance of exchange of information and experience in agricultural research, delegates should come prepared to the next Regional Conference to discuss the research problems in the Region. The elected regional representatives to CGIAP should also attend the Regional Conference. This will provide an opportunity for receiving the feed back from the CGIAP as well as to obtain an assessment of the research needs of the regional countries.

FAO Programme in the Region (APRC/82/2)

256. The FAO Regional Representative introduced this item which covers FAO's proposed programme of work for 1982-83. He said the incoming Regional Representative will take, as his brief, the programme adopted by the Conference. When considered in the context of the Region's vast range of needs, the Programme of Work proposed is modest. It seeks merely to reinforce, where requested, the efforts of Governments.

257. More important, the modest programme is an affirmation of hope in a world haunted by failure to control the arms race. Adoption of a programme to feed the hungry constitutes a small achievement in a failure-haunted world.

258. He noted the recurring theme in Conference discussions was: despite increased food availability, the lives of the landless worker, subsistence farmer or artisanal fisherman, as well as the urban poor, have become even more bleak. The Conference therefore addressed itself to two main issues, namely:

- (a) That of increasing the productivity of the small farmers and raising of incomes and purchasing power of vulnerable groups; and
- (b) Devising mechanisms to enhance food security for the Region.

259. Fortunately, the policy framework for a broad-based approach had been set by Governments in a number of major fora, he said. One was the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. The others include: the World Soil Charter, the New Regime of the Sea and the World Conservation Strategy. A plan of action is to emerge from the World Conference on Fisheries.

260. The programme, outlined in APRC/82/1, took into consideration these universal charters, as well as the six priority areas, mandated by earlier Regional Conferences. They also incorporated recommendations of technical bodies and inter-governmental commissions of FAO.

261. The Conference decided to retain the six existing priority areas, as now formulated. These are:

- I. Promotion of active participation of small farmers in socio-economic development and increasing their productivity and income;
- II. Development of rainfed and semi-arid agriculture;
- III. Promotion of food security and prevention of pre- and post-harvest losses;
- IV. Promotion of crop/livestock/fish integrated farming systems;
- V. Development of aquaculture and fishing and socio-economic improvement of small fishermen; and
- VI. Promotion of forestry for local community development.

262. Under Priority Area I, efforts will be made to expand the coverage of the Small Farmers' Development Programme. Increased national and international funding for their expansion is to be sought. Special efforts will be made to involve women and rural youth. Effective participation of small farmers in local level planning, implementation and evaluation of projects will be promoted. Assistance to NGOs involved in WCARRD follow-up will continue. The Asian NGO Coalition will be encouraged to expand its network. CIRDAP will be assisted in its missions. The small farmer group marketing and training programmes will be intensified. Nutrition programmes will focus on improving the nutrition levels of the poorest sectors.

263. Priority Area Two - In seeking to improve rainfed and semi-arid agriculture, attention will be focussed on development of small and medium-scale irrigation and water conservation activities and training on water management at the farm level. Information systems will be developed to improve quality of ill-drained soils and salinity in rainfed and semi-arid areas. A regional project on soil conservation will be prepared. Action programmes will continue to promote proper utilization of organic waste as fertilizer and to maximize effect of fertilizer application and biological nitrogen fixation. Training of medium and lower-level technicians at village and farm levels, are to be augmented, in collaboration with the national institutions and through TCDC arrangements.

264. Priority Area Three - As directed by the Conference, steps will be taken to establish a Commission on Food Security for Asia and the Pacific. The food security situation in the Region will be kept under constant review. Food information and early warning systems at national, sub-regional and regional levels are to be promoted. Member countries will be assisted in the formulation and implementation of action programmes to strengthen food security. Exchange of expertise and experiences among countries through TCDC will continue to be encouraged. And measures leading to collective self-reliance in food supplies both in the short term and in the long term will be identified and promoted.

265. Activities in prevention of post-harvest losses will emphasize field drying and processing of food grains. Practical applications of biomass, solar and wind energy for agriculture will be developed through TCDC arrangements.

266. Priority Area Four - as recommended by the Conference, integrated (crop/livestock/fish/forestry) farming systems for better and fuller utilization of the limited resources available to the small farm households will be promoted. A regional project "Development of Integrated and Mixed Farming Systems and Water Conservancies in Rainfed Areas" will initiate activities for improving the income of small farmers in non-irrigated areas. Under the regional buffalo development project, training of junior buffalo research scientists and dissemination of research results will be undertaken. The regional livestock development project for the Pacific will strengthen animal health services activities and production of poultry, pigs and goats.

267. Priority Area Five - The Conference recognized the complex and special problems of small fishermen and fish farmers. As recommended by the Conference, member governments will be assisted in encouraging use of improved craft and fishing technology, reduction of post-harvest losses, better fish handling, processing, marketing and credit facilities. FAO will also assist Governments in sensitizing rural fishing and fish farming communities on WCARRD's Programme of Action. Efforts will be intensified to pursue the TCDC programme in rural aquaculture and small fishermen development. More active participation and involvement of women and youth in rural fisheries community development will be promoted.

268. Priority Area Six - In forestry, attention will be sharply focussed on meeting the needs of local communities and conserving the environment. Assistance to member governments in developing agro-forestry, multiple use forestry, homestead forestry, energy plantations and appropriate forest based industries in rural areas will be continued.

269. The Asia Pacific Forest Industries Development Group (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia) will provide consultant services in forestry sector planning, and in solving functional difficulties of particular industries. The Centre for Forestry Education, Research and Development (Los Baños, Philippines) will cater to the needs of training of forestry teachers. The Regional Training Center in Forest Inventory (Dehra Dun, India) will provide training in forest inventory, including photo-interpretation. As recommended by the Conference, a regional project on wood energy will be prepared. Information exchange programmes in wildlife and national park management will be enhanced, and technical support will be provided to expand national activities in wildlife management.

270. In implementing the programme of action under the Priority Areas, the need for exploring and strengthening the possibilities for TCDC was underlined. The FAO Regional Office should continue to play an active role in providing cost-effective services to member countries in identifying their needs, preparation, implementation and review of projects and in promoting TCDC.

SUMMARY STATEMENTS

271. The Director-General and the Assistant Director-General, Regional Representative delivered summary statements to the Plenary Session.

Director-General

272. In his statement, the Director-General said that member governments were privileged to have President Soeharto inaugurate the Conference. In his address the President pinpointed FAO's basic concerns stating: The ultimate goal of development is the improvement of the spiritual and material well-being of the people. The life of the majority of people in the Region depends on the agricultural sector.

273. The report of the Technical Committee was logical, concise and clear, the Director-General said it reflected the increasing competence of this region's agricultural experts. Its recommendations will serve as practical guidelines for FAO.

274. The overpowering impression that emerged from Conference discussions, he added, was the heightened perception of the continuing threat hunger poses to Asia and the Pacific. There is a parallel awareness of the continuing persistence of rural poverty within a context of environmental degradation.

275. Most delegations stressed that economic growth, spurred by measures that ensure equitable distribution of benefits, lead to stability. This conviction had been written into the Jakarta Consensus on Equity, Growth and Stability for Development which the Conference adopted. He congratulated Indonesia for preparing the draft and the Conference for adopting unanimously this socially-significant document.

276. The Director-General observed that the Jakarta Consensus was built on a paradox: It is the hungry who must provide the food. The burden of producing the food that increasing populations require rested on the frail shoulders of the malnourished: The artisanal fishermen, small farmers, landless labourers, or shifting cultivators who till the vast rainfed areas. The people expected to carry out a production breakthrough are those who, by conventional criteria, are least able to do so. They can do this task, if the resources to help themselves are placed within their reach.

277. He concurred with the Conference's decision to maintain the priorities for FAO's work in the region under the umbrella of small farmer development.

278. He noted many delegations underscored the urgent need, at a time, of good harvests, to reinforce food security arrangements. The commendable initiative of the ASEAN countries in setting up their own reserves had strengthened the resolve for similar action in south Asia and the Pacific.

279. Discussions led to the Conference's unanimous adoption of a resolution inviting the FAO Director-General to take the necessary steps to establish a regional commission on food security for Asia and the Pacific.

280. To enable the landless labourers and small farmers of this region to work their way up to higher levels of productivity - so essential for enhanced food security - external assistance will continue to be needed, the Director-General said. But there has been a steady erosion of official commitments to external assistance for agriculture. Deterioration set in when external assistance is most needed to build up a production momentum that could carry into the 1990s.

281. He observed that in a period of sluggish economic growth, the immediate reaction is to cut aid. Assistance is treated as an optional item-available in periods of abundance and abandoned in times of scarcity. This short-sighted approach is reinforced by the fact that landless farmers, locked into impoverished villages thousands of miles away, do not constitute a visible and vocal constituency.

282. Yet experience shows, "assistance to the poor is the insurance we take out on our lives", he said. Stability rests ultimately on equitable growth.

283. He underscored appreciation to Australia for its policy decision to increase its contribution to World Food Programme and to the International Emergency Food Reserve. The best way to appreciate Australia's decision is to recall the old Asian proverb that: "Aid promptly given is aid doubled."

284. He added that the importance of emergency food reserves can be appreciated better when one considers there are seven million refugees, orphans, uprooted by war or natural calamities in this region.

285. A second resolution asks FAO to develop a plan of action on new and renewable sources of rural energy geared to the needs of Asia and the Pacific. The plan is to cover various renewable sources of energy. Special attention is to be given to integrated systems of energy supply. In responding, FAO will also seek to coordinate this with programmes to curb the rate of forest destruction, raise fuelwood production and increase reafforestation.

286. He noted the wide-based support for the holding of the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development. This was reflected in the detailed list of issues countries wish to discuss. FAO will ensure that consultations in the preparations for the World Conference will continue. Simultaneously, FAO will seek to expand the coverage of FAO's small farmers development programme to cover small fishermen and pay increased attention to the role of women in fisheries.

287. Countries had forcefully stressed the crucial role that agrarian reforms play in drastically improving the status of small farmers. Others underscored how people's participation is articulated by farmers' organizations.

288. FAO will continue to assist member countries in follow-up to WCARRD, particularly in monitoring rural development and people's participation. CIRDAP could be of assistance in this regard.

289. He further noted other significant observations by various delegations. Among these were: (A) Warnings against protectionism and seeking liberalized access of agricultural products to the markets of advanced countries; and (B) Desire of countries to cooperate in exploiting the vast water resources of the great river basins in south Asia.

290. He thanked countries that offered to host the Seventeenth FAO Regional Conference. The venue will be decided in consultation with member countries.

291. On the Conference resolution adopted on the retirement of Dr. Umali and the glowing tributes paid to him, the Director-General said that all that remains for FAO is to say "how proud we are to have had such a man in our ranks." He then reiterated his gratitude to the Indonesian Government and officials.

Regional Representative

292. In his statement, the Regional Representative referred to earlier discussions on FAO's relationship with ESCAP in the fields of food and agriculture. Some delegations called for greater collaboration between the two agencies. ESCAP's Deputy Executive Secretary had enumerated, in detail, several programmes and projects wherein FAO and ESCAP worked successfully together.

293. FAO's constructive collaboration with ESCAP is, therefore, on record. Despite this record, FAO is constantly asked "to cooperate."

294. It must be recognized that where identical mandates are given, both on the basis of geographical area as well as in discipline, the potential for duplication exists. In fact, ESCAP's priorities proposed for 1982 bore a marked resemblance to Article One of the FAO Constitution written in 1945.

295. There are similar coincidences, he said: The resolution asking ESCAP to carry out a limited study in food supply and distribution fell squarely within the area of concern of the World Committee on World Food Security set up by the General Assembly in 1974. Despite this mandate, there were suggestions that further work on food security await the outcome of ESCAP's ad-hoc and admittedly fragmentary study.

296. To allay fears of duplication, it was claimed that the Commission's work transcends sectoral boundaries. This theory is dangerous, he said: What happens when transcending sectoral boundaries becomes overlap and duplication?

297. He recalled that, on several occasions in the past, the FAO Liaison Office in New York drew the attention of the United Nations Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) repeatedly to instances of growing overlap. Upon request of the Netherlands, the CPC decided on 27 May, despite ESCAP's objections, to review the food and agricultural activities of ESCAP in relation to FAO at its twenty-third session in 1981.

298. The Regional Representative raised a "practical problem" drawn from his experience in the Regional Office. FAO has 470 experts, in most fields of food and agriculture, working in the Region. Most work in project sites. FAO's projects in this Region exceed a billion dollars, and are backstopped by more than a thousand specialists in all departments at Headquarters and a core staff at the Regional Office. Yet, FAO is constantly pressed that this work should be coordinated by ESCAP's Agriculture Division which has less than 10 technical officers sitting in Bangkok. Is this a case of the tail trying to wag the dog?, he asked.

299. He noted an understandable desire to paper over the duplication problem. But the problem exists. And it prejudices all, especially the rural communities.

300. The Regional Representative recalled ESCAP's claim to a "leadership and coordinating role". But debates about mandates or claims to leadership roles and coordinating functions are sterile, he said: They do not produce food. They merely dissipate energies.

301. The cardinal responsibility of a coordinator is to scrupulously recognize and respect the mandates of other agencies. By building on this sensitive approach, the coordination orchestrates the efforts of all he said.

302. At the end of a long career in development work he was convinced leadership cannot be imposed; it can only be earned. Leadership is service. It cannot be decreed. Leadership seeks to bring forth the creativity and genius of others and not to wring compliance from them. It does not compete. It implies sacrifices and is not self-seeking.

303. The Regional Representative thanked the Indonesian Government and officials for their hosting of the Conference. He expressed his appreciation to member countries for the resolution they had adopted on his retirement.

CONCLUDING ITEMS

Adoption of the "Jakarta Consensus"

304. The Conference, while agreeing that growth oriented policies and programmes meant for raising the productivity of the rural poor are essential, asserted that equitable participation of the rural poor in the benefits of growth is necessary for national, regional as well as global stability. It called upon governments to base their strategies and programmes for food and agricultural development on the guiding principles of Equity, Growth and Stability. Accordingly, the Conference unanimously adopted the Jakarta Consensus on Equity, Growth and Stability, the full text of which appears at the beginning of this Report.

Adoption of Resolutions

305. In addition to the recommendations made during the discussions on the agenda items, the Conference adopted unanimously the following Resolutions:

Resolution 82/1 - Food Security in Asia and the Pacific.

Resolution 82/2 - New and Renewable Sources of Energy in Agriculture and Rural Development

Resolution 82/3 - Promotion and Improvement of Integrated Farming Systems in Asia and the Pacific Region.

Resolution 82/4 - Retirement of Dr. Dioscoro L. Umali.

306. Resolutions appear in the section entitled "Resolution and Recommendations."

Dates and Place of the Seventeenth FAO Regional Conference

307. The delegation from Pakistan stated that their Government will be pleased to host, in 1984, the Seventeenth FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific. They transmitted this proposal to the Director-General of FAO. In his summary statement the Director-General of FAO said that due consideration will be given to Pakistan's invitation, along with offers from other countries. The dates and place of the next Regional Conference will be decided in consultation with member governments.

Closing of the Conference

308. In their closing statements, all delegations regarded the Sixteenth FAO Regional Conference as highly purposeful. It has reinforced the philosophical thrust of development work in the Region by adopting the Jakarta Consensus on Equity, Growth and Stability. The candid and constructive exchange of views resulted in meaningful Resolutions and sound Recommendations. A practical and realistic programme of work was drawn up.

309. The Conference thanked the Chairman, the Vice-Chairmen, Chairman of the Technical Committee, Chairman and Members of the Drafting Committee and other office bearers of the Conference for efficiently performing their tasks.

310. The Conference commended the Secretariat for the excellent quality of the documentation and its efficient work.

411. All delegations expressed their appreciation to the government of Indonesia, especially to the Minister of Agriculture, for hosting the Conference as well as for the generous hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the Conference.

312. The Regional Representative voiced the sentiments of all delegations when he said that they were deeply privileged to have the Conference inaugurated by His Excellency President Soeharto and to benefit from the inspiration of his address.

313. On behalf of FAO, he expressed his sincerest thanks to the Minister of Agriculture and the government of Indonesia for their exemplary hospitality and facilities provided for the Conference. He specially thanked Dr. Alhambra Rachman, Dr. Salmon Padmanegara, members of the Organizing Committee and the Secretariat of the host government for their painstaking efforts to make the Conference a success.

314. On behalf of the government of Indonesia, Prof. Soedarsono Hadisapoetro made the closing statement. He expressed Indonesia's appreciation for being able to host the Conference. He then declared the Sixteenth FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific closed.

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LIST OF DOCUMENTS

APRC/82/1	Provisional Agenda
APRC/82/1(a)	Provisional Annotated Agenda
APRC/82/2	FAO Programme in the Region: (a) Report on the FAO Activities in the Region including Action taken on the Resolutions and main Recommendations presented at the previous Regional Conference; (b) FAO Programme of Work in the Region: 1982-83
APRC/82/3	Follow-up to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD): A Progress Report
APRC/82/4	Food Security in Asia and the Pacific
APRC/82/5	New and Renewable Sources of Energy for Agriculture and Rural Development
APRC/82/6	Improvement and Stabilization of Productivity of Food, Cash Crops and Livestock, particularly in Smallholdings
APRC/82/7	Report on the Preparations of the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development, 1983
APRC/82/8	Development Policies and Programmes for Social and Economic Improvement of Small Fishermen and Fish Farmers in Rural Communities
APRC/82/9	Regional Implications of a Development Strategy (conservation, utilization and management) of Forest Resources
APRC/82/10	Development and Operation of Regional Programmes and Projects
APRC/82/11	Representation of the Region on the CGIAR.
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APRC/82/INF/1	Information Note
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Technical Committee (1-5 June)

1. Election of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Technical Committee
2. FAO Programme in the Region:
 - (a) Report on the FAO Activities in the Region including Action taken on the Resolutions and main Recommendations presented at the previous Regional Conference
 - (b) FAO Programme of Work in the Region: 1982-83
3. New and Renewable Sources of Energy for Agriculture and Rural Development
4. Improvement and Stabilization of Productivity of Food, Cash Crops and Livestock, particularly in Smallholdings
5. Report on the Preparations of the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development, 1983
6. Development Policies and Programmes for Social and Economic Improvement of *Small Fishermen*
7. Regional Implications of a Strategy for Forest Resources Development (Conservation, Utilization and Management)
8. Follow-up to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD): A Progress Report
9. Food Security in Asia and the Pacific
10. Development and Operation of Regional Programmes and Projects
11. Representation of the Region on the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

Plenary Session (7-11 June)

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Statement by the Director-General
5. Country Statements
6. Consideration of the Technical Committee Report
7. Other Matters
8. Date and Place of the Seventeenth FAO Regional Conference
9. Adoption of the Summary Report

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL TO THE PLENARY

On behalf of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and of all delegates here present, I wish to thank His Excellency the President of Indonesia, General Soeharto, for inviting FAO to hold its Sixteenth Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific.

The warm welcome we have received reconfirms the renowned traditions of Indonesian hospitality which we have had the great fortune to experience: particularly in 1956, when the Third Regional Conference of FAO was held in Bandung, and in October 1978 on the occasion of the World Forestry Congress here in Jakarta.

May I, therefore, kindly request His Excellency the Minister of Agriculture, to convey to the Indonesian Government our gratitude for this hospitality and for the excellent facilities placed at the disposal of our Conference.

I would also like to welcome all delegations participating in this Conference, both of our Member Nations and of organizations represented by observers.

I am especially pleased to see many delegations led by Ministers. I look forward to meet them individually, as the Conference provides a unique occasion for dialogue on issues of mutual concern.

The problems that confront food and agriculture in Asia and the Pacific are numerous and complex. It is not possible, within the time available, to discuss all of them. Our agenda, therefore, concentrates on specific issues particularly important to the Region at this time.

I can not stress enough the importance of your discussions here. Your collective views will help in the preparation of the next FAO Conference with its global focus.

We all welcome the improvement in last year's harvests. After two poor seasons, world production of cereals has risen by 100 million tons. This should enable a substantial replenishment of global stocks. Agriculture investment has been stepped-up in some regions. New varieties and new technologies have been introduced. And the process of modernizing farm production has been initiated in a number of countries.

Provisional estimates show an increase in world food production of 2.9 percent. This contrasts sharply with the virtual stagnation of the two preceding years. This improvement occurred both in developing countries, where production rose by 4.4 percent and in the developed ones.

However, this progress is unequally distributed. There are very marked regional differences. It is too early to make projections for the 1982 world crop production. But the prospects for cereal production seem reasonably favourable.

Most of what good news we have, came from Asia and the Pacific.

The wheat harvests in India and Pakistan were satisfactory. Abundant monsoons helped in ensuring good rice harvests in Bangladesh, Burma, China, India, Indonesia, Korea, Thailand. Maize output in the Philippines and Thailand improved. Overall, food production in 1981 increased in Asia by five percent, despite the serious lag, especially in Kampuchea.

It is still too early to assess this year's cereal production as the bulk of the rice and coarse grains crops are yet to be planted. For wheat, however, prospects point to a harvest close to last year's level in China, India, and Pakistan. The outlook for the early rice crops is generally better than in 1981, especially in Indonesia. Prospects for the crucial main rice crops, however, will depend on the monsoon over the next three to four months.

Part of credit goes, of course, to your Governments. Many see agriculture as the foundation for broad-based growth and they have increased resources allocated to it. But no one here will dispute where the final credit must go, namely: to farmers, foresters and fisherfolk -- whose hard labour made this abundance possible -- an abundance they paradoxically have often little share in.

Optimistic global figures can not, however, conceal the growing difficulties of many low-income countries, due to a fall in real commodity prices, and to increased cost and volume of imports.

As a result of these two factors, balance of payments have deteriorated.

The current FAO Commodity Review reports that tea and jute now fetch, in real terms, barely one third of their value of twenty years' ago.

Price instability in commodities such as rubber further aggravates the imbalance of the agricultural trade of the developing countries.

As rising food imports and depressed export returns interlock, the agricultural trade balance of low-income countries has sharply declined -- a matter that deeply concerned the last session of the Committee on Commodity Problems.

Faced with eroding balance of payments, an increasing number of countries were constrained, in 1980-81, to take recourse to the IMF's compensatory financing facility.

Asia and the Pacific need, as I told our last Conference, a further sharp surge in agricultural production.

Yet, for most countries, the conventional options of boosting production, such as the ploughing up of more land, are rapidly closing. The constraints include: lack of arable land, destruction of fertile soil by intensive erosion and the urban growth.

Food needs, in the decades ahead, can only be met through quantum increases in yields.

Natural resources conservation is in fact the key element for long-term, sustainable yield increases.

We must take drastic steps to reverse environmental degradation. Asia cannot continue to clear out its forests, at the rate of nine million hectares yearly, without inflicting irreversible damage on the life-support systems.

Due to acute fuelwood shortages, about 31 million people here can no longer meet even minimum energy needs.

Loss of genetic resources -- the basic building blocks for food and medicine -- is running at rates that can only be described as suicidal.

In response to these problems, your Governments adopted, at the Twenty-First Conference, the Soil Charter. This historically significant document recognizes that land is not a limitless resource.

In the Philippines, over 40 000 hectares of irreplaceable land are lost yearly to urban growth. The farmlands near Los Banos, which has the richest volcanic topsoil, are being paved over. In some countries, factories are being built on land that, for generations, yielded two rice harvests annually.

And all over the Region, impoverished shifting cultivators put forests to the torch, exhaust the thin fertility of the fire-seared soil and move on, in ever-tightening circles, of environmental destruction.

Asian Parliamentarians, meeting in Colombo, have therefore asked: Have we recognized the limits of the carrying capacity of the ecological resources that support us?

"Human needs have already begun to outstrip the productive capacity of many biological systems, as presently managed", their Declaration asserts.

The Principles and Guidelines of the World Soil Charter offer scope for our joint efforts in the years ahead. You will find FAO ready to work with you in this critical area.

In reviewing FAO's programme of work in the Region, you will find much useful work has been done in cooperation with your Governments.

You will notice too how, in response to the priorities you have mandated, individual programmes focus on reaching the most vulnerable sectors of the agricultural population.

But this effort must be seen in the context of this Region's spiralling needs.

Asia and the Pacific face the daunting prospect of having to provide, in less than a generation's time, for well over 3.6 million people. This would constitute more than a full half of humanity by then.

What this task requires is staggering.

Investments in agriculture alone would have to be doubled -- at a time when the level of this Region's expenditures on armaments has tripled and when resources of international financial institutions, for example, IDA, IFAD, and a number of others, have decreased by as much as one third in real terms.

Agricultural production would have to accelerate fast enough to pull away from just barely keeping ahead of population increases.

Historically, cereal production here has, on average, grown at 2.8 percent yearly. This has now to climb rapidly to 3.5 percent, preferably more.

Moreover, we have to sustain this increase in productivity well into the 1990s, if the huge pools of underutilized and restless manpower were also to be absorbed.

If they are not, Asia's cities could be choked by rip-tides of migration. Jakarta could have 16.6 million people by the 21st century, and Shanghai, 22.7 million.

Adequate food systems, required by these megalopolis, still have to be designed and phased in.

The programme your Governments directed FAO to undertake addresses these and other major problems in the agricultural sector.

These include: raising the productivity and income of vulnerable groups; increased food production with emphasis on rainfed and semi-arid agriculture; improvements in food security; prevention of post-harvest losses; promotion of integrated farming systems and social forestry.

Given both the critical nature of these problems as well as their long-term nature, this Conference may wish to retain current priority areas.

This programme will have to be seen in conjunction with the follow-up to WCARRD.

The programme of action, adopted by your Governments, called for structural reforms to widen the access of the rural poor to essential inputs, like land, and to services such as farm level research and credit.

The most vigorous follow-up to WCARRD has been in this Region.

Thanks to your Governments and Regional Office initiatives, high-level missions have been organized, social indicators for monitoring agrarian reform designed and national committees organized.

But much remains to be done, especially in terms of reinforcing our work with talented and dedicated workers from non-governmental organizations.

A Centre for Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific has been in operation for the last two years in Comilla, Bangladesh.

I view it as a potent means of furthering regional cooperation for rural development in this Region. FAO works in close cooperation with CIRDAP. Its continued success and future progress depend primarily upon Member States -- their increasing participation, both financial and technical, in promoting its valuable activities.

Your agenda also deals with new and renewable sources of energy for rural development.

The existing technology for intensifying productivity is energy-intensive. Unfortunately, there is, at the moment, no viable alternative to the expanded use of fossil energy for fertilizer, pesticides, mechanization and pumping.

Research must, therefore, aim at developing approaches based on renewable sources and more efficient use of available energy.

In the rural areas, the energy problem surfaces as a fuelwood crisis.

At present, in Asia and the Pacific Region alone, 31 million people are afflicted daily by acute scarcities of fuelwood. By the year 2000, this number is likely to increase to 53 million.

The gross disparities between the affluent and poor are reflected in this crisis. Microwave ovens are a kitchen fixture in industrialized nations. But millions of women and children, in developing countries, must daily gather fuelwood from ever-lengthening distances as forests retreat further from the pressure of energy demands.

The main lines of action are clear.

Productivity of existing fuelwood resources must be improved through conservation and management. The level of planting must, on average, be increased five-fold. The long-distance transportation of wood, in the form of charcoal, has to be rationally and economically organized. Efficiency of fuelwood use needs to be increased, so as to make better use of available supplies. And where necessary, substitutes for fuelwood have to be found.

Achievement of these solutions will neither be easy nor quick.

Success is assured only if the benefits of fuelwood plantations are more equitably shared, than they have been up to now, with the people who live and work in these communities.

The agriculture of this Region is dominated by small farms.

Our hopes of filling granaries, therefore, rest on these fragmented farms -- and the men and women who work them. But the small farmer is locked into subsistence treadmills by unjust agrarian structures. Decades of benign neglect have cut him off from the development mainstream.

He is often voiceless. Together with his family, he lives a life truncated by disease, lack of education and limited hope. Yet this frail man is the only one who can produce food for tomorrow. We must rally to the support of this man -- in the interest of sheer survival, if not altruism. For without a rural breakthrough, Asia's prospects would remain bleak indeed.

Only a massive investment programme, underpinned by agrarian reforms that mobilize the small farmers, can unlock the full potentials of this Region's agriculture.

Small fishermen also find themselves on the periphery of survival.

Nearly 90 percent of the men and women working in fisheries, in Asia and the Pacific, operate on a small scale. But their combined output contributes to more than 50 percent of total catches. Yet, small fishermen remain among the most impoverished segments of the population.

Establishment of the EEZ has created new opportunities for fisheries development in coastal states.

Allocation of access to fish stocks between the heavily capitalized, commercial fishing sector and the less mobile but labour-intensive small-scale fisheries, could exacerbate existing disparities. Strong government action must act as a check and balance in favour of the weak.

In this context, the coming World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development, which FAO is preparing, will be particularly relevant to Asia and the Pacific.

On an estimated area of 303 million hectares of closed forests at the end of 1975, more than 12 million hectares had been clear-cut by the end of 1980. At this rate, the closed forests of this Region could be further cut by another 15 percent in what remains of this century.

Indiscriminate commercial logging, shifting cultivation and squatting, land clearing for development works and settlement, overgrazing and fire -- all contribute to what appears to be an accelerating tempo of forest resources depletion.

Replenishment of deforested areas and the rational use of forest resources should be closely linked with community development. Monitoring of changes in forest cover to prevent its rapid depletion and promotion of multiple uses of forestry, as a source of food, medicine and energy, merit high priority. Development of small-scale industries, at the village level, needs also to be encouraged.

Among the most important issues on your agenda is that of world food security. I would like to review briefly the steps that have been taken in this regard. Generally speaking, progress has been very slow and limited.

Measures have been taken to implement the undertaking of world food security, approved by the Seventeenth Session of the FAO Conference, and endorsed in 1974, by the World Food Conference, are still insufficient.

However, the FAO Global Information and Early Warning System is effectively established. It systematically monitors the world food situation. The system is unparalleled and irreplaceable.

The International Emergency Food Reserve established by the U.N. General Assembly in 1975, has also operated for some years now.

But its minimum annual target of 500 000 tons of cereals was reached for the first time only last year. A special contribution of 100 000 tons, by the EEC, made this possible at year's end. Without it, the target would not have been reached. And we have no guarantee it will be repeated.

To assure the predictability, adequacy and continuity of the International Emergency Food Reserve, I have proposed a legally binding instrument. The IEFRR is not, as yet, placed on a fully multilateral basis, freely available at the disposal of the World Food Programme.

Nor has adequate consideration been given to proposals for prepositioning food reserves, in strategic locations, for quick use at times of urgent need.

The stark needs of refugees -- many of them in this Region -- for food aid account for substantial flows.

To date, FAO and WFP have channelled 475 000 tons of food aid, amounting to 150 million dollars to more than 2 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan and 64 000 tons, worth 29 million dollars to 1 million refugees in Kampuchea.

It will be necessary to raise the minimum annual target of the IEFRR to some 2 million tons, within the coming five years.

FAO set up the Food Security Assistance Scheme in 1976.

The annual target of reserves for the Scheme, set at 10 million US Dollars in 1979 by the FAO Conference, was only met last year. But inflation has eroded its real value. Its current shelf of project proposals is valued at over 200 million US Dollars. But they cannot be implemented for lack of resources.

The Food Aid Convention is part of the International Grains Agreement.

It has given cereals food assistance a welcome degree of stability. The new 1980 Convention increased total commitments to 7.6 million tons a year -- a substantial improvement over the 4.2 million tons provided for in the earlier Convention.

Yet, the harsh fact remains that total food aid has never reached the minimum target of 10 million tons of cereals set by the World Food Conference.

At the same time, current estimates indicate the need for an upward revision of the food aid target, in view of the widening food import gap of the low-income, food-deficient countries.

A new Wheat Trade Convention would have provided a coordinated scheme of world grain reserves. It could defuse volatile price fluctuations that invariably victimize the poor countries and the producers. A convention could help ensure the bitter experience of profiteering on human needs, as we saw in the 1972-73 food crisis, would not be repeated.

But six years of negotiations towards an international grains arrangement have ground to a halt. Disagreements between exporting and importing countries, as well as between the exporters themselves, have denied us the progress towards improved food security.

Our world remains vulnerable as ever.

To reduce this vulnerability, I submitted in 1979, for adoption by the Member Governments, a Five-Point Plan of Action on Food Security.

The Plan sets out criteria for the release of national stocks, proposes strengthening of food security assistance programmes and indicates special measures to help low-income countries to become collectively self-reliant. Adopted by the FAO Council and FAO Conference in 1979, this Plan of Action received wide support in other fora, including the United Nations General Assembly,

In response to a key proposal in this Plan, the International Monetary Fund extended its financing facility in 1981 to help offset the rising costs of cereal imports. One country of the Region, the Republic of Korea, has taken advantage of this new facility.

All the above instruments are certainly valuable.

However, food security is a multi-dimensional issue requiring action at all levels. Because of this, Governments of developing countries are, with reason, planning and implementing their own national and sub-regional schemes.

In fact, FAO is assisting the countries of the Sahel Region in a major complex of regional and national reserves. This has been endorsed by the Heads of State of Member Nations of the CILSS.

Other regional schemes have been developed, with FAO collaboration, by the countries of the Southern African Development Conference and the Latin American Economic System.

And in this Region, the Association of South East Asian Nations has pioneered with the establishment of its Emergency Rice Reserve. FAO is pleased to be associated with this initiative, including the supporting technical studies on food supplies and demand in ASEAN.

More than any Region, it is Asia and the Pacific which is most threatened by this lack of food security arrangements at the global level.

Today's good harvests should not blind us to a few harsh facts.

Food reserves in this Region are thin. An aborted monsoon, a poor harvest in major exporting countries, or even a fractional increase in the purchasing power of the poor could empty, almost overnight, your reserves.

Prices would double, even triple, as we saw in the early 1970s.

The largest concentrations of people most vulnerable to a price spiral -- the "absolute poor" huddled in rural areas or crammed into urban slums -- are in this Region. It would inflict unacceptable human costs.

Geography is not an ally.

This Region is thousands of miles away from existing food stocks in North America or the EEC countries. Freight costs as well as port and storage bottlenecks are likely to lengthen delivery time.

Asia's experience has shown that in a food crisis, time is not on the side of the the poor.

I, therefore, believe there is a need for a long-range approach that will moderate the danger that could lie ahead.

It is necessary to avoid wasting efforts on well-intentioned but impractical proposals. It is essential to concentrate on soundly conceived, practical schemes. It is necessary to have a continuing dialogue among all Governments concerned.

FAO has unique technical capacity and operational experience in this complex field and stands ready to assist, if requested.

Whatever arrangements you may decide to adopt will, I am confident, enable your Governments to implement, at regional level, the recommendations of the FAO Committee on World Food Security.

As you know, the United Nations General Assembly, acting on a recommendation of the World Food Conference, created the Committee in 1974. It is open to all Member States and meets annually. And it is the only U.N. body entrusted with the unique task of monitoring the food situation and drawing up the recommendations and approaches to ensure food security at all levels.

It has been two years since we last met at the Fifteenth Regional Conference.

In New Delhi, we took stock of the substantial achievements by individual countries in the fields of food and agriculture.

We gather in this biennial meeting because we share a common hope: To see a world free from hunger.

That hope echoes in the message of World Food Day which we marked last October: "Food and Dignity for All."

The recent establishment of country offices in the South Pacific and China reiterates FAO's readiness to cooperate with you in translating that message and that hope into reality.

As you know, my Regional Representative will be retiring at the end of this month, after ten years of dedicated service to you in FAO.

Dr. Umali embodies to a striking degree the qualities that FAO requires of its Representatives: technical competence, integrity, leadership and diplomatic skills.

His legacy, which we gratefully remember, is drawn from his work for the impoverished small farmers. It is a simple but a profound lesson: That the poor can enrich our lives and service to those dehumanized by poverty ensures we retain what is most human in us.

Dr. Umali is returning as Professor Emeritus to the University of the Philippines. He also intends to spend the time training landless farmers in aquaculture. I plan to avail myself of Dr. Umali's services for high-level FAO missions in the future. The knowledge that his experience and talents will continue to be at the service of Member Nations, is most welcome.

We wish him and Mrs. Umali, who has steadfastly supported him all these years, Godspeed.

To ensure there will be no disruption of FAO's services to your Governments, I have appointed Mr. S. Puri, former Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, and Ambassador to the EEC for the Government of India, as the new Regional Representative.

His extensive experience, as former Secretary of India's Planning Commission, as well as his broad scholarly knowledge of agriculture, will be brought to bear on the programmes you have mandated us to carry out.

Mr. Puri will assume his duties in Bangkok first week of July. I am confident you will extend to him the same cooperation as you did so unstintingly to his predecessor.

We do not pretend to be able to meet all needs.

But our record of effective collaborative endeavour in the past is assurance that, in the years ahead, you will find, in FAO, a competent and dedicated partner.

By coincidence, our Regional Conference is taking place at precisely the same time the General Assembly of the United Nations is convening, in a special session, devoted to disarmament.

In a planet that seems little more than a test site for weapons, countries are seeking that old dream of mankind: "To beat the swords into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks."

In a message I sent to the President of the Special Session wishing it success, I said: "There are other more just battles that should be joined. Foremost among them is the fight against hunger and poverty in the world."

"We need," I added, "to divert resources away from the pursuit of even more sophisticated weaponry for better use of the earth's resources to feed its people."

That is the same message and theme that our Conference embodies.

I thank you and wish you every success.

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL,
REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
TO THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

It has been 10 years since I first addressed you in this Conference. I will be retiring soon from FAO. This will, therefore, be my last address, as Regional Representative, to you.

The last decade consisted of intense years devoted to dampening the threat of hunger. In this task, I received from you unstinted support and, in many instances, warm affection.

I would be remiss in my duties if, before leaving, I did not make of record my gratitude -- as I now do.

On occasions like this, the temptation is to look back.

I would prefer instead to look ahead. For if past experience is any guide, the interests of those who will come after us are best served by a clear vision of what lies ahead.

I have no predictions from a crystal ball to offer.

What is on hand is a series of thoughtful studies. They give a broad-brush picture of the twenty-first century.

They show our world then is likely to be short of fuel, water, land and other resources. It will be more crowded, more hungry, drenched in acid rain, ecologically brittle, short of jobs, armed to its nuclear teeth -- and badly in need of understanding itself.

What demographers call "the greatest urban mass migration in human history" is likely to be still in progress by then.

But mega-cities will have altered the landscape. There could be 45 cities -- probably more -- with populations exceeding five million compared to the six in 1950.

Most will be in Asia.

The Calcutta-Kharagpur-Haldia megalopolis alone, for example, may swell to over 20 million people. An affluent Tokyo may have 24 million. And there will be 19 million in Beijing, 14 million in Seoul, and in Manila, 12 million.

This urban sprawl will also bury, in concrete, farmlands that ring these cities. This will erode environmental standards, as well as capacity to produce food and fuelwood.

In this Region, fragmentation of arable land is continuing. And per capita availability of land could shrink from 0.23 hectares in 1975 to only 0.15 by the year 2000.

This trend will force-feed migration streams that back up into fuel-short mega-slums.

In Asia and the Pacific, acute fuelwood scarcities already affect 31 million people. But we plant only 10 percent of the fuelwood needed. Hence, scarcities could soon overtake 161 million.

Stark urban-rural disparities drive these migration streams. They also distort human opportunities.

One study, for example, finds a child born in an Asian city has eight times the chances of going on to university than one born in a village. Town dwellers have four times more chances to get medical care.

And we are unable, so far, to quantify the intangible costs. Just what is the bill for human squalor?

"Asia's governments, rooted as they are in great cities, seem locked in escalating conflict with their own rural citizenry -- and almost without exception, the farmers are losing."

The result is: The old scenes of conflict have changed.

Today, the most explosive social tensions are no longer between labour or capital. The more dangerous arena is that between an impoverished, unorganized and voiceless majority in the rural areas on one hand and an articulate minority in the cities on the other.

The city-village imbalance is a microcosm of the stark disparities separating those who live in industrialized countries of the North and in developing nations of the South.

Today there are those who say: The North/South distinction is no longer valid. It is "confrontational."

But the poverty that breeds these disparities is not just statistical fine tuning. It is also too real. And it devastates human lives and human hopes.

Between 1950 and 1980, for instance, per capita income in the South inched up by US\$80. Within the same period, income in the North rose 81 times that level -- to US\$6,500.

Greater purchasing power is, therefore, accumulated in advanced countries. It makes possible better nutrition, extensive health services and near universal education in the North.

Lack of purchasing power in the South denies adequate food to millions. It explains why 250 000 children in Asia are threatened with permanent blindness from Vitamin A deficiency.

Life expectancy for people in advanced countries -- as well as for the minuscule elites in the South -- is almost a generation longer than those in the poor countries.

Unfortunately, present trends indicate these disparities are likely to persist, if not widen. FAO's study Agriculture: Towards 2000 estimates food demand could triple by the time declines in human fertility will have braked population growth to stable levels.

This Conference meets at a time when, despite some improvements in food security, unmet human needs are spiralling.

Ironically, the poorest, -- especially the landless and small farmers -- find that the assistance they need, to break out of their desperate predicament, is dwindling, as costs of the arms race, inflation and corruption work their way into the economy.

In such a climate, a devil-take-the-hindmost-attitude can develop.

The "magic of the marketplace", in such a setting, usually works only for those who have the muscle.

Also, it is not likely the private sector will take up essential programmes with high social costs such as agrarian reform. The poor -- disorganized and voiceless -- are likely to be left out, once again, on the shorter end.

No country will accept life sentences in hunger and poverty for a majority of its citizens. This Conference meets therefore to "act decisively to alter current trends." And the parameters for our work, in the years ahead, are summed up concisely in AT 2000 as follows:

First: "Future generations will face the same basic issue of how to grow and distribute enough food and agricultural products. The 21st century must inherit a food and agricultural system which is much more productive and equitable than it is now;"

Second: "Foundations for securing the enormous increase in output, needed in the first half of the 21st century and assuring equitable distribution, must therefore be laid in what is left of this century;"

Third: "Requirements of generations yet unborn for productive land, unpolluted water and a rich complexity of species must be respected;" and

Fourth: "The food and agricultural problems that will confront us in the 1980s and 1990s can be solved -- if there is the political will to do so."

To help translate these broad general objectives requires both technical and institutional reforms. To do this, we must question major assumptions in our way of doing things in the past.

One such question is: Will the social soil of the 1980s enable us to take today's concept of national security beyond periodic refurbishing of weapon inventories?

Can its focus be directed instead to healing a degraded environment and alleviation of social disparities?

No thoughtful person believes that building up firepower alone constitutes national security. There are no military solutions for human needs.

But resources for equitable production, drawn from bloated military budgets, and placed in the hands of village people for production, offer a better guarantee for national security.

Yet, the fact is: purchases of arms, by developing countries, surged from \$9.4 billion in 1969 to \$21 billion this year -- despite the illusory promise of safety offered by bayonets.

This is also a region of great needs.

Asia needs to expand its arable land by 10 percent in the year 2000. Resources diverted from military budgets could help underwrite the reclaiming of land from coastal marshes, swamps and dry barren zones while conserving the environment.

Research must grow by 8 percent to the 1990s -- if we are to develop appropriate technologies for small farmers in rainfed areas.

Asia also requires models of limited wants.

Urban prestige projects may soothe a few egos. But they do not produce food. Our approaches and strategies have to reduce waste. Also, we must increase our reliance on indigenous resources.

Our collective experience, over the years, indicates the directions to proceed. Let me cite a few.

One is to renew our efforts to help the rural poor organize.

As a start, some governments have blunted the unjust tendency to squash peasant organizations as "subversive" by approving the ILO-sponsored rural workers organizations.

To breathe life into the letter of this convention, support for the growth of farmers' organizations is imperative. For development occurs only when people can organize their own power, in their own interests. Only then can they press for adequate tenancy laws, a just share of land, water and jobs.

Two: We have to accelerate adoption of structural reforms.

The specifics of these reforms have been written, by Governments, into the Declaration and Programme of Action by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD). It's all there -- on paper.

This Conference can remind those who control resources that token reforms, introduced within unjust social structures, invariably end up in aggravating social disparities. They exacerbate social tensions. And they lower rapidly the threshold for violence.

Three: We have to decentralize through people's participation.

What is needed are measures that vest power, not just in local elites or extensions of governments in towns, but in authentic people's organizations.

This implies, among other things: Sharing with village level institutions the power to plan, to tax and to withhold a share of this tax. People must be able to use these resources for their own needs, as they perceive those needs. People thereby assume control over their own resources and means of production. They multiply, for their own use, the surplus value of their sweat and work.

Four: We must reach out for resources beyond governments.

Today's interlocking problems leave us with a diminished sense of capacity. This is understandable. But it should also make us more open to what has been called "movements from below."

"Much of what is new and innovative," says the Indonesian scholar Soedjatmoko, "is not initiated by governments but comes from the people, in expressions of their aspirations for a more decent, secure and equitable way of life."

These movements are invaluable because bureaucracies often atrophy into authoritarian and hierarchical structures. They embalm objectives into rigid rules and procedures with little feel for human approaches. Over time, they defeat the very purposes for which they were created.

"Movements from below" can check this tendency to decay. They can unlock new resources.

Five: We have to reverse the drift towards ecological disaster.

We cannot continue clear-cutting our forests at the rate of 5 000 hectares daily, without inviting irreversible damage to our ecological life systems. Our God-given genetic stocks are irreplaceable. Yet, we are losing one species daily. This plunder must stop.

Six: The existing international framework must be restructured so the poor countries can get fair prices for their exports. The Versailles Summit offers an indication that industrialized nations see a "beggar-thy-neighbour" approach through protectionism as counterproductive.

Seven: The political will, so essential for decisive action, must be infused with a humane vision.

That vision sees development programmes -- not as an end in themselves -- but as processes. They seek to liberate people from paralyzing traditions, from exploitative systems, from hunger.

Yet, such a vision, as an Asian scholar has written, is also rooted in the reality that we are a region of small farmers. Our rural population lives in a milieu of poverty, ignorance, ill health and resentment.

"In them, one finds a minimal sense of solidarity with the rest of the world. Rural backwardness is built into the very social order ... and an alienated mass sporadically erupts into violence over immemorial wrongs."

Our work addresses itself to these "immemorial wrongs."

The programmes and policies we seek to develop together reflect the understanding that it is human beings who are at stake -- men and women who are suffering, endowed with immense possibilities waiting to break out in creative ways.

Finally, may I inject a personal note.

The last 10 years that I have worked with you provided the most challenging years of my life. The wisdom and dedication of this Region's agricultural leaders have leavened my own life.

I leave with gratitude.

I also go with a prayer that our work, as a Thai farmer's proverb says, will not "be written in water."

The task of helping the rural poor, while difficult, is achievable. The success stories of agrarian reform and rural development, in many countries of this Region, show the poor can be reached, regardless of ideology or socio-political systems.

Surely, a better life for the poor is within our grasp. We have the resources, the technology and the human capital to achieve this humane goal. FAO estimates we can reduce the number of malnourished people in the Region from 304 million in less than a generation's time -- if we make up our minds to do so.

But our own frailties can abort this human goal.

Many of us, on an intellectual plane, agree with little strain to the bleak truth that: If institutional reforms are delayed or denied then another 100 million more men, women and children worldwide could be beggared, by the year 2000.

But the very numbers dull our sensitivities.

Somehow, the back-breaking toil, the aching for redress from institutionalized social injustices, the nakedness of human need never quite get to us. In fact, the lethargy, apathy and fatigue caused by malnutrition are so widespread in poorer societies, we come to accept these distortions as "normal".

Human needs do not wring from us the compassion that expresses itself in commitment. We do not see Lazarus at the gate.

Also, our formulation of policy, it has been said, often confused the problem of rural poverty with that of social injustices that were its cause.

It is my hope that this assessment of faulty judgement is correct.

For there are critics who insist our flawed strategies were not the results of poor judgement. They claim it was, at rock bottom, a simple case of old-fashioned greed. Avarice rationalized betrayal of the weak.

I pray this assessment is wrong.

For if it should prove correct, then we have much to answer for those whose lives were blighted by poverty.

Thank you.

REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The Technical Committee of the Sixteenth FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific opened its Session on 1 June 1982, in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Representatives of the following Member Governments participated: Australia, Bangladesh, Burma, China, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United States of America and Viet Nam.

There were observers from: Holy See, Netherlands, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, International Labour Organization, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, World Food Programme, Asian Development Bank, Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific, Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, Asian Productivity Organization, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

The FAO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific welcomed participants and observers. He expressed the gratitude of FAO, Governments and Agencies present to the Government of Indonesia for hosting the Meeting.

In his address he underscored the necessity to prepare to face the food and agriculture situation of the 1990s and beyond. Structural reforms are necessary to unlock the Regions's potential for increasing its productivity and meeting its food needs. Appropriate technologies for the future should be developed. The drift towards ecological disaster should be averted.

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

The Technical Committee unanimously elected Mr. Manzur Ahmad, of Pakistan as Chairman and Mr. Jesus Alix of the Philippines as Vice-Chairman.

Drafting Committee

A Drafting Committee was constituted. The following delegates were appointed to this body:

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|--------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Mr. Salmon Padmanegara, Indonesia | Chairman |
| 2. Mr. D. Hussey, Australia | |
| 3. Mr. Kaliopate Tavola, Fiji | |
| 4. Mr. P.D. Srivastava, India | |
| 5. Mr. Thongphet Sithammavong, Lao | |
| 6. Mr. Abubakar Bin Mahmud, Malaysia | |
| 7. Mr. Ram Prakash Yadav, Nepal | |

