

REPORT

Manila,
Philippines,
3-7 October
1994

Twenty-second FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific



Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

FAO Member Nations in the Asia Region (as of 7 October 1994)

Bangladesh	Iran, Islamic Republic of	Nepal
Bhutan	Japan	Pakistan
Cambodia	Korea, Republic of	Philippines
China	Laos	Sri Lanka
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Malaysia	Thailand
India	Maldives	Viet Nam
Indonesia	Mongolia	
	Myanmar	

FAO Member Nations in the Southwest Pacific Region (as of 7 October 1994)

Australia	New Zealand	Tonga
Cook Islands	Papua New Guinea	Vanuatu
Fiji	Samoa	
France	Solomon Islands	

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
Seventeenth	— Islamabad, Pakistan, 24 April - 3 May 1984
Eighteenth	— Rome, Italy, 8-17 July 1986
Nineteenth	— Bangkok, Thailand, 11-15 July 1988
Twentieth	— Beijing, China, 23-27 April 1990
Twenty-first	— New Delhi, India, 10-14 February 1992
Twenty-second	— Manila, Philippines, 3-7 October 1994

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**TWENTY-SECOND FAO
REGIONAL CONFERENCE
FOR ASIA AND THE
PACIFIC**

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M-90
ISBN 92-5-103656-X

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SUMMARY OF MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

FAO activities in the Region

For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

1. endorsed the fundamental principle of sustainable development as the cornerstone upon which all countries of the Region should base their policies and actions (para. 102).

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

2. recommended that FAO continue to give high priority to plant and animal genetic resources conservation activities. Regional expertise would be essential to the ongoing work of FAO's Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and to the Secretariat preparing for the 1996 International Technical Conference and Programme on Plant Genetic Resources (para 104);
3. urged FAO to devote attention and resources to effectively support existing regional networks, and to pursue promising new network opportunities such as the Regional Network on Agricultural Policy Analysis for Asia and the Pacific (para. 105);
4. requested that a separate report on FAO activities carried out in the Pacific Island countries continue to be provided to future regional conferences (para. 106);
5. recommended that FAO take full advantage of newly-established mechanisms for TCDC to foster and expand South-South cooperation within the Region (para. 107);
6. encouraged continuation of FAO's close collaboration with ESCAP and other international institutions working in the Region (para. 108).

Outcome of the 106th Session of the Council and its Implications for Present and Future Activities of FAO in the Region

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

7. endorsed the Director-General's proposals for decentralization of FAO, strengthening of the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, and the establishment of a sub-regional office for the Pacific (paras 109 and 115);
8. supported the Director-General's initiatives of the new special programmes on food production in support of food security in Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDCs) and the Emergency Prevention System (EMPRES) for Transboundary Animal Pests and Diseases (para. 116);

9. called for emphasis to be given to Southeast Asia through EMPRES to eradicate foot-and-mouth disease (para. 117);
10. imparted high priority to FAO's work on commodity policies and trade, food standards under Codex Alimentarius, the international harmonization of plant quarantine, plant and animal genetic resources, environment and sustainable development, and to the increase in allocations to forestry and fisheries (para. 118).

Sustainable Agriculture through Integrated Pest Management

For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

11. urged all countries, where appropriate, to review national pesticide policies, remove pesticide subsidies, and develop national IPM policies (para. 126);
12. recommended that Member Governments involve NGOs in IPM training and strengthening of the non-formal education process (para. 127);
13. called for the full participation of women farmers and women trainers to broaden and enhance the success of IPM programmes (para. 128);
14. recommended that work with crops other than rice be supported by Member Governments through the establishment of pilot study sites (para. 129);
15. invited donors to increase support for the development of national IPM policies, training of farmers through farmer field schools, and the farmer-to-farmer transfer of IPM principles (para. 131).

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

16. urged FAO to expand support to IPM training activities for other crops (para. 129);
17. requested FAO to explore the prospects for establishing a regional network for the exchange of information on pesticides and IPM, pesticide policies, and health and environmental impacts of pesticide use, and to facilitate exchange programmes and study tours among countries (para. 130).

Sustainable Fisheries through Integrated Area Coastal Management

For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

18. recognized that the integration of sectoral programmes and policies through trade-offs among different development options should be a key mechanism of integrated coastal fisheries management (para. 135);

19. concluded that to maintain high productivity fisheries in the coastal areas, all factors which affected the sustainable production of fisheries resources must be taken into account, including not only nearby agriculture and forestry, but also urbanization, industrial development, aquaculture, tourism, and infrastructure development (para. 136);
20. noted the negative impacts resulting from inappropriate aquaculture development while recognizing that properly managed aquaculture could lead to increased productivity of coastal areas and higher levels of income and employment (para. 138);
21. recommended that Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM) projects be initiated at national and local levels, and strengthened through coordination at the regional level (para. 139);
22. recognized the value of effective zoning and land use planning in protecting coastal resources and coastal fisheries and urged Member Governments to develop effective coastal zone plans (para. 140).

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

23. urged FAO to facilitate opportunities for exchanging and sharing experiences through TCDC within the Region and with countries in other regions (para. 137);
24. requested FAO to assist countries with land use planning in protecting coastal resources and fisheries where needed (para. 140);
25. recommended that FAO provide technical assistance and training for the implementation of ICAM projects and coordinate activities with countries and other concerned international organizations (para. 141).

Follow-up to UNCED and Agenda 21

For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

26. agreed that agriculture and forestry sectors be represented on country delegations to the April 1995 session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), so that the priorities of these sectors were taken into account and an appropriate balance between development and environment was maintained in CSD decision-making (para. 147);
27. recommended that countries in the Region share experiences related to the accomplishments and implementation of post-UNCED activities (para 148).

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

28. called on FAO to continue and strengthen support for Agenda 21 implementation. In this regard approval for the establishment of the Department of Sustainable Development within FAO was expressed (para. 144);

29. requested FAO to strengthen its regional efforts pertaining to preparatory activities for the 1996 International Conference and Programme on Plant Genetic Resources and requested an expansion of efforts underway on conserving domestic animal diversity (para. 145);
30. urged FAO to increase support to countries for the implementation of the forest principles (para. 146).

Implications of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations on Food Security in the Asia and the Pacific Region

For the attention of Governments and FAO

The Conference:

31. called on donors to reinforce their efforts to improve the food security of LIFDCs (para. 151).

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

32. suggested that FAO assist developing countries with technical and policy advice and by conducting in-depth quantitative studies of the implications of the Uruguay Round (para. 152);
33. requested FAO to focus on the impact of the Uruguay Round on tropical products from developing countries, potential impact on food security, implementation of sanitary and phytosanitary measures in developing countries, regional and sub-regional food grain stocking in a liberalized trading environment, special problems of jute production and trade, and harmonization of policies to comply with the new agreement (para. 153);
34. recommended that FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) be strengthened to meet increased requests for assessing the food security situation and food aid needs of low-income food-deficit countries (para. 154);
35. called on FAO to update the present paper on "Implications of the Uruguay Round for Food Security in Asia and the Pacific" in the light of findings of new studies based on schedules of commitments submitted by the signatories to the agreements, and suggested that the updated paper be discussed at the next session of the FAO Regional Commission on Food Security for Asia and the Pacific (para. 155).

Preparations for the 1996 World Food Summit

For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

36. noted that the Director-General had consulted a number of Heads of State and Government in all regions on the issues of food security and declining agricultural investment. There was consensus among the Heads of State and Government that convening a World Food Summit as early as possible was warranted and commensurate with the seriousness of the problems of food insecurity. The conference further noted that it was the Director-General's intention to call the World Food Summit in early 1996 (para. 158);

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

37. generally endorsed the convening the World Food Summit (para. 162).

Representation of the Region on the CGIAR

For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

38. recommended that the Regional Representatives on the CGIAR regularly visit the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) in the Region to interact more closely with their colleagues, obtaining their views and comments, and providing feedback on the outcome of the CGIAR meetings (para. 166);
39. endorsed the criteria for selecting Member Nations to serve as the Regional Representatives and the responsibilities of this office (para. 164);
40. selected Malaysia and Nepal to represent the Region for the 1995-98 period (para. 165);
41. while agreeing with the plan of the CGIAR to increase the involvement of NARS in setting the research and development agenda of the CGIAR centres, strongly supported the continued convening of CGIAR mid-term meetings in developing countries, thus providing opportunities for CGIAR members to interact with the NARS in the Region (para. 167);
42. invited developing Member Nations to join traditional donor countries in increasing contributions to the CGIAR (para. 168).

Report on the Follow-up to the ICN

For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

43. urged Member Nations which had not yet developed or reinforced national plans of action for nutrition to do so as soon as possible (para. 171).

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

44. recommended continuing FAO assistance in integrating nutrition concerns into fisheries and forestry projects, as well as agricultural projects (para. 172).

Draft Declaration on Food and Agriculture

For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

45. requested Member Governments to submit their comments on the Draft Declaration on Food and Agriculture in writing to the Director-General before 7 December 1994 (para. 173).

Date and Place of the Twenty-third Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

46. noted the offer of the Government of Samoa to host the Twenty-third Session of the FAO Regional Conference and that of the Government of Indonesia to provide an alternative venue if, for any reason, the Conference could not be convened in Samoa. The Chairman of the Conference was requested to convey these offers to the Director-General, who would decide on the date and place of the Conference in consultation with Member Governments of the Region (paras 177 and 178).

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Organization of the Conference

1. The Twenty-second FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific was held in Manila, Philippines, from 3 to 7 October 1994.
2. Member Nations which participated were: Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Republic of Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United States of America, and Viet Nam.
3. Observers from Canada, the Holy See, and the Netherlands were also in attendance, as well as representatives from the following United Nations bodies and Specialized Agencies: Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Labour Organisation (ILO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the World Food Program (WFP). In addition, observers from the following intergovernmental organizations were present: Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Productivity Organization (APO), Centre on Integrated Rural Development in Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC), International Whaling Commission (IWC), and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB).
4. The non-governmental organizations represented were: International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM), International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI), International Organization of Consumers Unions (IOCU), International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF), International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO), International Union of Nutritional Sciences (IUNS), and the World Veterans Federation (WVF).
5. A complete list of participants at the Conference is given in Appendix B.

Inaugural Ceremony

6. The Inaugural Ceremony of the Conference was held on 3 October 1994. His Excellency, Roberto S. Sebastian, Secretary of Agriculture, Government of the Philippines, welcomed, on behalf of his government and people, all participants in the Conference. He observed that the Conference was being convened at a time of great opportunity for Asia and the Pacific. While the Region included the fastest growing economies in the world, countries were at risk from the pressures of rapid population growth and industrialization on a finite resource base. He urged delegates to tackle the issues of food security, sustainable development, empowerment of the disadvantaged, and agricultural competitiveness, heeding the perspectives of farmers and fisherfolk who knew what worked to their best interest.
7. The Director-General of FAO, Dr Jacques Diouf, added his welcome. He expressed appreciation to the Government and people of the Philippines for hosting the FAO Regional Conference and for the hospitality extended to the participants. He stated that the Philippines was an ideal setting for this Conference, in view of the dynamic policies pursued by the country, under the leadership of President Fidel V. Ramos. He cited the areas of agrarian reform, empowerment of rural women, small farmers as the linchpin for sustainable agriculture, food security, and conservation of the environment.

8. His Excellency, Fidel V. Ramos, President of the Philippines, delivered the keynote inaugural address. He observed that this Regional Conference perhaps exceeded all others in its promise and significance, because Asia and the Pacific had emerged as the most dynamic region in the world. By combining this vitality with the leadership of FAO, there was hope that, within this century, Asia and the Pacific would finally achieve full food security through sustainable development.
9. The President noted the growing threats of overexploitation of resources, the rise in pollution levels degradation of the environment, and wasteful utilization of resources. These had accompanied the Region's quest for modernization. He applauded the pursuit of a strategy of sustainable development that countries and FAO had embraced. Participants stood for one common cause: to defeat malnutrition, hunger, and poverty, while simultaneously protecting the environment.
10. The President cited integrated pest management (IPM) programmes as examples of such strategies. IPM was such a viable alternative in agricultural production because it advocated people empowerment. This harnessed farmers as a vital human resource to effectively deliver well-integrated decisions regarding farming technologies and resources.
11. Protection of coastal resources and marine life was highlighted as a pressing need in the Region. In cooperation with coastal communities, NGOs, and people's organizations, governments needed to implement practical coastal area management policies to protect, nurture, and effectively manage vital waters and aquatic resources.
12. The President strongly endorsed the GATT Uruguay Round agreements. These would pave the way for increased exports and earnings, open new international markets, generate employment opportunities, increase purchasing power, and promote a general increase in economic activity. More importantly, under the World Trade Organization (WTO), the successor organization to the GATT, sustainable development practices would be institutionalized in all Member Nations.
13. The President noted the tremendous progress the world made, over the past four decades, in expanding food production. He called on the Conference to break new ground toward achieving true food security through sustainable development, and to give today's young a better future.
14. The full text of the inaugural address of the President is given in Appendix D of this report.

Election of Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, and Rapporteur

15. The delegates unanimously elected His Excellency, Roberto S. Sebastian, Secretary of Agriculture of the Government of the Philippines, as Chairman of the Conference.
16. The Conference also elected all the Ministers present as Vice-Chairmen of the Conference, and Mr Dixon Nilaweera, of Sri Lanka, as Rapporteur.

Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

17. The Conference adopted the Agenda,¹ which is given in Appendix A. Documents submitted to the Conference for consideration are listed in Appendix C.

¹ APRC/94/1.

Opening Statement by the Director-General

18. In his opening statement, Dr Jacques Diouf, noted the considerable progress made in the fight against undernutrition since the last time the Conference met in Manila in 1976. He made special reference to the striking improvements made in Asia and the Pacific during the past two decades. This Region could take pride in having led the "Green Revolution" of the 1970s, and for carving deep inroads into undernutrition.
19. The Director-General warned, however, that the strategy of increasing food production through its intensification, on high potential land, was posing limits to sustainable development in the face of continued population growth and rising expectations. Continued modernization of traditional agriculture would have to be fully sensitive to the need for protecting the environment.
20. Outlining his plans for restructuring and reinvigorating FAO, the Director-General emphasized his intention "to bring FAO's activities closer to its Member Nations." Regional Offices were to be strengthened and sub-regional offices established. He described FAO's new initiatives in support of food security in Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDCs) and on an Emergency Prevention System (EMPRES) for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases.
21. The Director-General reported on measures taken to enhance the work of FAO in the forestry sector. These included plans for a first-time Ministerial Meeting exclusively devoted to forestry, to be held in early 1995. Similarly, support for fisheries was being increased. FAO would support increased aquaculture production and the Organization was preparing an International Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing.
22. FAO would be placing renewed emphasis on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) and on women's roles in sustainable agriculture and rural development. Cooperation with NGOs and other intergovernmental organizations was likewise to be strengthened.
23. The Director-General reported on the increasingly felt need to have an appropriate forum to assess the world food situation. Such a forum would raise awareness of the high risks of food crises and famine, and garner high-level political commitment for early corrective measures. In this context, he outlined his proposals for convening a World Food Summit in early 1996.
24. He called on delegates to design agricultural policies and programmes "that would serve our people long after we go the way of our fathers."
25. The complete text of the Director-General's statement is given in Appendix E.

II. COUNTRY STATEMENTS AND GENERAL DEBATE ON THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION IN THE REGION

Introduction

26. Country statements were presented by the following Member Nations: Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Republic of Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Samoa, Thailand, United States of America, and Viet Nam.

27. Several delegations acknowledged the vital support that FAO provided in improving the agriculture, fisheries, and forestry sectors in their countries. Delegates were generally supportive of the new initiatives and directions being forged under the leadership of the Director-General. They pledged cooperation in implementing FAO's new agenda as well as its ongoing programmes.

28. Strong support was indicated for the new FAO initiatives on food security, sustainable development, and enhanced support for forestry and fisheries, and for the restructuring of the Organization. Delegates endorsed plans to decentralize FAO services, strengthen the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, and establish a sub-regional office for the Pacific.

Performance of Agriculture Sector

29. Several countries reported gains in aggregate production levels of cereals compared with the previous biennium. Total cereal production in the Region in 1993 increased by 1.4 percent over 1992. The overall positive performance record was marred, however, by disease outbreaks and natural disasters which severely reduced yields in some areas. Countries were adopting an array of flexible production strategies in response to the changing global economic conditions, structural adjustment programmes, and new trade agreements.

30. Bangladesh reported that overall annual growth of GDP in agriculture rose 2.1 percent in 1992-93. Government support in providing irrigation water, fertilizers, high-yielding seeds, and integrated technology resulted in self-sufficiency in cereals for the first time in the economic history of the country. Rice production topped 18 million tonnes for the past three years. On the negative side, bumper crops had resulted in depressed prices paid to farmers.

31. China recorded record-high grain production in 1993 of 456 million tonnes. But there were still 80 million people who did not have adequate food and clothing. China would continue to give high priority to improving the availability of inputs, developing infrastructure, deepening rural structural reforms, and expanding markets.

32. Cook Islands reported on aspects of the new "Policy Paper on Agricultural Development." This emphasized crop diversification, strengthening of private-sector agribusinesses, market development, and training. Potential synergy between the tourism and agricultural sectors offered new market opportunities for agricultural produce.

33. France noted the need for redefining agricultural policies to match the realities of rapidly changing economic conditions in Asia and the Pacific. Special support for countries pursuing structural adjustment and transition to market economies would continue to merit priority.

34. India reduced structural constraints and implemented policies to raise production, income, and nutritional levels of farmers. Pragmatic policies facilitated increased agricultural production in a sustainable manner. This strategy transformed chronic food deficits to comfortable self-sufficiency. Food production reached an all-time high of 180 million tonnes.

35. Despite successful development of its national economy, the Republic of Korea's agricultural sector had structural weaknesses. It continued to be dominated by small-scale rice farming. The Government had set up a long-term programme for rural restructuring and a new tax system to support transitions demanded by the Uruguay Round agreements.

36. Due to floods that swamped the northern and central provinces during the growing season, rice production in Laos was expected to reach only 88 percent of targeted levels in 1994.

37. Malaysia was content with its policy of 65 percent self-sufficiency in rice production, relying on imports for the remainder of its needs. Palm oil production would continue to expand to take advantage of the country's comparative advantage with this crop.

38. New market-oriented policies in Myanmar had resulted in substantially increased involvement of the private sector in the trading of agricultural, livestock, fisheries, and forestry commodities. This new approach also spurred rapid increases in rice production.

39. Over the past two years, sequential drought, damaging hail, and floods in Nepal had resulted in extremely poor harvests and consequent food shortages in affected areas. To stimulate production, the Government had created a unified extension service and a separate "Women Farmers' Development Division" in the Ministry of Agriculture.

40. The Philippines implemented a Medium-Term Agricultural Development Plan to boost competitiveness in agriculture. The Plan adopted the key production area (KPA) approach of cultivating the right crop in the right place at the right time. Four programmes sought to increase productivity in rice and corn, livestock, fisheries, and commercial crops.

41. Samoa reported on the disastrous effects of the leaf blight which devastated taro, its traditional staple food. Efforts were underway to develop resistant varieties of taro. The Government also initiated programmes to promote diversification into cattle, bananas, fruit, sweet potatoes, cassava, cocoa, and certain coconut species. A large portion of the EEC Stabex funds available to Samoa were made available to fund diversification programmes, stimulate production, and improve access roads.

42. Thailand noted that, despite rapid economic development, 63 percent of the country's population continued to earn their living from agriculture. Agricultural production systems were being restructured to adapt to the changing economic conditions and consumer preferences.

43. In Viet Nam, new economic policies and incentives had stimulated dramatic growth in the agriculture and fisheries sectors. The Government gave high priority to developing rational policies and programmes for sustainable development of coastal fisheries.

Food Security

44. Australia indicated support for the renewed emphasis FAO had proposed be placed on food security in low-income food-deficit countries, but stressed that security should not be equated with self-sufficiency in food production. Food security involved giving people the physical and economic access to a nutritionally-adequate and reliable supply of food. The key was to assist countries in making full use of their comparative economic advantage.

45. Bangladesh stressed that food security commanded the highest priority attention of the Government. It emphasized domestic food production and self-reliance, if not self-sufficiency, in all food items.

46. Bhutan had developed a Comprehensive Food Security Programme with FAO assistance. It consisted of 32 projects covering institutional development, food production, marketing, and infrastructure development.

47. Indonesia reported that experts on food security from several Non-Aligned Movement Member Nations met in Jakarta in January, 1994. They formulated proposals on food security for further consideration by the Conference of Ministers of Food and Agriculture in October 1994, in Bali, Indonesia. It underscored the importance of widening the perspective of food security. Food and nutrition should cover a wider range of commodities including fruits, vegetables, meat, and others. The means to improve food security should include poverty eradication and employment creation.

48. The Islamic Republic of Iran reported that, despite an increase of 6 million people in its population in the past five years, self-sufficiency in main food products had increased. Imports of wheat, barley, and sugar had been cut by more than half.

49. Japan stressed that, as a country which relied on imports for the major part of its food supply, and which had experienced serious food shortages, it maintained a strong interest in the stable supply of world food on a long-term basis. Excessive reliance of many countries, including Japan, on food imported from a limited number of exporting countries fostered food insecurity. Japan emphasized the importance of producing staple foods in a sustainable manner.

50. Malaysia emphasized the importance of trade-oriented self reliance in food security.

51. Thailand highlighted the importance of effective national policies to ensure food security in developing countries. It encouraged FAO to play a central role in guiding developing countries in both technical and policy aspects of food security. It suggested the establishment of a network dealing with food security in the Region.

Integrated Pest Management

52. Country statements reflected widespread enthusiasm for the advances being made with integrated pest management (IPM) in the Region. Countries were optimistic about the potential for extending IPM benefits to more areas of the Region and applying IPM technologies to crops other than irrigated rice.

53. India reported that it promoted wide-scale use of pest resistant or tolerant crop varieties, seed and seedling treatments, improved pest surveillance and monitoring, and IPM demonstrations.

54. The Republic of Korea had placed great importance on IPM since the 1970s. This resulted in years of successful crop production, while pesticide use had been minimized.

55. Recognizing the negative aspects of excessive and haphazard pesticide use, Nepal had enacted a new Pesticide Act. This law took into account the potential for future application of IPM.

56. New Zealand highlighted the significance of social sustainability. It noted with appreciation that under IPM, farmers were the experts who practiced and controlled the process. In essence, IPM increased farmers' self-reliance and self-esteem.

57. The Philippines considered IPM as a viable paradigm that could be extended to all aspects of crop management. Following significant achievements in rice and vegetable IPM programmes, the Philippines was developing IPM training methodologies for other crops. It proposed a regional research, policy, and information network on pesticide issues, consistent with the principles of IPM.

58. Viet Nam credited broad adoption of IPM as a major factor in its progress in rice production. Following adoption of IPM, yields had declined by only 5 percent, while pesticide use was cut dramatically.

Agricultural Trade

59. Several delegations expressed views on the recently-completed GATT Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. Although some countries were concerned about the possible negative impacts of the trade agreements, most delegates voiced optimism that the Uruguay Round agreements would lead to further development of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, and would foster growth in the national economies of the Region.

60. Australia underscored the obligations of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries in minimizing any possible negative impacts of the Uruguay Round agreements on net food-importing, developing countries. It suggested that FAO play a leading role in ensuring that such obligations were met. It believed that the developing countries could, and should, benefit from the Uruguay Round.

61. Bhutan noted that because of increasing opportunities of trade, improvements in transport facilities, and an externally-oriented trade policy, there was now increasing commercialization and specialization in its agriculture sector. There was a clear shift toward those crops in which Bhutan had a clear comparative advantage.

62. Indonesia highlighted the importance of compensatory measures to protect net food-importing developing countries adversely affected by the Uruguay Round and the negative effects of structural adjustment programmes.

63. Japan welcomed the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round and hoped the outcome would contribute to a further development of the Region. It also hoped that the future international trading environment would take sufficient care of non-trade concerns such as food security.

64. The Philippines welcomed the steps being taken by FAO to provide assistance in economic research and policy analysis in helping developing countries adjust to trade reforms and structural changes in their economies. It also cited FAO's possible role in helping developing countries monitor compliance with the Uruguay Round agreements, and in ensuring effective representation of the Asia and Pacific nations in the process of harmonizing sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

65. Samoa reported that its crop diversification programmes were yielding good results.

66. The United States of America highlighted the implications of the Uruguay Round of trade agreements on food security and economic development. It urged FAO follow-up as regarded the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Secretariat for the International Plant Protection Convention the impact of the Uruguay Round on the agricultural sectors of developing economies, the establishment of a food quality and pesticide reference centre, and enhancing the partnership with the new World Trade Organization (WTO).

Environment and Sustainable Development

67. Member Nations expressed strong support for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) process and implementation of Agenda 21. A number of countries specifically endorsed the establishment of a new Department of Sustainable Development within FAO, and encouraged FAO to vigorously conduct its duties as Task Manager for Chapters 10, 11, 13, and 14 of Agenda 21.

68. Bangladesh reported the implementation of a National Environment Management Action Plan (NEMAP) to prevent pollution and remedy past ecological disasters. Agriculture and agro-industries would be among the biggest beneficiaries of NEMAP.

69. Bhutan had declared 22 percent of the entire land area as protected areas. The country had a special interest in the implementation of Chapter 13 of Agenda 21, dealing with sustainable mountain development.

70. Myanmar reported on the implementation of a new integrated development programme. This was being initiated in the central dry zone, where underdevelopment and environmental degradation were most prominent.

71. Under Nepal's new Environmental Policy and Action Plan, the country's environmental problems had been analysed. A strategic approach to address problems had been charted.

72. New Zealand expressed optimism over the outcome of the recently-concluded World Population Conference. Effective implementation of the agreed-upon Programme of Action would have major positive impacts on food security and sustainable human development.

73. The Philippines reported that it had drafted the Philippine Agenda 21 and had created the Philippine Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) as a mechanism for implementing principles of sustainable development. The Government approved a Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation as proposed by the PCSD. The Philippines was now implementing a Sustainable Forest Management Programme, which declared all virgin forests in the country to be protected areas.

74. The United States of America highlighted the need for more thorough identification of deficiencies in the global plant genetic resources system, along with corrective measures. Regional efforts to conserve plant and animal genetic resources were considered vital. The Asia and Pacific Region would be ideal for field testing the new Global Information System for animals being developed with support from the United States of America.

Forestry

75. Australia noted that its Prime Minister had joined those from Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and New Zealand in working toward a common Code of Conduct governing the logging of indigenous forests. Companies operating in these countries would have to adhere to this Code. The Prime Ministers had also agreed to urgently increase the monitoring of logging and exports of timber. Australia welcomed FAO's plans to decentralize regional advisory services of the Tropical Forests Action Programme.

76. Cambodia described the continuing deforestation problem in the country and negative impacts on agriculture and fisheries. A new Forestry Code had been drafted with support from FAO, and a National Forestry Action Plan was being formulated.

77. Fiji advocated constructive strategies to counter illegal logging and ways of conserving indigenous forests without constraining development.

78. Japan highlighted its efforts to protect, manage, and improve its forests, and its willingness to share its expertise with other countries through the Tropical Forests Action Programme (TFAP), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), and bilateral programmes. Japan actively participated in international working groups, developing criteria and indicators for the sustainable management of temperate and boreal forests.

79. Malaysia reiterated its commitment to sustainable management, conservation, and use of its forest resources, in line with the International Tropical Timber Organization's Target 2000. This required that all trade of tropical timber be sourced from sustainably managed forests. The National Forestry Policy had been revised to provide further impetus on forest legislation, plantation development, agroforestry, non-wood forest products, community forestry, recreation, forest-based tourism, conservation of biodiversity, and international cooperation.

80. Myanmar enacted a new Forest Act. This served as a strong deterrent in preventing further degradation of timber resources. Export of logs had been drastically curtailed to encourage domestic value-added processing.

81. Laos indicated that forest products generated more income for the country than any other products in the agricultural sector. Forest destruction had continued at alarming rates due to shifting cultivation and illegal timber extraction. The Government sought to minimize the impacts of shifting cultivators by introducing such alternatives as livestock production, tree farming, and fruit production. To control illegal timber harvesting, the Government had adopted strict new law enforcement measures.

82. By developing extensive areas of planted forests in the past, New Zealand had been able to protect almost all of its natural forests. New Zealand was now happy to share with other Member Nations the lessons and expertise it had acquired from its experiences.

83. Samoa had finalized a new National Forest Policy, after three years of preparation. The new policy would soon be submitted for Cabinet approval. The Reforestation Programme suffered major setbacks in Cyclones Ofa (1991) and Val (1992), but with good nurseries, reforestation was now back on track.

Fisheries

84. Australia noted the recent closures of once-valuable fisheries and radical reductions in the catches from others. Australian fisheries agencies endorsed the principles and goals of ecologically-sustainable development of fisheries. Fisheries were restructured and output goals were introduced.

85. Fiji cautioned that, while fisheries were critically important to South Pacific nations, countries were not equipped to effectively police their exclusive economic zones (EEZs). Forceful policing, and development of practical guidelines on sustainable levels of catches, were crucial to Fiji's future tuna industry.

86. Japan announced it would convene an International Conference on Sustainable Contribution of Fisheries to Food Security in Kyoto from 4 to 9 December 1995 in collaboration with FAO to discuss appropriate management of fisheries resources. Japan urged all Member Nations to participate in the Conference.

87. New Zealand was working towards a framework for better international fisheries management, noting that it would soon co-host, with FAO, an experts' meeting on fisheries management. It was also considering organizing a workshop in New Zealand, in 1995, on application of property rights in fisheries management.

88. Thailand faced many coastal resources management challenges, including conflicts between small-scale fisheries and commercial fisheries, negative impacts from coastal aquaculture, and destruction of mangrove resources. The country took several steps to resolve these problems, including limiting the expansion of shrimp farms, regulating waste disposal, supporting small-scale waterfront fisheries, and establishing of fish sanctuaries.

89. Viet Nam reported that fisheries production reached 1.2 million metric tonnes per year, or more than twice the production level of 1980.

Statements by the Observer Delegations

90. The Director of the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) reported on the activities of the institution, which was established 15 years ago to alleviate rural poverty in the Region. Since its inception, CIRDAP had implemented 152 projects related to research, training, and information dissemination. High priority had been given to promoting rural communication, local participation, and farmer training.

91. The Officer-in-Charge of the Rural and Urban Development Division, of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), reported that ESCAP had focused its work on three main themes of development since restructuring its work programme: poverty alleviation, sustainable growth, and regional cooperation. In the area of poverty alleviation, ESCAP provided advisory services, technical assistance and information. Related to sustainable agriculture, ESCAP supported the proper use of agro-chemicals, cooperated in the interagency Fertilizers Advisory Development and Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (FADINAP), and developed a database on pesticides in ASEAN countries which was a useful complement to IPM programmes in the Region. ESCAP also cooperated with FAO and other UN agencies on follow-up to UNCED and implementation of Agenda 21.

III. REPORT ON FAO ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION: 1992-93

92. The Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific (ADG/RR) introduced this Agenda Item and reported on the major FAO activities of the past biennium.²

93. He noted that Asia and the Pacific remained the fastest-growing economic region in the world during the past biennium. Despite a string of natural disasters and energy problems, policy reforms continued to spur dramatic economic growth. Not all people and countries of the Region had shared in the economic advances, however, and serious income disparities continued even in the fastest-growing economies.

94. The ADG/RR cautioned that behind the impressive macro-economic achievements of the Asia and Pacific Region loomed several stark realities. Farmers had run out of land. Improvements in technology had been offset by conversion of cropland to other land uses. Soil had been mined to the point of exhaustion. Irrigated area *per capita* continued to decline. Rice and wheat yields were slipping backwards. Meat production was levelling off. World fish catch per person had dropped nearly 5 percent in recent years. And massive deforestation had resulted in the extinction of at least one plant or animal species every day.

95. The ADG/RR warned that if these trends were not decisively reversed, the Region could face ecological collapse. He noted that addressing these problems would be especially challenging in a global environment of stagnant development assistance and protectionism.

96. FAO programmes during the 1992-93 biennium focused on strengthening national capacities and inter-country cooperation for the rational and sustainable use of natural resources. The ADG/RR highlighted the importance of the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN) in shaping FAO's programmes during the biennium.

97. FAO carried out a broad range of activities during the biennium. These included genetic resources conservation, plant protection, biotechnology, forestry and fisheries management, promotion of cooperative research, and facilitation of the exchange of germplasm.

98. The ADG/RR described strengthening ties between the FAO Regional Office and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), intergovernmental bodies, and academic and research institutions. This had proven to be constructive and cost-effective.

99. FAO's capacity to respond to the spiraling needs of the Region was negatively affected by persistent financial constraints aggravated by inflation. Nonetheless, from January 1992 to April 1993, FAO formulated and obtained funding for projects totalling US\$ 1.4 billion.

100. The ADG/RR pointed out that the unprecedented challenges facing agriculture, forestry, and fisheries also offered opportunities for decisive action. He reiterated the calls of UNCED and ICN for radical recasting of policies, programmes, and lifestyles to reverse the dangerous trends now impacting the Region's life-support systems.

101. The ADG/RR stated that RAPA sought to focus its 1994-95 programmes on the issues related to the Director-General's special programmes on food security, plant and animal genetic resources, transboundary plant and animal diseases, and overall sustainable agriculture and development empowering women and the poor.

² APRC/94/2.

102. The Conference endorsed the fundamental principle of sustainable development as the cornerstone upon which all countries of the Region should base their policies and actions.

103. The Conference endorsed the ongoing activities of FAO in the region and supported the new initiatives and priority areas of work, as proposed by the Director-General and as approved by the Twenty-seventh Session of the FAO Conference in 1993. In accordance with those initiatives, it agreed with efforts by RAPA to focus its 1994-95 programmes to address these priorities.

104. Realizing that plant and animal genetic resources conservation reached to the very heart of food security, the Conference recommended that FAO continue to give high priority to these activities. Regional expertise would be essential to the ongoing work of FAO's Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and to the Secretariat preparing for the 1996 International Technical Conference and Programme on Plant Genetic Resources.

105. Noting the catalytic successes that FAO had obtained through its many regional networks, the Conference urged FAO to devote attention and resources to effectively support existing networks, and called on FAO to pursue promising new network opportunities such as the Regional Network on Agricultural Policy Analysis for Asia and the Pacific.

106. The Conference noted with satisfaction the preparation of a separate detailed report of FAO activities carried out in the Pacific Island countries, and requested that similar reports be provided in the future.

107. Acknowledging the vast pool of talent and technical expertise in the Region, and FAO's ongoing and newly-established mechanisms for TCDC, the Conference recommended that FAO take full advantage of these mechanisms to foster and expand South-South cooperation within the Region.

108. The Conference expressed approval of FAO's close collaboration with ESCAP and other international institutions working in the Region, and strongly encouraged that such collaboration be continued.

109. The Conference strongly supported the Director-General's proposals to strengthen the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, the creation of a new sub-regional office for the Pacific Islands countries, and decentralization of FAO services.

IV. OUTCOME OF THE 106TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF FAO IN THE REGION

110. The Conference was briefed on the outcome of the 106th Session of the FAO Council, on the basis of the Conference information document,³ which was summarized by the Independent Chairman of the FAO Council. The Independent Chairman reported that the Council session had convened in a spirit of cooperation and creativity that led to the unanimous approval of the Director-General's proposals in relation to the review of the programmes, structures, and policies of the Organization.

111. He reported that the Council's main action was to review and approve the new Director-General's proposals for the reinvigoration of FAO. Included were recommendations to restructure the Organization at Headquarters, accelerate decentralization, strengthen the Regional Offices, and establish five sub-regional offices, including one for the Pacific Island Member Nations. The Council also approved the initiation of two special programmes on food production in support of food security in low-income food-deficit countries and on an Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal Pests and Diseases.

112. The Special Adviser to the Director-General and Assistant Director-General for Environment and Sustainable Development updated the Conference on the processes which had been put in place to carry out the Council's decisions. With regard to restructuring, he reported that staffing patterns were being reviewed at the Regional Offices and Country Representation Offices, reallocation and redefinition of posts was taking place at Headquarters, and consultations were taking place to reach consensus on the location for the sub-regional office for the Pacific. Not unexpectedly, several countries had expressed interest in hosting the sub-regional office.

113. With regard to the special programme on food production in support of food security in LIFDCs, it was reported that FAO had established cooperative agreements with the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and additional arrangements were sought with other multilateral and bilateral donors. The next step would be to engage in consultations with countries where field projects could be initiated before the 1995 crop seasons.

114. The Conference unanimously concurred with the decisions of the Council endorsing the proposals of the Director-General. The Conference noted that the proposals contained a considerable number of elements likely to have a positive impact on the Asia and Pacific Region.

115. The Conference strongly endorsed the proposals for decentralization of FAO, strengthening of the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, and the establishment of a sub-regional office for the Pacific.

116. The Conference specifically supported the initiation of the new special programmes on food production in support of food security in LIFDCs and the Emergency Prevention System (EMPRES) for Transboundary Animal Pests and Diseases. While the Conference agreed that the emphasis of the Special Programme on Food Security should be on food production, some delegations stressed that other factors contributing to food security should continue to be addressed in FAO's overall work programme.

117. The Conference was pleased to note that in the Asia and Pacific Region, EMPRES would also include activities related to foot-and-mouth disease. Pointing out that other organizations had been supporting foot-and-mouth disease eradication in Latin America for many years, with considerable

³ APCR/94/INF/8.

success, the Conference called for FAO to give equal emphasis to Southeast Asia and Latin America in its work to eradicate foot-and-mouth disease.

118. The Conference imparted high priority to FAO's work on commodity policies and trade, food standards under Codex Alimentarius, the international harmonization of plant quarantine, plant and animal genetic resources, the environment and sustainable development, and to the increase in allocations to forestry and fisheries.

119. The Conference expressed its appreciation for the efficient manner in which the Independent Chairman had conducted the proceedings of the Council.

V. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE THROUGH INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

120. The Conference considered the topic of sustainable agriculture through integrated pest management (IPM) on the basis of the Conference document,⁴ and an introductory presentation made by the Regional Programme Coordinator of the FAO Inter-country Programme for Integrated Pest Control in Rice in South and Southeast Asia.

121. He described the successful adoption and application of IPM in several countries of Asia and the Pacific. He cited the example of Indonesia, where since the declaration of a national IPM policy in 1986, annual rice production had increased by more than 15 percent and average yield per hectare had exceeded 4.5 tonnes, while the country's use of insecticides in rice had decreased by more than 50 percent. Similar results were observed in Vietnam, Bangladesh, and China.

122. IPM was described as having a longer history in Asia than anywhere else in the world. Recent success in Asia and the Pacific was based on the process of human resource development where farmers' expertise was recognized and enhanced. Moreover, IPM had broad and long-lasting socio-economic benefits far beyond plant protection.

123. The Conference noted that innovative, participatory training methods, which built on an understanding of local agro-ecosystem and ownership of community-based science and technology, were the key to IPM implementation. This was achieved through the establishment of farmer field schools where farmers discovered for themselves scientific processes comprising the agro-ecosystem. It was stressed, however, that support for basic and applied research was necessary and complementary to farm field schools in sustaining IPM.

124. The Conference recognized that ecologically-based IPM had already been applied in Asia and the Pacific countries to some perennial crops and rice, and concluded that IPM could work equally well when applied to other crops (e.g., cotton, vegetables, fruits, etc.).

125. Some countries highlighted the continuing importance of appropriate and safe use of pesticides for sustainable agricultural production, and stressed their effectiveness as a component of IPM.

126. Noting the economic and environmental benefits of IPM, the Conference strongly urged all countries, where appropriate, to review national pesticide policies, remove pesticide subsidies, and develop national IPM policies.

127. The Conference recognized the success of NGOs, working as partners with FAO and national programmes, to promote IPM implementation, and recommended that Member Governments involve them in IPM training and strengthening of the non-formal education process.

128. The Conference called for the full participation of women farmers and women trainers to broaden and enhance the success of IPM programmes.

129. Acknowledging the key role that FAO had played in promoting and supporting farmer field schools for rice-based IPM, the Conference strongly urged FAO to expand such support to IPM training activities for other crops. The Conference recommended that Member Governments support work with crops other than rice through establishment of pilot study sites.

⁴ APRC/94/3.

130. The Conference requested FAO to explore the prospects for establishing a regional network for the exchange of information on pesticides and IPM, pesticide policies, and health and environmental impacts of pesticide use. Such a network could also facilitate exchange programmes and study tours among countries.

131. The Conference stressed the need for additional resources to effectively expand IPM and invited donors to increase support for the development of national IPM policies, the training of farmers through farmer field schools, and the farmer-to-farmer transfer of IPM principles.

VI. SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES THROUGH INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT

132. The Senior Fishery Planning Officer, Fishery Policy and Planning Division, introduced the Conference document.⁵ He noted that integrated coastal fisheries management was, by necessity, multisectoral in its approach, was part of the larger coastal management mandate, and was most appropriately applied where fisheries was a sector of major concern.

133. He characterized the threats to coastal capture fisheries as coming from two sources: 1) adverse environmental changes originating outside the sector that degraded fish habitat and water quality, and 2) overexploitation of fisheries. Problems in aquaculture were linked to deterioration of water quality and inappropriate land use. Profit motives and poverty were identified as jointly responsible for these threats, along with pervasive open access to coastal resources.

134. He emphasized that it may be important within integrated coastal fisheries management to make the control of fishing - preferably through the elimination of open access - a matter of high priority. Effective control, involving allocation of resources, would ensure that management measures designed to protect fish habitat would produce long-term benefits.

135. The Conference noted that successful integrated coastal fisheries management was more political than administrative in nature, both in terms of the participation and involvement of those concerned, and because of the many government agencies involved. It was recognized that the integration of sectoral programmes and policies through trade-offs among different development options should be a key mechanism of integrated coastal fisheries management.

136. The Conference concluded that to maintain high productivity fisheries in the coastal areas, all factors which affected the sustainable production of fisheries resources must be taken into account, including not only nearby agriculture and forestry, but also urbanization, industrial development, aquaculture, tourism, and infrastructure development.

137. The Conference noted the many successful examples of integrated coastal area management (ICAM) in Asia and the Pacific, and suggested that excellent opportunities for sharing experiences through TCDC within the Region and with countries in other regions. FAO was urged to facilitate such exchanges.

138. The Conference noted the negative impacts resulting from inappropriate aquaculture development, but recognized that properly managed aquaculture could lead to increased productivity of coastal areas and higher levels of income and employment.

139. The Conference agreed that ICAM was essential for the conservation of coastal fisheries resources and the coastal environment. The Conference recommended that ICAM projects should be initiated at national and local levels, and strengthened through coordination at the regional level.

140. The Conference recognized the value of effective zoning and land use planning in protecting coastal resources and coastal fisheries, and urged Member Governments to develop effective coastal zone plans. FAO was requested to assist countries with planning where needed.

141. The Conference recommended that FAO should provide technical assistance and training for the implementation of ICAM projects, and coordinate such activities with countries and other international organizations concerned.

⁵ APRC/94/4.

VII. FOLLOW-UP TO UNCED AND AGENDA 21

142. The Conference considered follow-up activities related to UNCED and Agenda 21 on the basis of the Conference document,⁶ which was introduced by the Special Adviser to the Director-General and Assistant Director-General for Environment and Sustainable Development.

143. He emphasized the important role of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) in guiding and monitoring the implementation of the agreements of the Rio Summit, and described FAO's functions in supporting the CSD as Task Manager for Chapters 10, 11, 13, and 14 of Agenda 21, which were related to land resources. He noted that activities related to these chapters would be reviewed by the CSD in April of 1995.

144. The Conference endorsed FAO's role as Task Manager for Agenda 21 chapters related to land resources. The Conference called on FAO to continue and strengthen its support for Agenda 21 implementation. In this regard, the Conference expressed approval of the establishment for the Department of Sustainable Development within FAO.

145. While recognizing that FAO was not the Task Manager for the Agenda 21 Chapter on the Conservation of Biological Diversity, the Conference recognized FAO's valuable contributions in this area. The Conference requested FAO to strengthen its regional efforts pertaining to preparatory activities for the 1996 International Conference and Programme on Plant Genetic Resources. It also requested an expansion of efforts underway on conserving domestic animal diversity and expressed appreciation to the Government of Japan for funding initial efforts.

146. Noting the pressures on timber-producing countries in the Region to obtain all internationally-traded timber products from sustainably-managed forests by the year 2000, the Conference urged increased FAO support to countries for the implementation of the Forest Principles.

147. Recognizing the importance of the upcoming CSD review of the sectoral issues related to land resources, the Conference fully agreed with recommendations that the agriculture and forestry sectors be represented on country delegations to the April 1995 session of the CSD, so that the priorities of these sectors were taken into account and an appropriate balance between development and environment was maintained in CSD decision-making.

148. Member Nations reported on an encouraging array of national-level post-UNCED activities, including the development of national Agenda 21 programmes, implementation of policy reforms, passage of new legislation, and implementation of targeted field projects. The Conference recommended that countries in the Region share experiences related to the accomplishments and implementation of post-UNCED activities.

⁶ APRC/94/INF/10.

VIII. IMPLICATIONS OF THE URUGUAY ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS ON FOOD SECURITY IN THE ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION

149. The Conference considered the implications of the GATT Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations on food security in the Asia and Pacific Region, based on the Conference document,⁷ which was introduced by the Regional Economist (Food Security and Food Marketing), FAO, RAPA. He noted that the final act of the Uruguay Round signed in Marrakesh in April 1994 had three components important for food security: the Agreement on Agriculture; the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures; and the "Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Program on Least-Developed and Net-Food Importing Developing Countries."

150. He summarized the results of preliminary assessments of the potential impacts of the Uruguay Round agreements on food security and stressed that individual country experiences would depend on their present net food import position and their capacity to take advantage of export opportunities. He emphasized the preliminary nature of the current assessments, and informed the Conference that FAO would be completing a more thorough analysis based on signatories' commitment schedules submitted by the end of 1994. This analysis would be reviewed by the April 1995 session of the Committee on Commodity Problems.

151. The Conference noted that special and differential treatment would be given to developing countries under the Agreement on Agriculture. Food import assistance was to be considered for particularly needy countries under the "Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Program on Least-Developed and Net-Food Importing Developing Countries." It called on donors to reinforce their efforts to improve the food security of LIFDCs.

152. The Conference welcomed the conclusions and outcome of the Uruguay Round. The Conference anticipated that the new agreements would usher in a new order in global trading of food and agricultural products. This would generally benefit most developing countries whose comparative advantage lay in agriculture. It was suggested that FAO could play a central role by assisting developing countries with technical and policy advice and by conducting in-depth quantitative studies of the implications of the Uruguay Round.

153. FAO was requested to focus on the following topics: the impact of the Uruguay Round on tropical products from developing countries, potential impact on food security, implementation of sanitary and phytosanitary measures in developing countries, regional and sub-regional food grain stocking in a liberalized trading environment, special problems of jute production and trade, and harmonization of policies to comply with the new agreements.

154. As a supportive measure, the Conference recommended that FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) be strengthened to meet increased requests for assessing the food security situation and food aid needs of low-income, food-deficit countries.

155. The Conference called on FAO to update the present paper on "Implications of the Uruguay Round for Food Security in Asia and the Pacific" in the light of findings of new studies based on schedules of commitments submitted by the signatories to the agreements. It was suggested that the updated paper be discussed at the next session of the FAO Regional Commission on Food Security for Asia and the Pacific.

⁷ APCR/94/INF/11.

IX. PREPARATIONS FOR THE 1996 WORLD FOOD SUMMIT

156. The Conference considered preparations for a proposed 1996 World Food Summit, as described in the Conference information document⁸ introduced by the Director, Information Division.

157. The Conference was provided with a range of data concerning the persistence of food insecurity in many countries, population increase, and the decline in agricultural investment. The "deep concern" over these developments expressed by the Twenty-seventh Session of the FAO Conference was recalled, as was the Conference's call for immediate action to bring about food security.

158. The Conference noted that the Director-General had consulted a number of Heads of State and Government in all regions on these issues. There was consensus among the Heads of State and Governments that convening a World Food Summit as early as possible was warranted and commensurate with the seriousness of the problems of food insecurity. The Conference further noted that it was the Director-General's intention to call the World Food Summit in early 1996. Saturday, 9 March, and Sunday, 10 March, 1996 were presently viewed as possible dates.

159. The purpose of the Summit would be to raise awareness and political will regarding the unacceptability of continued food insecurity and the need for global commitment and action to redress the problem. The Summit was expected to lead to the adoption of policies and a Plan of Action. There was no intention to propose new organizational structures or additional financial mechanisms.

160. The Conference was informed that the preparatory process would be broad-based and involve consultations with governments, NGOs, the private sector, and the UN system. The Secretariat would present the major issues relevant to world food security through a series of analytical background papers covering past developments, the present situation, and proposals for future action. The papers would mainly be based on "Agriculture: Towards 2010" and other studies by the Organization. The Secretariat would also prepare a draft policy document for consideration by the Summit, and a draft Plan of Action.

161. The Summit documentation would be first submitted to a special Ministerial Meeting in Quebec, Canada, (14-16 October 1995) convened in connection with the commemoration of FAO's 50th Anniversary. Ministers of Agriculture and Development Cooperation would be invited to attend this meeting. Also in the context of the Anniversary of the Organization, the Federal Government of Canada and the Government of the Province of Quebec would organize a three-day international Symposium on food security-related issues in Quebec (11-13 October 1995). The Symposium would be attended by representatives from governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. Linkages between these two events would permit Symposium participants representing NGOs and the private sector to present their perspectives on food security issues at the Ministerial Meeting.

162. The Conference generally endorsed the convening the World Food Summit. One country, while stressing the importance of a meeting to seriously discuss food security, underscored the importance of further dialogue on the framework of the meeting, including the level of participation.

⁸ APRC/94/INF/9.

X. REPRESENTATION OF THE REGION ON THE CGIAR

163. The Special Adviser to the Director-General and Assistant Director-General for Environment and Sustainable Development, introduced the Conference document⁹ related to representation of the Region on the CGIAR. He explained FAO's role as co-sponsor of CGIAR in setting policy for the international agricultural research centres and in promoting the research priorities of developing countries.

164. The Conference reviewed and endorsed the criteria for selecting Member Nations to serve as the Regional Representatives and the responsibilities of this office.

165. The Conference selected Malaysia and Nepal to represent the Region for the 1995-98 period.

166. The Conference considered suggestions for improving the effectiveness of regional representation on the CGIAR. In this regard, the Conference recommended that the Regional Representatives regularly visit National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) in the Region to interact more closely with their colleagues, obtaining their views and comments, and providing feedback on the outcome of the CGIAR meetings.

167. The Conference further agreed with the plan of the CGIAR to increase the involvement of NARS in setting the research and development agenda of the CGIAR centers. The Conference also strongly supported the continued convening of CGIAR mid-term meetings in developing countries, thus providing opportunities for CGIAR members to interact with the NARS in the Region.

168. The Conference recognized that it was the developing countries that had a larger stake in the continued availability of improved technologies emanating from the CGIAR centres. The Conference, therefore, invited developing Member Nations to join traditional donor countries in increasing contributions to the CGIAR.

⁹ APRC/94/5.

XI. REPORT ON THE FOLLOW-UP TO THE ICN

169. The Conference considered the report of follow-up to the ICN,¹⁰ introduced by the Special Adviser to the Director-General and Assistant Director-General for Environment and Sustainable Development. It reviewed the actions taken by countries of the Region and by FAO in the implementation of the recommendations included in the World Declaration and Plan of Action for Nutrition, adopted at the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN), held in Rome in December 1992.

170. The Conference was informed of progress made to date, including substantive discussion in FAO Governing Bodies (COAG, Council, Conference) on ways to achieve ICN goals. The need for FAO and WHO to jointly prepare, in 1995, a comprehensive report on ICN implementation was also noted. The Conference was informed of work already carried out, or scheduled for implementation in the Asia and Pacific Region during this biennium.

171. The Conference recognized the importance of developing or reinforcing national plans of action for Nutrition to effectively implement the recommendations of the ICN. Several Member Nations described their experiences in this regard. The Conference urged Member Nations which had not yet developed such plans to do so as soon as possible.

172. The Conference anticipated increasing need for assistance from FAO, WHO, and other international organizations in the fields of traditional food crops production, industry support for food fortification, and food quality and safety. It recommended continuing FAO assistance in integrating nutrition concerns into fisheries and forestry projects, as well as agricultural projects.

¹⁰ APRC/94/INF/5.

XII. DRAFT DECLARATION ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

173. The Conference considered the text of a draft "Declaration on Food and Agriculture".¹¹ The draft was submitted to the Conference in accordance with Resolution 4/93, dealing with the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Organization in 1995. Member Governments were requested to submit their comments in writing to the Director-General before 7 December 1994.

174. The revised draft would be placed before the Council, at its Hundred and Eighth Session in June 1995, for its consideration. It would then be further revised in the light of the Council's deliberations for submission to the Fiftieth Anniversary Commemorative Observance for endorsement. The final draft would be submitted to the FAO Conference, at its Twenty-eighth Session, for approval.

175. The Conference was informed that the Fiftieth Anniversary Resolution adopted by the last Conference of FAO also called upon all Member Nations to observe the Organization's anniversary in a manner that befitted the importance of the event. Many activities were already under consideration. For example, more than 65 countries had already decided to issue commemorative stamps and, so far, over 30 countries had indicated that they would issue commemorative coins. In order to assist Member Nations to plan suitable commemorative events, the Director-General had already decided on the World Food Day theme for 1995, which was also the theme for the Anniversary: "Food for All".

176. The Observer from Canada informed the Conference about the events that were scheduled to take place in Quebec City to mark the Fiftieth Anniversary of FAO in October 1995. The Governments of Canada and the Province of Quebec, and the City of Quebec, were organizing an international commemorative Symposium from 11 to 13 October 1995 that would deal with a wide range of food security issues. The Fiftieth Anniversary Observance would take place on 16 October at Quebec's Chateau Frontenac, the very site where FAO had been founded in 1945, and the events would conclude with the endorsement of the "Quebec Declaration" - the Fiftieth Anniversary Declaration on Food and Agriculture. The Government of Canada would also host the Ministerial Meeting that was being convened by the Director-General in preparation for the World Food Summit.

¹¹ APCR/94/INF/7.

XIII. CONCLUDING ITEMS

Date and Place of the Twenty-third Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific

177. The Government of Samoa offered to host the Twenty-third FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific in 1996. The Government of Indonesia welcomed and supported the offer of Samoa. It also offered to provide the alternative venue if, for any reason, the Conference could not be convened in Samoa.

178. The Chairman of the Conference noted that the offer of Samoa to host the Twenty-third FAO Regional Conference would be conveyed to the Director-General of FAO, who would decide on the date and place of the Conference in consultation with Member Governments.

Adoption of the Report

179. The Conference unanimously adopted the draft report presented by the Rapporteur and the Conference Chairman.

Closure of the Conference

180. In their closing statement, delegates expressed their appreciation to the Government and people of the Philippines for hosting the Conference, for providing excellent meeting facilities and logistical support, and for arranging stimulating field visits. They were most appreciative of the generous and warm traditional Filipino hospitality extended to all participants.

181. On behalf of the Government of the Philippines, Secretary Roberto S. Sebastian, delivered the closing statement. He summarized the main conclusions and recommendations of the Conference. He expressed the opinion that the Conference had, indeed, met the expectations highlighted by President Ramos in his opening address. The Conference had addressed many difficult and challenging issues. He then declared the Twenty-second FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific closed.

APPENDIX A

AGENDA

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1. Inaugural Ceremony
2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen and Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

STATEMENTS

4. Statement by the Director-General
5. Country statements and general debate on the food and agriculture situation in the Region
6. Report on FAO activities in the Region 1992-93
7. Outcome of the 106th Session of the Council and its implications for present and future activities of FAO in the Region

SELECTED ISSUES OF AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

8. Sustainable agriculture through integrated pest management
9. Sustainable fisheries through integrated coastal management
10. Follow-up to UNCED and Agenda 21
11. Implications of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations on food security in the Asia and the Pacific Region
12. Preparation for the 1996 World Food Summit
13. Representation of the Region on the CGIAR
14. Report on the follow-up to the ICN
15. Draft Declaration on Food and Agriculture

CONCLUDING ITEMS

16. Any other business
17. Date and place of the 23rd Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific
18. Adoption of the Report
19. Closure of the Conference

APPENDIX B
ANNEXE B

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

OFFICERS OF THE CONFERENCE
BUREAU DE LA CONFERENCE

Chairman: Roberto S. SEBASTIAN (PHILIPPINES)
Président:

Vice-Chairmen: Vaine TAIREA (COOK ISLANDS)
Vice-Présidents: Ratu Ovini BOKINI (FIJI)
Balram JAKHAR (INDIA)
Datuk Seri Sanusi JUNID (MALAYSIA)
Hassan SOBIR (MALDIVES)
Misa Telefoni RETZLAFF (SAMOA)
Nguyen Tan TRINH (VIET NAM)

Rapporteur: Dixon NILAWEERA (SRI LANKA)

Independent Chairman
of the Council: J.R. LOPEZ-PORTILLO
Président indépendant
du Conseil:

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ETATS MEMBRES DE LA REGION

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Australian Embassy
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AMBODIA - CAMBODGE

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Alternate

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Zheng BO

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COOK ISLANDS - ILES COOK

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FIJI - FIDJI

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Ministry of Agriculture
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Conservator of Forests
Ministry of Agriculture
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P.B. DURST
Reports Officer

W.I. KHAN
Information Officer

APPENDIX C

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

APRC/94/1	Provisional Annotated Agenda
APRC/94/2	Report of FAO Activities in the Region 1992-93
APRC/94/3	Sustainable Agriculture Through Integrated Pest Management
APRC/94/4	Sustainable Fisheries Through Integrated Coastal Management
APRC/94/5	Representation of the Region on the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

INF SERIES

APRC/94/INF/1	Information Note
APRC/94/INF/2	Provisional Timetable
APRC/94/INF/3	Provisional List of Documents
APRC/94/INF/4	Action Taken on the Main Recommendations of the 21st Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific
APRC/94/INF/5	Report on the Follow-up to the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN)
APRC/94/INF/6	Director-General's Statement
APRC/94/INF/7	Draft Declaration on Food and Agriculture
APRC/94/INF/8	Outcome of the 106th Session of the Council and its Implications for Present and Future Activities of FAO in the Region
APRC/94/INF/9	Preparation for the 1996 World Food Summit
APRC/94/INF/10	Follow-up to UNCED and Agenda 21
APRC/94/INF/11	Implications of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations on Food Security in the Asia and the Pacific Region
APRC/94/INF/12-Rev.1	Provisional List of Delegates and Observers

OD SERIES

APRC/94/OD/1 to APRC/94/OD/4	Orders of the Day
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APPENDIX D

STATEMENT BY H.E. PRESIDENT FIDEL V. RAMOS

INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the Filipino people and the Philippine Government, I am delighted to welcome you to Manila for this 22nd Asia and Pacific Regional Conference of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

Among the United Nations' permanent specialized agencies, the FAO is by far the oldest. And there is a very good reason for this. FAO was established at the end of World War II with the principal objective of eliminating hunger, improving nutrition and providing food security for the peoples of the world.

Each convening of this Asia and Pacific Regional Conference has steadily taken on added importance. But perhaps this year's meeting exceeds its predecessors in promise and significance, for we meet at a time when the Asia and Pacific has emerged as the most dynamic region in the world.

When we combine this vitality with the leadership of the FAO, it is not too far-fetched to hope that within this century, the Asia and Pacific will finally meet the challenge posed by the ancient Chinese philosopher Laotzu when he said: "fill the people's bellies, and (you) open their hearts".

The signs are encouraging that we can finally achieve full food security in our region through sustainable development.

A COMMON AGENDA

This is an agenda which this Regional Conference shares with other regions all over the world. And we share with them as well the peculiar problems attendant to the challenge.

The growing threat of overexploitation, the rise in pollution, the degradation of our environment, and the wasteful utilization of earth's resources have surged alongside our quest for modernization.

In our pursuit of progress, it seems paradoxically that we have also succeeded in disrupting the very cycle of nature and life.

Behind our statistics of growth, millions of our peoples continue to succumb to hunger and poverty.

It is in the name of a more equitable and safer route to development that we - our respective countries and the FAO - have embraced the strategy of sustainable development.

We believe that there is an alternative road to development that does not mortgage our children's patrimony, that does not wreak havoc to the environment which sustains us all.

If we stand for one common cause in this Conference, it is the cause to defeat malnutrition, hunger and poverty by producing more and protecting the environment at the same time.

If we are to be engaged in any crusade in our time, it should be the crusade to make development in our region not ultimately self-defeating. But regenerating and sustainable.

This is the greatest challenge to the generations of our time.

Within the context of this conference, sustainable growth compels us to seek viable and environmentally-safe programmes to achieve food sufficiency in our region.

One such programme - advocating sustainable agriculture through the use of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Programme - was formulated under the Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

The Integrated Pest Management Programme is a viable and environmentally-benign approach to pest control traces its roots to Europe and North America.

With the invaluable support of FAO, sustainable agriculture has taken a strong foothold in the Asia and Pacific Region, and is now an indispensable component of our development plans.

Asian countries where the programme has been successfully implemented are Indonesia, Viet Nam, China, India and the Philippines.

What makes IPM such a viable alternative in agricultural production is that it advocates the principle of people empowerment. More than a technology, IPM empowers farmers, harnessing them as a vital human resource to effectively deliver well-integrated decisions regarding farming technologies and resources.

Bringing the decision level to the grassroots is the essence of empowerment, it instills responsibility in people to protect and nurture natural resources from which they draw their livelihood.

INTEGRATED MARINE LIFE PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

With the same sense of concern and caring, this Conference will tackle the challenge of protecting our waters and marine life.

Over the years, unregulated fishing, the destruction of our coral reefs, overexploitation, the dumping of toxic waste into our seas, and the continuing degeneration of our coastlines have contributed to the rapid decline and destruction of our waters and marine life. These practices have adversely affected our food supply, while endangering the sustainability of our marine life.

Nowhere is this problem more acute than here in the Philippines and Indonesia which are archipelagic nations with vast coastlines and territorial waters.

Coastal area management provides us the impetus to redress these threats by enforcing and implementing regional and local ordinances and environmental programs to protect, nurture and effectively manage our vital waters and aquatic resources.

Our governments in Asia and Pacific - in cooperation with our coastal communities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and people's organizations (POs) - must be tapped to implement these ordinances and formulate and sustain such environmental protection projects.

Considering the rapid pace of the deterioration of our waters in the Region, it is imperative that we give our full support to a dynamic and proactive policy of environmental protection.

This is mainly a test of the will today. Together, let us face the challenge.

URUGUAY ROUND AGREEMENT

Since FAO Member Nations strongly uphold the principles of sustainable development, it has become imperative to create a world environment conducive to both the earth's survival and human progress.

In an era of trade liberalism within the framework of a future borderless economy, the ratification of the Uruguay Round Agreement of GATT is fundamental to our common development.

As a set of rules, the agreement assures all Member Nations of an improved mechanism for planning and implementing investment and trade activities.

The agreement provides us the impetus for change. It establishes the foundations for a truly democratic and competitive world market, where transparency and fair play are the rule.

That FAO supports and upholds the Uruguay Round GATT Agreement reinforces our belief in and advocacy for its ratification in our respective countries.

For the Asia and Pacific Region, ratifying the agreement will pave the way for increased exports and export earnings. New international markets will be opened to the Region, creating a multiplier effect in our domestic economies. This means more employment, an increased purchasing power and a general increase in economic activities.

But more than the economic and material advantages it confers, what is sacred to us is that under the World Trade Organization, sustainable development will be institutionalized in all Member Nations.

A HISTORIC CONFERENCE

Ladies and gentlemen: this Conference is historic for our countries, our region, and for all humanity.

Back in the 1950s, when much of the world was doubting whether Asia could feed its growing millions, the revered Mohandas Gandhi declared: "to a man with a hungry stomach, food is god".

It is a mark of the progress we have made in the four decades since, that today at this Conference, we are moving towards - and not just dreaming of - food security through sustainable development.

And we are talking not of our separate destinies in the struggle for food security and sustainable development, but of our common future as one human race.

I do not mean to flatter you, ladies and gentlemen, when I say that this Conference takes its place among the historic international conferences that broke new ground in the development of our Asia and Pacific Region. Your deliberations will have long-term impacts not just upon the generations living today, but on those who will come after us.

I say to all of you - let's go for it now and give our younger ones a better future than they themselves can dream of.

Thank you very much.

And a rousing mabuhay to all!

APPENDIX E

STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

*Mr Chairman,
Mr Independent Chairman of the Council,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Heads of Delegations, delegates, observers,
Ladies and Gentlemen:*

INTRODUCTION

1. I would like to express my deep appreciation to the Government and people of the Philippines for hosting the 22nd FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific and for the extremely warm welcome, and the generous hospitality extended to the participants. May I also have the pleasure to offer my heartiest congratulations to H.E. Roberto S. Sebastian, Secretary for Agriculture of the Government of the Philippines, on his election to the chairmanship of the Conference. I am sure, sir, that under your skilful leadership, the Conference will address itself constructively and fruitfully to the significant agenda before it. I would also like to extend my welcome to the Ministers and Heads of Delegations attending the Conference, whose presence here today bears testimony to the deep interest of the Member Governments of the Region in the collective consideration of issues in food and agriculture that confront them.

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

2. The last time this Conference met in Manila was in 1976. It was a time of deep anxiety. Severe cereal shortfalls had cut into thin food reserves. Agrarian reforms were stalled. Investments in agriculture had lagged. The population was steadily increasing. The poor were restless and desperately sought relief. Conventional wisdom questioned whether this Region could even feed itself.

3. A great deal has been achieved since then.

4. In the 1970s, the "Green Revolution" in rice began to take shape, in large part as a result of the work carried out by the Philippine laboratories of the International Rice Research Institute. Today, world food supplies, per person, are 18 percent over what they were 30 years before. Improvements have been most striking in this Region. Daily food consumption in Asia today exceeds 2 700 calories per person.

5. You instilled economic discipline. Your governments invested generously in education, especially for women and health care. Your policies reinforced the small-scale rural producer as the foundation for economy-wide structural transformation.

6. The Asia and Pacific Region carved the deepest inroads into undernutrition. Ranks of chronically-undernourished people here dwindled: from 751 million in 1971 to 528 million in 1990.

7. Increased food supplies cut infant mortality rates: from 114 down to 66 per thousand, for example, in Indonesia. They also stretched life expectancy: to 59 years in Pakistan, 61 in India and 69 in Thailand.

8. Last year, Asia and the Pacific once again outstripped other regions. The Asian Development Bank notes that regional GDP grew by almost 8 percent. Compare this with the less than 1 percent

posted by industrial economies. Asia today saves well above 30 percent of its GNP. Vaults of central banks here contain almost two-fifths of worldwide foreign exchange. When the 21st century dawns, economies of the Region could surge to a full third of world GNP.

9. There remains a big if.

10. Despite your achievements, the Region is criss-crossed by the faultlines of severe disparities.

11. The ill-fed here still approximate the equivalent of over 29 Malaysias. Many huddle in the Gangetic plains of South Asia. Some till the impoverished uplands of Nepal. Others cluster in the cold hinterlands of Bhutan. And hundreds of thousands swap the penury of rural areas for the poverty of urban slums. These sow the dragon-seeds of future discontent.

12. At the turn of this century, millions of these vulnerable men and women will still underpin much of Asia's glistening high-tech superstructures. They will farm ecologically-brittle uplands or equally-fragile coastal strips. Others will fish off sharply constricted island countries of the Pacific.

13. The challenge of supporting more than half of the world's population on 27 percent of its arable land, is indeed a formidable one for the Region. The strategy of increasing food production through its intensification, on high potential land, is posing limits to sustainable development in the face of continued population growth and rising expectations. The continued modernization of traditional agriculture into a high productivity system in the future will have to be fully sensitive to the need for protecting the environment.

14. Our efforts will have to be extended to many fronts in the war against want and waste. Policies and measures for research and development of high-productivity inputs, focus on rainfed areas, and the need to improve post-harvest technologies, will have to be constantly kept in view. Progress will be necessary on integrated pest management, integrated nutrient management, evolution of policies on selective mechanization, and the enhancement of rural employment and incomes. Development of livestock, realization of the potential of biotechnology to contribute to increase productivity and sustainable agriculture, and strengthening national capabilities in policy formulation, programme analysis, and in integrating environmental issues into the planning process are compelling objectives, the realization of which would be crucial to our overall goals.

15. Before it is too late we must reinforce our capacity to meet challenges in our endeavours to improve the quality of life of those whom the development process would otherwise pass by. The energy, the commitment, and the strength of purpose which underpin the remarkable achievements already registered generate confidence and hope for the matching of future aspirations with anticipated outcomes.

RECENT DEVELOPMENT IN FAO AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Restructuring Exercise

16. Following FAO Conference Resolution 10/93, I had undertaken a review of the programmes, structures and policies of the Organization. As a result of the review, the proposals presented to the Council for strengthening FAO as a centre of excellence, bringing its activities closer to its Member Nations and adjusting it to new and emerging concerns and priorities were unanimously approved by it in June 1994. The new FAO structure would better delineate the Organization's normative functions of a global nature and its operational functions. To make the Organization more effective, its functions will be decentralized with the fundamental objective of bringing FAO as close to you as effectively possible. I intend to gradually and progressively strengthen the human and financial resources of the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific to build an effective multidisciplinary team

covering pertinent technical areas and thus providing a critical mass of expertise to that office. A sub-regional office for the Pacific Islands will be established, comprising a team of technical officers geared to the sub-region's specific requirements. During the interim period, while the restructuring process is on, FAO will continue to carry out its programmes in the Region through its Regional Office.

17. I am setting up a new Department of Sustainable Development for coordination of FAO's work in the follow-up to UNCED and in its liaison with the Commission for Sustainable Development. With a view to provide more integrated operational services to Member Nations, the present Development Department will be transformed into the Technical Cooperation Department which will be the hub of operational activities, covering policy advice to countries, investment and implementation of field activities. Its policy advice functions would link with and draw strength from the proposed Agriculture and Economic Development Analysis Division, which would expand our capacity in responding to requests from Member Nations for policy advice.

18. You will no doubt appreciate that the implementation of the restructuring measures will be a complex operation and will need to be spread over careful, calibrated and planned phases to implement a first set of measures during the current biennium, while others will be continued in the framework of the Programme of Work and Budget to be proposed for 1996-97 and of the next Medium-term Plan which will be adjusted accordingly.

Food Security and EMPRES

19. The world is facing the daunting task of feeding a growing population when 800 million people are already undernourished. I have initiated two special programmes on increasing food production in support of Food Security in Low-Income Deficit Countries (LIFDCs), and on an Emergency Prevention System (EMPRES) for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases as a part of the Organization's response to this global challenge.

20. The special programme for LIFDCs is an action programme geared to a quick and significant impact on the vulnerable food security situation of 78 LIFDCs, 45 of which are in Africa, who cannot afford to import the food they need for their people. The special programme represents a new emphasis in FAO's work and is an integral part of FAO's response to Agenda 21 and the International Nutrition Conference. The programme is to spearhead a wide range of FAO actions on the multiple aspects of food security, while sustaining, even enhancing, our natural resource base. The special programme is therefore technology-driven and intended to boost food production and productivity. It will rely on the transfer of higher-yielding crop technologies and will be further supported by specific measures to promote sustainability of the production systems with social equity and a policy environment favouring investment. The programme will initially be implemented in a few selected countries where a solid base for immediate action already exists. Over time, it could be carried out in other low-income food-deficit countries. It will also rely on increased partnership and coordination among development partners and associate the many actors of development from research systems to NGOs.

21. It is my hope that in this renewed effort, you, in Asia and the Pacific, will share more of your expertise, experience and resources with Africa - rightly a major focus of concern. The Indonesian farmers' yearly contribution to small farmers of Africa is a trail blazer in this regard.

22. The proposal for EMPRES is based on the consolidated work of FAO over decades, when dealing with emergencies. Though much is known about what needs to be done when disasters strike, we are at the mercy of processes of alert and mobilization of resources which take time. Here again, it is proposed to organize a course of action within available resources which will do much to increase

the impact of our joint action. Under EMPRES the initial concentration would be on locust control and the second priority would be the eradication of rinderpest.

Forestry

23. FAO is Task Manager for UNCED follow-up activities in relation to the implementation of the forest principles and major forest-related chapters, especially Chapter 11 of Agenda 21 on combating deforestation. Keeping in view FAO's emphasized role in the preparatory process leading up to the 1995 session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) when forestry will be discussed and beyond to CSD '97, I have taken the necessary measures to enhance the work of FAO in the forestry sector to project a higher profile and adopt a more proactive posture, and I have allocated an increase in Regular Programme resources for this purpose. I have also adopted a strategy which refocuses FAO's priorities in forestry within the 1994-95 Programme of Work and Budget to address the immediate requirements of the preparation for CSD 1995. FAO will convene six regional forestry commissions prior to the Commission of Sustainable Development Meeting in 1995 to discuss regional perspectives on the issues involving FAO's Field Programme in the Region.

24. Concerted action on forestry forms an essential component to ensure a habitable world for our children. So, I propose to invite Ministers responsible for forestry to the Twelfth Session of the Committee on Forestry in March 1995 to discuss important global forestry issues. This will be the first occasion that FAO will organize a Ministerial Meeting exclusively devoted to forestry. Immediately prior to it, we plan to arrange a meeting with our partners from non-governmental organizations and the private sector with a view to ensuring the best concerted action in this area.

Fisheries

25. The fisheries sector is of great importance in a large number of countries, as a provider of nutritious food, as a source of employment and income and as a major source of foreign exchange earnings. I have also strengthened the Major Programme on Fisheries and allocated a modest resource increase, in particular, to support increased aquaculture production and to ensure timely preparation of the International Code of Conduct on Responsible Fishing. The Code will be submitted for endorsement to the next session of the Committee on Fisheries in March 1995. I propose to invite Ministers of Fisheries to participate in this session to take stock of developments which have taken place in fisheries since they last met in 1984 on the occasion of the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development, and to provide further guidance for our work in this significant sector.

FAO's Field Programme

26. I am pleased to inform you that FAO's Field Programme in the Region comprises 547 projects, with a value of approximately US\$535 million (up from US\$448.03 million in 1993). UNDP continues to be our major partner in the Field Programme, in as much as it supports 315 projects worth approximately US\$304.26 million. Trust Fund donors are currently funding 136 projects worth about US\$215 million. Ninety-six projects are under implementation with TCP support. The Field Programme in the Region thus reflects a good blend of multilateral, Trust Fund and Regular Programme resources, geared to the technical assistance needs of our Member Nations.

Institutional Cooperation

27. Institutional cooperation facilitates the optimization, coherence and effectiveness of resources at the service of development. FAO will maintain and strengthen close working relationships with major regional intergovernmental and professional/specialized non-governmental organizations

involved in agricultural development with a view to concerting strategies and approaches in our shared developmental endeavours.

28. Development is evolving into an increasingly participatory process in which NGOs and IGOs, both within and outside the UN system, play a valuable role. It is my intention to strengthen partnership with these organizations through an effective use of both existing and new cooperative mechanisms between IGOs, NGOs and the private sector.

TCDC

29. I have also launched a scheme to foster technical cooperation among developing countries on priority programmes in the fields of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, with a view to promoting the self-reliance of developing countries by sharing experience and available qualified expertise and developing complementary capacities. I trust that the text of the proposed agreement has the fullest endorsement of your governments, so that the Organization can initiate collaboration between Member Nations by implementing projects under the terms indicated therein.

The Uruguay Round and GATT

30. The conclusion of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations would have significant repercussions for the Region. FAO is assessing its impact on agricultural commodity markets. I see for FAO an important role in assisting Member Nations to make the necessary adjustments in agricultural policy to the new post-Uruguay Round disciplines. Within the context of GATT, as an incentive for fish-importing nations to adhere to GATT rules governing international trade, FAO is now about to include a chapter on post-harvest practices and trade in the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing.

Genetic Resources

31. The Fourth International Technical Conference for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources in 1996 in Germany which will consider a first State of the World Report and a costed Global Plan of Action. The Conference will be prepared through a participatory country-driven process guided by the FAO Intergovernmental Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. The preparatory process of the State of the World Plant Genetic Resources Report is a major component of FAO's response to the Convention on Biological Diversity and is designed to help transform relevant parts of the UNCED process (including Agenda 21 and the Convention on Biological Diversity) into an action-oriented comprehensive programme. It is my earnest hope that the countries of the Region, which are the home of many important crops, will actively participate in the preparatory process leading to this important Conference and in the Conference itself.

32. At this point of time, I believe it is opportune to broaden gradually the scope of FAO's Commission on Plant Genetic Resources to take in livestock and fish. Realism demands that we address the issue of genetic resources - not in fragments but for all interlocking components in food and agriculture.

33. The broadening of the Commission will also respond to the new vistas that modern biotechnologies are opening for the 21st century. It will enhance inputs for the crucial Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Even as your governments debated the future thrusts of FAO, a sub-programme on bio-diversity and biotechnology was initiated in eight countries under the UNDP/FAO Farmer-Centred Agricultural Resources Management Programme. This far-reaching initiative is a tribute to the agricultural leaders of this Region.

The Focus on Women

34. Women are the first victims of horizons constricted by poverty and FAO is committed to strengthening women's role and leadership in sustainable agriculture and rural development. The Organization shall prepare a substantive contribution to the Fourth World Conference on Women 1995, and pursue the implementation of the strategies endorsed in Beijing.

Fiftieth Anniversary of FAO

35. I wish to express my thanks to the Government of Canada which, in conjunction with the Government of the Province of Quebec, has agreed to host and to organize the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Organization in 1995 to be celebrated at Chateau Frontenac in Quebec, the site of the founding of the Organization on 16 October 1945. May I draw your attention to the draft Fiftieth Anniversary Declaration, which represents a summation of the achievements and aspirations of the world community regarding food and agriculture. The document, after consideration by the Regional Conferences, will be considered by the June 1995 Council and later by the Ministerial Meeting in Quebec in October 1995, and finally submitted for adoption by the FAO November 1995 Conference. I would appreciate your comments and suggestions on the draft Resolution.

The World Food Summit

36. Keeping in view the importance of food security, the need is increasingly felt to have an appropriate forum to assess the evolution of the world food situation since the World Food Conference more than 20 years ago, to present the prospects for the year 2010 so as to raise the awareness of the high risks of food crises and famine and to provide the necessary commitment at the highest political level and among the public with a view to take early corrective measures. Therefore, I am proposing that a World Food Summit be held early in 1996. The International Symposium and Ministerial Meeting on the occasion of special commemorative observance in October of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the founding of FAO will provide the opportunity for the final preparatory phase before the Summit. The Summit would seek to forge, once again, at the highest political level, the will to redeem the unfulfilled pledge stirringly spelt out in 1974: that no man, woman or child would go to bed hungry.

The World Food Day

37. Water is an increasingly scarce resource and yet its misuse is common. Despite huge investment, irrigation performance indicators are falling short of expected returns. The problem of providing more food with less water is a great challenge for the future, which needs to be addressed with urgency. I hope that this year's World Food Day theme of "Water for Life" will further promote public awareness and reinvigorate objectives promoting more productive and sustainable planning, investment and utilization of water resources.

38. In the end, I should like to assure you that FAO with its competence and resources, will not be found lacking in assisting you to build a better, brighter and more food secure future for your people.

Services for the Deprived


39. Each generation face unique opportunity for service. But no generation can dictate the time or pick the challenges it must untangle.

40. For us gathered here in Manila that challenge is: to design agricultural policies that will serve our people, long after we go the way of our fathers. Our generation cannot afford to forget that "we are tomorrow's past".

41. Yet we can decide, as this Conference attests, through shared vision and mutual help, to ensure that, in our limited time, the hungry were fed and the rich learned to share more.

42. To restore to our farmers, fisherfolk, and forest people long-lost control over their lives and destiny - that is the ultimate question before us in this Conference. I hope that its deliberations will make a distinct advance in the process of finding an answer to it.

ISBN 92-5-103656-X ISSN 1010-0997



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M-90 V5395E/1/1.95/1200