

**Report of the
FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE
FOR AFRICA**

Abidjan, Ivory Coast, 9-19 November 1966



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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Rome, 1967

FOREWORD

The basis of this Report consists of the sectional summaries drawn up and approved by the Conference at the close of discussion of each item on the agenda. The reasons for this departure from previous practice in drawing up and approving a full-length report at the Conference itself are given in paragraph 16.

Several of the items discussed introduced a wide range of aspects of agricultural development and the reader who is interested only in specific specialized fields of action is advised to consult the index which follows this foreword. The numbers listed under each heading indicate the paragraphs in the text of the Report that are of relevance.

Appendix III to the Report lists a summary of the recommendations or orientations, directed to Governments and to FAO, that emerged from discussion. Here again, the relevant paragraphs in the body of the text are given so as to enable the reader to consider the recommendation within its appropriate context.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Organization of the Conference

1. The Fourth FAO Regional Conference for Africa was held at the Hotel Ivoire, Abidjan, Ivory Coast, by the courtesy of the Republic of the Ivory Coast, from 9 to 19 November 1966.

2. The Conference was attended by delegations from the following Member Countries:

Algeria	Malawi
Burundi	Mali
Cameroun	Mauritania
Central African Republic	Mauritius
Chad	Morocco
Congo (Democratic Republic)	Niger
Dahomey	Nigeria
Ethiopia	Senegal
France	Sierra Leone
Gabon	Sudan
Ghana	Tanzania
Ivory Coast	Togo
Kenya	Tunisia
Lesotho	Uganda
Liberia	United Kingdom
Madagascar	Upper Volta
	Zambia

The following were represented by observers:

Belgium	United States of America
Israel	

Representatives of the United Nations family and observers from the following organizations were also present:

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
International Labour Organization (ILO)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
UN/FAO World Food Program (WFP)
World Health Organization (WHO)
African Development Bank (ADB)
African Institute for Economic and Social Development (INADES)
International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP)
Joint African and Malagasy Organization (OCAM)
Organization of African Unity (OAU)
World Union of Catholic Women's Organization (WCWO)

3. The names of the delegates, representatives and observers, and of FAO staff in attendance, are given in Appendix I to this report. Officers of the Conference are also listed.

Opening of the Conference

4. The Inaugural Ceremony was held in the Conference Hall of the Hotel Ivoire, and was marked by the presence of H.E. President Auguste Denise, Minister of State representing H.E. the President of the Republic who was abroad. In his opening address, in which he welcomed the FAO Regional Conference, the Director-General of FAO and all participants, President Denise underlined the present unsatisfactory situation in which Africa's overall agricultural production was either stagnating or on the decline, thus condemning most of the Region's population to hunger and malnutrition.

5. He suggested that one of the causes of this was the priority given in many countries to industrial development unrelated or disproportionate to progress in agriculture. He recognized that the emphasis given to industrial development - at the cost of support to agriculture - was an attempt to diversify national economic activity; but he stated that Ivory Coast's policy was to base industry initially on agricultural productivity.

6. Whilst acknowledging the dependance of much of Africa's agriculture on favourable climatic conditions, and its enhanced productivity on the cautious and correct application of tried techniques which would not upset the fragile productivity potential of many of Africa's soils, President Denise pointed to three main prerequisites to improvement: more inputs, education of the rural populations, and improvement in terms of trade for Africa's agricultural exports. He admitted that inadequate national revenue inhibited local development of the first two elements; and that pending the securing of more equitable terms of trade, developed countries of the world should heed the plea made at UNCTAD that 1 per cent of their national revenues be earmarked for aid to the developing world, such aid at present being inadequate for any real improvement of the food and agricultural situation.

7. The Director-General, on behalf of all participants in the Conference, expressed his gratitude to H.E. President Denise for the honour bestowed upon the Conference by his presence at the Inaugural Session, and through him to the Government and people of the Ivory Coast for the hospitality offered. He outlined the main objectives of such Regional Conferences and expressed his confidence that, under the ideal working conditions provided, the important work to be done would be carried out in a frank and friendly atmosphere and would meet with success.

8. The Conference then heard H.E. the Minister of Agriculture of the Ivory Coast, who welcomed the holding of the Fourth Regional Conference in Abidjan because, among other reasons, it constituted yet another indication to the people of his country, who from the Head of the State down were tillers of the soil, of the nobility and dignity of agriculture. He pleaded for realism and a pragmatic orientation of FAO's future work in Africa, since this represented a sector vital to the Region's national economies.

9. In this connection, he noted with satisfaction the high level of representation at the Conference and, in the name of his Government, he warmly welcomed all delegations. In particular, he welcomed the delegations of the newly independent countries of Lesotho and Botswana (which was in the last minute prevented from participating) and of the Sudan, the largest of the continent's countries, which had elected to participate in future as full member of the African Region.

10. In closing, he expressed Africa's gratitude to the Director-General of FAO for his deep interest in the Region's problems; and to H.E. President Denise for having honoured with his presence the inauguration of the Conference.

11. The Director-General then declared open the Fourth FAO Regional Conference for Africa.

Election of Officers and Adoption of the Agenda

12. At its first working session, the Conference elected as its Chairman H.E. Abdoulaye Sawadogo, Minister designate of Agriculture of the Ivory Coast and leader of the Host Government delegation to the Conference.

13. Upon assuming his place, the Chairman, after expressing his thanks to the Conference, proposed that the procedure adopted by the first three Regional Conferences, whereby all Heads of delegations were designated as vice-chairmen, be discontinued. He proposed instead that three Vice-chairmen be elected, due consideration being given to geographic distribution on a sub-regional basis. The Heads of delegations of Togo, Morocco and Malawi were then elected to these offices.

14. The Conference then adopted the following agenda:

A. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen
3. Adoption of Agenda

B. THE WORK OF FAO IN AFRICA IN RELATION TO THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

4. The Food and Agricultural Situation in Africa
 - (a) A policy statement by the Director-General
 - (b) Country statements
5. Report on Action by FAO in the Region

C. MAJOR POLICY QUESTIONS OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION

6. Major Issues of International Commodity Trade
7. Improved Organization of Agricultural Marketing
8. Prevention of Waste of Agricultural Produce during Harvesting, Storage and Transportation
9. Planning and Organization of Area Development Projects
10. Financing of Agricultural Development
11. The Role of Agriculture in the Build-up of Industrial Development
12. The Management and Rational Utilization of Fishery Resources with special reference to Problems of Common Exploitation
13. Mobilization of Rural Youth for Development
14. The World Food Program

D. CONCLUDING ITEMS

15. The Future Orientation of FAO's Work in the Region
16. Date and Place of next Conference

15. The Provisional timetable proposed by the Secretariat was adopted.

16. The Chairman then explained the new sectional approach to be tried in establishing the Conference report. A request from several countries to shorten the length of Regional Conferences had led the Secretariat to abandon previous practice whereby a full report was drafted and submitted to participants for approval. That procedure added some 3 - 4 days to the duration of the meeting whereas it was hoped that sectional summaries, designed merely to highlight trends in discussions, as a basis for drafting of a final report after the close of the Conference, could be approved very quickly prior to passing to the next agenda item.

17. Before asking the Director-General of FAO to make his introductory address on the food and agricultural situation in the Region, the Chairman read to the Conference a telegram from the President of Botswana in which he expressed his regrets that unforeseen circumstances had in the last minute made it impossible for his country to be represented at the Regional Conference, and he asked that the apologies of his Government be accepted by all Member Governments.

II. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

The Work of FAO in Africa in relation to the Food and Agricultural Situation

18. In introducing this item, the Director-General began by reminding the meeting of the orientational role of FAO Regional Conferences in assisting him to draw up a meaningful Program of Work and Budget for the following biennium. He looked to delegates for help and suggestions in making these biennial conferences "as comprehensive and as meaningful as possible in establishing trends and directing coordinated assistance toward a realistic series of priorities within the broad spectrum of agricultural development". In response to this, the Conference adopted a recommendation on the last day of the meeting, submitted by Heads of delegations, which is reproduced below:

Organization of the Work of the Regional Conference

The experience of the present FAO Regional Conference for Africa, as well as of the previous Regional Conferences, has shown that their results have not always been put to the best use. In view of this, Heads of delegations decided to submit the following recommendation to the Conference:

The delegates

Considering that the results of work carried out at Regional Conferences lose much of their impact after being discussed by the Technical Committees of the general Conference;

Considering the nature of debates at Regional Conferences;

Considering that the work of FAO for the economic development of Africa would be facilitated if the wishes of the African countries were clearly expressed;

Recommend

- that conclusions reached by Regional Conferences be submitted to the general Conference direct, thus ensuring continuity between regional conferences and the general Conference;
- that Regional Conferences be organized to comprise two stages:
 - (a) technical meetings
 - (b) meetings of heads of delegations to approve the conclusions reached by the technical committees.

19. The Director-General then introduced his general review of the state of food and agriculture in Africa by stressing that the unsatisfactory position, brought to the attention of the Conference two years ago, had further deteriorated. The slight increase of just over 2 per cent in total production for the Region as a whole in 1964/65 had again been cancelled out by population growth. Estimates for 1965/66 indicated a fall in total production of about 2 per cent compared with the previous year and thus a fall in per caput production of some 4 per cent. The food crop sector was, on the whole, more seriously affected by the adverse climatic conditions which were in large measure responsible for this fall; and substantial additional food imports had become necessary.

20. The growing burden on already scarce foreign exchange which these rapid increases in food imports represented, seriously affected availability of agricultural and other inputs essential to development. The position was further aggravated by the adverse movement of export prices of the Region's agricultural produce on the world market.

21. The Director-General emphasized that the stimulation of agricultural production through institutional changes and the provision of incentives must be given the highest priority in all national plans. He outlined FAO's action in embarking upon several cooperative programs in an effort to ensure that the Organization's activities led to direct action and investment. The FAO/Industry Cooperative Program, based on the concept that private enterprise in the developed world had a vital role to play in providing the essential elements for increased productivity and greater employment opportunities was cited.

22. He also referred to his proposals for a Food Production Resources Program as an immediate interim measure for providing agricultural requisites such as fertilizers, pesticides and farm equipment, pending domestic production or expansion of such inputs.

23. The World Food Program as a means of channelling multilateral food aid for emergency relief, for promoting economic and social development, particularly through labour-intensive projects in rural areas, and for pre-school and school feeding, was also mentioned.

24. Finally, the Director-General stressed the role of the FAO/IBRD Program as a most important source of investment; and he expressed the hope that the recently established African Development Bank would recognize the primacy of agriculture in the Region and would establish close working relationship with FAO, similar to those between the Organization, the IBRD and, at a regional level, the Inter-American Bank for the Latin American Region.

25. He then turned to the need for an overall framework for these and other activities and, in this connection, explained the scope and purpose of the Indicative World Plan. The first phase was an attempt to create a guide to national planning, based on maximum production possibilities considering both technical and probable economic and organizational feasibility in the several developing sub-regions or areas of the world, taking into account such factors as international trade. He pointed out that one lesson which already emerges clearly from the study is that the long-term solution of the problem of food supply for the growing world population lies in increasing food production in the developing countries themselves. This would require, as already stressed, a massive increase in production requisites and huge investments in agro-allied industries and in infrastructure.

26. The importance of the role of FAO's Freedom from Hunger Campaign in education for action, and as a means of involving more and more people in the processes of development, was outlined. The Director-General urged that national Campaign activities designed to reinforce government action programs be intensified, and thus offer greater scope for the continuously growing interest that is being aroused in developed countries in the world's fight against hunger. The involvement of youth in this respect as a major force for development had found expression in the Young World Mobilization Appeal and the series of regional seminars on rural youth problems as a prelude to a World Conference on this theme in 1967.

27. In the same line of thought, the Director-General stressed the serious nutritional problems that existed among children of so many African countries, and the consequent emergency measures that were being taken by FAO in assisting countries in the local production of protein-rich foods from raw material which had hitherto been exported, used for other purposes, or even ignored.

28. The Director-General concluded by pleading that countries concentrate more than ever on policies and action which would lead, while there was still time, to further changes of attitude, and to much more vigorous effort in all fields, more especially in providing trained, enthusiastic and devoted technical personnel.

29. Country statements that followed reflected the vital role of agricultural development, and the need for further intensification of national effort and availability of funds, of which the Director-General had spoken, and which would in turn promote even greater interest and assistance in this field by external sources of financial and other aid. The contribution of FFHC and WFP toward achieving this end was recognized.

30. Delegates expressed concern over the increasingly heavy demands on national supplies of foreign currency, represented by the need for food imports necessary to their expanding populations. They also noted the failure in many cases to improve the standards of nutrition of many peoples despite the efforts of Governments and owing in part to lack of interest of outside sources of aid in this field. A reversal of the situation implied a real effort to enhance selective, diversified production, especially in the food-hungry countries of the Region. The contribution that the development of fishery resources could make was recognized.

31. In this connection, the decline in world food reserves and surpluses were noted, as was the fact that though food may for some time still have to be deliberately produced for food aid, this cannot continue indefinitely. While appreciating its vital contribution under present circumstances, delegations emphasized that the ultimate aim of Africa's endeavours must be to obviate the need for such food aid in the Region.

32. Statements underlined that export marketing problems were a major obstacle to increasing production. For several export commodities, greater production or speculation had led to severe price falls which adversely affected the economies of many countries. At the same time, resultant drops in producer prices discouraged farmers from increasing production and adopting improved techniques. Delegates stressed the need for the promotion of international trade on terms more equitable to the producers, with the object of stabilizing prices and rationalizing production. This would constitute an essential contribution to the improvement of the Region's economy. To assist the Region in bettering the terms of trade for its agricultural exports, proposals were made for African Commodity Marketing Commissions and for closer economic integration on a Sub-regional and Regional basis. The value of publicity campaigns in developed countries in respect of certain commodities was also stressed. FAO's assistance was requested in connection with further studies on international price stabilization measures. Particular attention was also drawn to benefits that would accrue from expansion of intra-Africa trade as well as trade with other developing Regions. However, the obstacles set by international monetary systems to such trade were appreciated. On the other hand, trends toward improvement of intra-regional transport and communication would assist in promoting trade within the Region.

33. Other necessary incentives to production must include greater emphasis on institutional measures (education and training, research, land reform, land/water relationships, credit, etc.) as well as technical improvements, greater availability of agricultural inputs, and the development of local industries for the processing of agricultural products and the supply of production requisites.

34. In this respect, countries welcomed recent initiatives taken by FAO in the field of joint projects, including the FAO/Industry Cooperative Program and the FAO/IBRD Program as means of promoting and financing such development. The Conference noted with interest also the Director-General's proposal for a Food Production Resources Program.

35. The hope was expressed that negotiations already under way between FAO and the African Development Bank would lead to further recognition of the importance of agricultural development in Africa, to the establishment of an ADB/FAO Cooperative Program and to the allocation of adequate funds for financing well-conceived projects resulting from such a joint endeavour.

36. There was general recognition of the usefulness of FAO's Indicative World Plan which would provide a guide to detailed planning in Africa and for the establishment of patterns of cooperation among all countries in the interest of an integrated, overall program of agricultural development and trade. The success of its formulation would in large measure depend upon further close cooperation between FAO and member countries. It was recognized that insufficient statistics presented difficulties, and it was suggested that FAO should assist in establishing Regional or Sub-regional agricultural statistics institutes.

37. Matters of importance raised by certain countries under technical aspects of FAO's activities bearing on the agricultural situation were:

- (a) recognition of the potential of Africa's livestock industry, and the contribution that FAO could make to national development through work in this sector. Note was taken of a request for use of emergency funds to purchase vaccines for the control of livestock diseases, and for attention to problems of nomadism. The rapid contribution that could be made to protein nutrition through poultry-breeding was also emphasized;
- (b) the need for more rational and more intensive use of the timber resources of certain countries;
- (c) the need for further research on storage and processing, possibly in association with a university offering bilingual facilities, and for financial assistance to deal with storage and disposal of food surpluses;
- (d) the need for a research and exchange centre on problems of plant and livestock breeding problems;
- (e) the need for an FAO Regional Commodity Adviser;
- (f) the need for training of women teachers in connection with school-feeding projects;
- (g) the special problems peculiar to land-locked countries.

38. Of a more general nature, the impact that young people could make through association in appropriate movements was emphasized.

39. In respect of matters of an organizational nature, the Conference urged that:

- (a) the possibility be examined of establishing a sliding scale of counter-part contributions in respect of internationally financed projects, related to a country's ability to finance such obligations;
- (b) the attention of the ad hoc Review Committee set up by the 13th Session of the FAO Conference to consider the organizational structure of FAO be drawn to the need to establish the Sub-regional offices for Africa already approved, and to examine the desirability of creating further sub-regional offices determined by economic and ecological factors;
- (c) FAO staffing reflect more accurately the national quotas as provided by its Constitution;

- (d) representation on FAO bodies give greater recognition to Africa's interests and contribution;
- (e) regional resources in staff be strengthened to ensure better appreciation of Africa's needs. Further, they should be given greater responsibility in the interests of accelerating procedure in respect of project implementation.

40. In respect of the last three requests, the Conference adopted the following recommendation submitted by Togo and Mali:

Considering that FAO's mission consists in promoting the development of agriculture which, in Africa, constitutes the foundation of economic and social progress;

Considering the pressing necessity of closely associating the various African countries to the activities of this Organization;

Considering that the African region of FAO includes French-speaking and English-speaking countries which are interdependent in their efforts for development;

Considering that the Constitution of FAO provides for a fair and realistic distribution of the international personnel put at the disposal of this Organization;

Considering the recommendation made in Addis Ababa by the 3rd FAO Regional Conference for Africa concerning the recruitment, by the Organization, of African personnel; recommendation referred to in Appendix 1 of document ARC/66/3, paragraph 67;

The Fourth FAO Regional Conference for Africa, meeting in Abidjan from 9 to 19 November 1966,

deeply regrets the inadequate representation of the African region at all levels in the personnel of FAO;

notices with regret the almost total non-existence of French-speaking Africans among the already insufficient African recruitment;

recommends once more to the General Direction of FAO to intensify as soon as possible its efforts to recruit African personnel, particularly from French-speaking countries, in view of the present imbalance;

recommends urgently that the posts of a representational or liaison character of interest to the region be expressly given to Africans;

urges Governments of Member States to facilitate implementation of this recommendation by promoting recruitment of qualified staff.

41. The Regional Representative summarized the main points emerging from country statements, basing his remarks on his report on action by FAO in the Region over the past biennium. He commented on some of the requests contained in country statements. They would be further examined by FAO together with other recommendations and wishes formulated by the Conference, and would appear as in the past as an appendix to the Director-General draft Program of Work and Budget for 1968/69, for review by the Fourteenth Session of the FAO Conference.

Major Issues of International Commodity Trade

42. The Conference reviewed the longer term trends and prospects in world commodity markets and their implications for the trade and development of Africa. Concern was expressed at the widening gap between slow growth of exports from developing countries and their rapidly rising import requirements. The prospect of this imbalance continuing or further deteriorating unless major corrective policy measures were adopted at national and international levels was noted. Special concern was felt about the likelihood of the slowing down in the expansion of import demand of developed countries, which historically have constituted the largest and most dynamic outlet for commodities produced and exported by Africa. Attention was drawn to the aggravation of the already unsatisfactory position of primary producing countries which had worsened in recent years through unfavourable trends in the terms of trade with industrial exporting countries and through increasing competition from synthetics.

43. The Conference reaffirmed the urgent need to stimulate expansion in export earnings of developing countries to provide the financial resources for economic development programs. In this connection, the Conference reaffirmed the importance of the recommendations contained in the Final Act of the First UNCTAD and urged their speedy implementation. It also underlined FAO's important role in the realization of the basic aims of developing countries in the field of international commodity trade. It therefore welcomed FAO's Study of Commodity Projections to 1975 as representing its latest contribution to national development planning.

44. A strong interest was expressed in the possibilities of Sub-regional and Regional trade arrangements as an incentive to enhanced production and export. The potential role of an African Common Market in promoting these objectives was raised. The first steps toward Regional integration had already been taken, but much more remained to be done in the way of the reorientation of shipping, the development of appropriate international financing and currency clearing institutions and the provision of international credit and liquidity.

45. Problems still requiring attention included improved communications; competitive production patterns, national import substitution and self-sufficiency policies; and the dependance of import trade on fluctuations in foreign exchange resources. At the same time, complementarity in the Region's natural resources provided a basis for potential intra-regional trade in products such as cereals, meat, sugar, dairy products and certain processed goods, notably textiles, which at present account for a large share of the region's total import requirements. It was felt that FAO had a vital role to play in assisting African countries, individually or in sub-regional groupings toward more diversified production in the interest of expansion of agricultural trade. The value of the Indicative World Plan as a framework for establishing rational patterns of diversification was acknowledged.

46. In this connection also, the Conference noted that an earlier request to set up an African Regional Advisory Service on Commodity Problems has in part been met by the establishment of a post of Regional Commodity Economist at FAO Headquarters. This, however, did not fully meet the need for local specialized interpretation of international commodity developments, nor for direct assistance in the establishment of training facilities in commodity analysis in Africa. FAO was asked to give further consideration to this matter.

47. A number of delegations stressed the need for coordination of export policies for major African commodities with a view to securing remunerative prices and strengthening the bargaining power of African countries in international commodity negotiations. It was suggested that this objective could best be achieved by the setting up of Multinational Export Marketing Organizations for particular commodities in selected centres in Africa and by channelling exports through such centres.

48. Competition from synthetics was a major threat to export earnings. While there was no way of impeding technological progress in the development of new synthetics, various views were expressed on how to minimize their impact on the economies of developing countries. Particular stress was laid on the need for an expansion of research into new end-uses of a wider range of agricultural products. Such research might take the form of joint projects involving both developed and developing countries.

49. General support was expressed for international action through commodity agreements where appropriate. For these to be effective, however, such agreements must go beyond the purely export regulatory functions and cover arrangements involving production management, the control and financing of stocks, and assistance in the transfer of production resources. Some delegations re-emphasized the need for the organization of commodity markets along lines discussed in recent years in various fora. Others urged caution in releasing carry-over stocks, in the interest of price stability. The Conference expressed its hope for a successful conclusion of current negotiations of an International Cocoa Agreement and of the GATT Kennedy Round. It also noted that satisfactory working relations were established between FAO and UNCTAD.

50. The Conference noted that the Organization had been extending its research studies on particular commodity problems, notably through the network of inter-governmental commodity study groups which were organized under the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems. It welcomed the establishment of the Group on Hard Fibers and the extension of the former Group on Coconut and Coconut Products to cover all oilseeds, oils and fats. It was suggested that the latter Group give consideration to problems of minor oilseeds, which could be produced economically in Africa, but were facing limited markets. A general survey of Africa's meat trade had been completed and a more detailed appraisal of the possibilities of developing trade in livestock and livestock products in West Africa was under preparation. The Conference noted the favourable outlook for meat in international trade, as indicated in FAO's Projections for 1975. It was recognized, however, that the future expansion of livestock exports from most African countries was dependent upon eradication of livestock diseases and satisfactory sanitary control. It was hoped that FAO would expand its activities in the campaign on animal disease control on a Regional basis and assist in promoting measures calculated to arouse increasing and mutual confidence between exporting and importing countries.

51. The Conference expressed its appreciation for the commodity studies carried out by FAO in the field of agricultural processing in developing countries. It felt that further intensification of work on the economic aspects of such processing, including feasibility studies, would be of great value to the development objectives of African countries.

52. In reviewing the major features of international trade in forest products, the Conference recognized that this group of commodities had good prospects for increased demand and was characterized by relative price stability. It noted that the growing wood shortages of some major consuming areas afforded export opportunities to wood-surplus areas. Not only were there immediate prospects for West Africa for expanding exports of tropical hardwoods, with increasing proportions in processed forms, but there were also longer-term prospects for plantation-based export pulp production of great interest to countries of East Africa.

53. In view of increased European imports of softwood, sawnwood and plywood, the findings of the ECE Timber Committee's current study on European uses of tropical timber would be awaited with interest.

54. The Conference learned with appreciation of the recent ad hoc joint UNCTAD/FAO Working Party on Timber and Forest Products, concerned with measures for expanding processed forest products trade from developing countries, and looked forward to receiving the report of that meeting.

55. Increased efficiency in forest industries to ensure quality production at restricted cost was recognized as essential to maintaining the present competitive position of the Region in export trade. This was especially so since additional supplies often must come from less accessible areas. The Conference requested FAO to explore the possibilities whereby technical and financial assistance could be extended to help African countries to carry out surveys of their forest resources.

56. The Conference, recognizing the importance of developing intra-regional trade in forest products, stressed the need for extended and improved communication and transportation systems to enable more effective flow of this trade between African countries. These improvements would also enhance the conditions for overseas exports.

57. The utilization of secondary species was mentioned and, in particular, government measures (timber depots, impregnation plants, etc.) designed to encourage the promotion of official and other domestic use of these woods rather than imported wood or non-wood materials were recommended.

58. The importance to some African countries of export forest products other than wood (e.g. gum arabic and beeswax) was stressed.

59. The Conference expressed the wish to have in the near future a meeting to deal with regional forestry problems and especially those related to improving and diversifying forest production and to increasing operational efficiency.

Improved Organization of Agricultural Marketing

60. The Conference noted the interdependence between agricultural production and marketing and the contribution which efficient marketing could make in providing incentives to farmers whilst ensuring fair prices to consumers. It was recognized that improved marketing arrangements were an essential element in raising productivity, thus maximizing the contribution agriculture could make to national development. In many countries marketing of export crops was thought to be well organized in comparison with the situation for food crops. In view of the rapid growth of urban population, the need to improve food marketing was a matter of urgency.

61. The Conference emphasized the need for increased training of staff and for additional research aimed at improving marketing facilities. In this connection, it was noted that FAO organized regional marketing training centres at two-year intervals while sub-regional and national training centres were organized upon request by member governments. Moreover, the Conference was informed that several countries were submitting requests to the UNDP Special Fund for assistance in the establishment of national institutes on research, demonstration and training in marketing. The Conference noted these developments with approval, but felt that FAO should be asked to provide additional training facilities both at the national and sub-regional level.

62. Delegates agreed that market research was closely linked to training and that there was need for additional research on all aspects of marketing. It was noted that some research work was already in hand, notably the West African Livestock Survey which was being undertaken jointly by FAO and ECA. The Conference urged that more research be undertaken on the means of improving the collection of statistical data and the collection and dissemination of market information.

63. The Conference noted that each country needed to examine for itself the system or combination of systems of marketing most suitable to its particular circumstances. Several delegates described the experience of their respective countries, from which it was clear that no one system of marketing would necessarily be appropriate to all countries and that within a country it may be desirable to revise the system of marketing to meet changing circumstances. It was essential, however, that a Government have a clear policy defining the objectives that were to be achieved through improvement of the marketing system. The dangers of insufficient flexibility of operation and management were, moreover, stressed.

64. Provision of better transport and communication facilities, particularly at an intra-African level, was stressed as an important factor in improving marketing systems. This was especially the case for inland countries, but it was felt that there was also an urgent need for additional and better feeder roads throughout the Region.

65. Financial problems, including the use of stabilization funds, were discussed. This was a matter which deserved thorough investigation individually by each country in the light of its own needs and the international commodity arrangements with which it was concerned.

66. The Conference noted the valuable contribution that properly managed cooperative movements could make towards improving the marketing position of farmers. In some countries difficulties in management of cooperative movements had been experienced but it was felt that these could eventually be overcome through increased attention to staff training requirements by FAO and the Governments concerned. The relationship between cooperatives and statutory marketing organizations was discussed and it was agreed that conditions in the Region were such that the two forms were generally complementary rather than competitive.

67. The Conference noted with regret that the recommendation on the establishment of a Regional Marketing Commission made by the Third FAO Regional Conference at Addis Ababa in 1964 and approved by the 13th Session of the FAO Conference had not been implemented owing to lack of funds and staff. The Conference recommended that, at its next session, the FAO Conference find a solution to this problem.

68. Attention was drawn to the opportunity of member governments to participate as members in the inter-governmental Council of the Codex Alimentarius which, in laying down minimum food standards, may thus contribute to improving marketing standards and grades, an important consideration in the export of food stuffs.

Prevention of Waste of Agricultural Produce during Harvesting, Storage and Transportation

69. In a Region where the rising need for food imports and unsatisfactory levels of nutrition were causing grave concern, the Conference recognized that losses of food products was a matter of the utmost importance.

70. All measures taken to prevent these losses have an immediate effect in making available for consumption a wide range and a greater supply of agricultural produce which would otherwise be lost through deterioration. In the context of the urgent need for increasing production, prevention of waste (especially in food-grains) is an indispensable complement to any gains made through endeavour in enhancing production and productivity.

71. The Conference therefore urged that much greater attention be given to preventing waste during harvesting, handling, storing and transportation, and that all national schemes for increasing agricultural production include proper plans covering these aspects of the problem.

72. The Conference stressed the need for factual appraisal, at national levels, on the types and amounts of produce lost to man and his domestic animals between harvest and consumption, particularly on the farms and during marketing. Realistic surveys and the publication of their results were essential in arousing public awareness and in providing a basis on which to initiate action in the fight against such losses. The role of farm-radio broadcasts, farmers' bulletins and extension work in rural areas was stressed in this respect.

73. Emphasis was given to the value of exchanging information and ensuring that methods of drying, storage and transportation, and the general handling of produce found to be successful in some countries should be tried and adapted to different sets of conditions existing in neighbouring countries of the Region. The importance of research of a practical nature on cheap biological, physical, chemical and mechanical measures, carried out in Africa as well as in other Regions facing similar problems, was stressed. In this respect, the Conference noted with gratitude and interest the FAO Documentation Centre which was designed to promote such exchange of information. Its attention was also drawn to the publication in English of the "Grain-storage Newsletter" and FAO was requested to extend its impact to the whole Region by arranging for a French edition, to serve as a Region-wide medium for exchange of data. Lack of funds and trained staff were recognized as having a retarding effect on progress in prevention of waste and in surveys, in revising quality and grading standards in the light of modern technology in methods of produce protection, and in organizing practical demonstration to producers and handlers of agricultural foodstuffs on aspects such as drying, storage methods and the use of selected chemical and biological means to minimize wastage.

74. The Conference sought FAO's help in:

- (a) organizing bulk storage facilities for both strategic reserves and food surpluses;
- (b) dealing with the special problems related to dairy products and perishables, necessitating measures such as "cold chains" and rapid processing and conserving of produce;
- (c) evolving better, quicker communication and distribution systems, especially at national and sub-regional levels;
- (d) the control of wildlife as a transmitter of livestock diseases, and of grain-eating birds and other wildlife in reducing harvests. FAO's work in the control of *Quelea quelea* and the locust was mentioned and greater cooperation was urged between the Organization, Member Governments, and inter-governmental bodies concerned with these problems to the north and south of the Sahara;
- (e) research into mechanical harvesting and processing equipment, suitable to local needs;
- (f) research into the selection of strains of food-crops and livestock better suited to local conditions;
- (g) establishment of research stations for both arid and humid zones on methods of preventing wastage and losses.

75. Institutional measures such as cooperatives were also cited as potential means of control and extension in reducing wastage through communal drying, storage and marketing of produce, and FAO's assistance in promoting these was requested;

Governments were also urged to consider complementary measures such as grain storage programmes at a national level as supplementing and supporting district-level endeavour. The role of cooperative shops and applied home economics work in the study of food habits and food processing were also recognized.

76. The Conference discussed the need for legislation in the use of insecticides and pesticides in stored food products and recommended that Member Governments take appropriate measures to institute adequate legislation to avoid possible waste, losses and health hazards connected with the increasing use of insecticides and pesticides in the Region.

77. Finally, the Conference stressed the need for coordination of basic research and its application by the various technical services responsible both at national levels and within groups of countries with similar conditions and problems.

Planning and Organization of Area Development Projects

78. The Conference, conscious of the lag in achieving the targets originally set by the UN Development Decade, emphasized the role of comprehensive, realistic, well prepared area planning in the interest of steady progress of national development in the basic field of agricultural production and productivity.

79. The Conference noted the essential element of comprehensiveness in an approach to area planning, which involved all fields of human activity and endeavour. In the interest of a realistic approach, it noted also the need to keep areas of development to manageable size, consideration being given on the one hand to concentration in the interest of early and effective results of value as a demonstration work, yet of sufficient compass to be of value also as an experiment in assessing the interplay of all factors contributing to ultimate large-scale development at a national level.

80. This approach at a "horizontal" or inter-service level was complemented by a "vertical" approach ensuring close integration and inter-relationship between over-all plans of national, area and local development. In this way, area planning could make a pragmatic contribution to formulation and execution of national plans.

81. The contribution of selective area development to concentration in the use of resources to ensure appropriate, measurable progress was also noted, as was the promotion thereby of a pattern in the technique of area development in the broad field of natural renewable resources.

82. There was a general consensus of opinion on the basic principles promulgated and, turning to the essential preconditions to area planning and development, the Conference emphasized the need for establishment of an autonomous coordinating body at a sufficiently high level to make a realistic and alert overall survey of areas to be selected for pilot development. The Conference noted that it was of importance to ensure meaningful representation of the potentialities and facilities of each of the contributing technical services whose cooperation was essential to the success of development. This was particularly true of areas where water resources development was essential, because such development was usually a costly undertaking; and the Conference noted that FAO, through UNDP (TA and SF) could assist in such an effort.

83. Attention was drawn to the need to take into full account also the appropriate sociological orientation essential to local understanding, acceptance and cooperation at the area level; the essential management potential and requirements; proper advance budgeting; and timely legislation to include the organization of cooperation and contribution by all the services directly involved in such comprehensive development.

84. In the choice of the development area, consideration should be given to many factors; their relative importance depending on individual circumstances:

- i) political implications;
- ii) conservation problems;
- iii) economic viability;
- iv) equalization of population and wealth;;
- v) production of raw materials for agro-industry;
- vi) availability of markets and transport facilities;
- vii) natural and induced physical conditions - soil, water, climate;
- viii) limitation of available financial, staff and material resources.

85. Similarly for the execution of area development projects many factors are involved depending on the nature of the project:

- i) regular evaluation and auditing;
- ii) the early commencement of staff training at all levels;
- iii) establishment of a pilot project in the very program area, even if initiated artificially and sub-economically;
- iv) research and trials in the development area;
- v) credit, supply and market organizations through cooperatives or other means;
- vi) provision of inputs - fertilizers, seeds and implements;
- vii) training and experience for management;
- viii) early achievement of economic viability of the settlers;
- ix) autonomous development of authority.

86. Particular problems mentioned were:

- i) the establishment of inter and intra ministerial coordination which may require the setting up of an autonomous, extra-ministerial planning authority; such as a "river development authority";
- ii) the lack of appreciation of agricultural occupations and rural life;
- iii) adaptation of farmers to new environments and new agricultural techniques;
- iv) the lack of felt needs and incentives;
- v) failure to establish motivation in the farmer and associate him with planning and development.

87. Among others, a psycho-sociologist should be incorporated ab initio to establish the datum line for evaluation, to maintain evaluation and action research, to make communication between the planner and the farmer and between the technical services and institutions involved in execution of the overall plan.

88. Many delegates expressed the need for increased and integrated multilateral and bilateral assistance in the following fields:

- i) pre-investment surveys;
- ii) fellowships, including the study of agro-hydrology;
- iii) seminars and training centres for the study and evaluation of area development projects in Africa;
- iv) missions for the identification and formulation of integrated area development projects.

Financing of Agricultural Development

89. The Conference agreed generally with the approach outlined in papers presented on the subject and that it would be useful for FAO to call an Expert Meeting on Finance in the 1968/69 biennium. This meeting would study questions concerning the availability of international finance and means of providing such finance to developing countries, and questions relating to the organization of finance for agricultural development within such countries.

90. Other matters that should be studied by the meeting would include:

- i) measures to promote savings;
- ii) the links between rural savings and credit;
- iii) the effect on the credit system of social and institutional factors, particularly land tenure systems, cooperatives, etc.;
- iv) the provision of longer-term finance, for projects such as forestry;
- v) the means of providing farm loans at interest rates on loans to farmers;
- vi) aid to cover net recurring costs until a project matures;
- vii) the possibility of preparing a handbook on the utilization of the opportunities for financial assistance offered under multilateral and bilateral aid;
- viii) the desirability of subsidizing agriculture.

91. It was also suggested by some delegations that country surveys of the national loan requirements, and how they should be met, should be undertaken and that FAO's assistance for such projects should be made available.

92. In view of the fact that in most countries of the Region agriculture was the dominant economic activity, it was agreed that it should be allocated a high share in national plan outlays. There was evidence of a trend in this direction. The Conference welcomed the fact that external assistance was also placing increasing emphasis on agricultural investment. The Conference received with warm appreciation

the news that the African Development Bank had now started active operations, and expressed the hope that the negotiations initiated by the Director-General with the President of the African Development Bank would lead to agreement being reached at an early date. The important contribution of the joint FAO/IBRD Program was equally appreciated by the Conference. A number of delegates expressed the need for further assistance in project formulation by the joint division. Many delegates stressed the importance of an integrated approach in the financial aspects of development programs.

93. While the Conference noted the need for additional external finance to help national development, a warning was sounded on the possible effects when re-payments became due unless investments were carefully chosen with due regard to their economic consequences. The Conference stressed the need for low interest loans of long duration.

94. The Conference agreed that joint government/private enterprises could make a major contribution to development.

95. The Conference stressed the difficulty which many countries had in meeting the cost of counterpart funds required under the rules of the UNDP (SF). While recognizing that these rules served a useful purpose, it was felt that the matter was so important that the position should be re-examined with a view to arranging for the counterpart contribution to become repayable only after the project had got under way and that the calculation of such counterpart contribution take account of the capacity of the recipient country to pay. Similar problems were also faced in other multilateral and bilateral aid programs. It was pointed out, however, that the payment of local expenses under bilateral aid programs could result in additional balance of payments difficulties for donor countries.

96. References were also made to the investment possibilities arising out of the UNDP/SF projects and the need to follow up this pre-investment phase without any time lag. The Governments could, for this purpose, approach the UNDP for the services of financial advisers which are made available at no cost to the Government concerned.

97. The need for greater assistance and involvement in project formulation was recognized, and emphasis laid on the desirability of providing training for national staff on this aspect. It was suggested that arrangements for the training of appropriate national staff might be made by the FAO/IBRD Program.

The Role of Agriculture in the Build-up of Industrial Development

98. The Conference, which had repeatedly stressed the essential role of agriculture as a basis for the Region's economic development, emphasized the consequent importance of close inter-dependence between agricultural production and industrial development. It urged Governments to give special attention to this relationship, particularly in the initial stages of industrialization in African countries.

99. The effect of industrial development on promoting trends from subsistence to a market agriculture, as an incentive to enhanced production, and to appropriate diversification, was fully recognized. Its role in checking rural exodus and in promoting other social aspects of national development was also stressed; as was the potential of local processing industry in reducing waste, converting by-products into commodities utilizable by man and his domestic animals, in improving export trade and in saving foreign currency required for the import of equipment essential to other aspects of economic progress.

100. The Conference urged therefore that careful attention be given to an integrated phasing of industrial development, starting where applicable with cottage industries and small-sized plants based on agricultural resources. This would make for decentralization which would lead to the use of local skills and techniques, to local self-sufficiency, to easier staffing and to involvement of relatively small capital investments. The Conference further recognized that after sufficient experience had been gained through training and demonstration, more emphasis could be given to the establishment of larger-scale industry including plants for production of agricultural requisites. Recognition was however given to the possibility in special cases of large-scale industry being installed and based on agriculture, forestry and fisheries resources. In such instances developing countries might need to secure technical and financial assistance from industry in developed nations; but a proper climate of mutual understanding and guarantees would be necessary.

101. The Conference stressed another aspect of the inter-dependence between industry and the rural areas which provided the overwhelming proportion of the local market for processed or manufactured goods. Enhanced purchasing power in this sector of a country's population went hand-in-hand with enhanced productivity and led in turn to creation of markets and labour supplies for further industrial development. Stagnation in agriculture therefore implied stagnation in industrial growth.

102. In the light of the unanimity of opinions expressed in this matter, the Conference underlined the need for the promotion of identification, assessment or technical and economic viability including the availability of power and human resources and eventual implementation of appropriate pilot schemes in the field of agro-allied industry, as offering a basis for research and experimentation, demonstration and extension, and for training of technical and managerial skills that are in increasing demand in the relentless trend to further industrial development.

103. The difficulty of choice of appropriate fields of processing was emphasized. In this connection, the Conference noted the possibilities open to individual countries under existing FAO/UNDP arrangements for carrying out preliminary surveys for the pre-selection of particular commodities most suitable for processing in the light of major trade and development issues affecting a country's overall economy. It was hoped that African countries would increasingly seek the assistance of FAO in the preparation and implementation of these surveys.

104. The Conference, in recognizing the role of FAO agro-allied industrial development through such joint programs as the FAO/Industry Cooperative Program, the FAO/IBRD Cooperative Program and the aid available through UNDP/SF, urged that emphasis be given to much greater technical and financial aid in the Director-General's proposed Program of Work and Budget for 1968/69.

105. It recognized also the advantages of closer direct cooperation in this field between developing and industrialized countries, and in the careful integrated planning of overall development in which the role of industrial processing of agricultural produce was given its rightful place, whether at local, sub-regional, regional and inter-regional levels.

106. The Conference also urged African countries to cooperate in the setting up of economically viable industrial units at a sub-regional level.

The Management and Rational Utilization of Fishery Resources with special reference to problems of common exploitation

107. The Conference reviewed the existing situation of fishing around and within the African continent, and the measures being taken to assess the marine and inland resources and to ensure their rational utilization. It emphasized the great contribution

that fisheries could make in providing a readily accessible source of high quality protein and significant contribution to the economic development of African countries through reducing imports, increasing exports and enhancing intra-African trade. Particularly in respect of the latter, the Conference emphasized the importance of improving processing, marketing and distribution arrangements. It was pointed out that new investment in fisheries must be guided by adequate knowledge of the sustainable yields that the stocks can give, the effects on the rate of catch of intensified exploitation by one or more countries, and a realistic appraisal of market capacity and stability.

108. The responsibility of all countries fishing a common resource to contribute to investigations directed to its assessment and elucidation of the effects of fishing on it, and to participate in international agreements for its conservation on a scientific basis was emphasized. A prime need in this regard is for the improvement and collation of statistics on catches and fishing effort, by different gears, species, seasons and zones, and for corresponding biological statistics on the basis of definitions and standards to be suggested by FAO. The approach to this problem should be determined by the natural delimitations of the stocks and attention was drawn to the differing problems of the Mediterranean, the Indian Ocean, the South-east Atlantic, the tropical eastern Atlantic from the Congo river mouth northward to Morocco, and the various major inland water basins:.

109. The FAO Committee on Fisheries and its subsidiary bodies, as well as the Advisory Committee on Marine Resources Research, should give urgent attention to these problems and especially where, as in the eastern Atlantic, the stocks are being subject to greatly intensified, and as yet undisciplined, exploitation both by the developing African fleets and by fleets from non-African countries. It was pointed out that both the consequent reduction in level of stocks and the increased fish landings in Africa by foreign vessels, while contributing to protein food supplies, can add to the difficulties of further development of the local fisheries, and bring instability in supply. Furthermore, the African countries have an interest in the establishment of cooperation and management in areas where they do not fish at present but where they may wish to in the future.

110. The Conference noted that the conclusion of a convention for the conservation of Atlantic tunas, to which it was hoped that all countries concerned would adhere without delay, was a demonstration of the kind of vigorous action that might be expected from the strengthening of the fisheries activities of FAO, including the creation of the new Department.

111. At the same time, increased attention should be given to assisting countries to increase their catches from resources, especially of pelagic species in the sea and in inland waters, which are still relatively unexploited. The important contribution of the series of UNDP(SF) fishery projects for West Africa, the man-made lakes, Lake Victoria and the central African countries, towards this end was recognized, and it was hoped that such projects would also soon be formulated for East Africa, with respect both to the fisheries of the Indian Ocean and of the other inland waters. The early appointment of the Regional Fisheries Officer for East Africa was urged.

112. The Conference stressed the need for much greater efforts in the training of fishermen. The assistance FAO was giving to formation of fishing instructors, as well as scientists and technicians, through training centres and seminars needed to be supplemented by the creation with FAO assistance of regional schools, equipped with suitable training vessels. Through such means, FAO can directly assist countries in the training of fishing skippers, marine engineers, deck crew and other skilled personnel required to carry out fishery development plans involving the use of powered craft, modern gears and equipment and corresponding shore facilities.

113. Consideration should be given, in this connection, to the development of existing and planned national schools into sub-regional centres. In-job training in UNDP and bilateral aid projects was important, but its effectiveness depended upon the countries concerned being able to make available suitable counterpart staff. The Conference noted several instances where African countries have assisted each other in training and in technical matters. It was agreed that there was much scope for further mutual assistance of this kind, and a need for better exchange of fisheries information throughout the Continent.

114. The Conference deplored the inactivity of the Regional Fisheries Commission for Western Africa because the need remained for representatives of the West African countries to meet to discuss their common problems and jointly to develop their fishery policies. The decision to hold a Technical Conference on the Fisheries of West African countries, in Dakar in mid-1967 was welcomed, and it was hoped that this would lead to arrangements for the effective prosecution of tasks for which the Regional Commission had originally been created and which were now even more urgent than they were at that time.

115. The Technical Conference should consider alternative arrangements which might include the establishment of a replacement body for the Regional Fisheries Commission for West Africa, or an appropriate revision of its statutes. The Technical Conference should give attention also to the development of African fisheries in the eastern tropical Atlantic, and also to common problems of the inland waters of the sub-region. Elsewhere, cooperation between riparian countries in developing and conserving the resources of inland water basins was necessary and the formation of suitable international bodies to facilitate this should be encouraged. Such cooperation should, however, not be confined to stock assessment and regulation of fishing, but should include also marketing arrangements.

116. The Conference noted that in some areas there were opportunities to develop further the fisheries in brackish waters and lagoons, and expressed the wish that FAO give more attention to this matter than hitherto.

The Mobilization of Rural Youth for Development

117. The Conference noted with satisfaction the interest and initiative taken by FAO in the problems of rural youth and welcomed various activities under the Young World Appeal of the FFHC. Delegates made reference to the findings and conclusions of the Regional Seminar for Africa of the Young World Food and Development Project, sponsored jointly by FAO/Massey-Ferguson, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, October 1966.

118. The Conference recognized the enormous problems of rural youth in Africa and stressed that mobilization of rural youth for development was feasible and urgent. The Conference appealed to all governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as bilateral and multilateral agencies to initiate and accelerate rural youth programs.

119. It was underlined that massive mobilization of youth could only be effective within the framework of an overall agricultural development plan. To this end, youth programs should be developed as an integral part of the national plan thus encouraging young people to make an active and conscious contribution to economic development. Coordination of all youth activities at the national as well as local level was therefore required. It was stressed that young people should not be used merely as a tool for development, but be accepted also as a section of society.

120. Youth programs must be continuing and should lead to employment or adequate self-sufficiency. Incentives during training and the means of establishment on completion required provision of finance and the necessary factors for agricultural settlement. Important examples were given of how youth had contributed to development through irrigation projects, land clearance and settlement, road building, small livestock and vegetable production. The training of girls in home making should be conducted simultaneously with the training of young men for rural settlement.

121. Considering that the majority of the population was now, and was likely to remain in the foreseeable future, in rural areas - and that the youth of to-day is the farmer of tomorrow - the Conference drew the attention of all opinion formers, and in particular of national leaders, teachers, parents, religious leaders and others, to the importance of the role of agriculture in the community. Understanding that appeals alone were insufficient, the Conference emphasized the need for improvement of the status of and prospects in rural society, through better social and physical services.

122. The importance of education in the mobilization of youth was stressed, and the attention of countries was drawn to need for support to:

- i) literacy instruction;
- ii) the revision of school curricula adapted to the rural environment;
- iii) the development of group activities, especially those incorporating practical projects associated with the production and conservation of food.

The value of young farmers' associations of various types, both in and outside schools, was appreciated.

123. In view of the enormous numbers of youth concerned, and the resources available, the Conference considered that special attention should be paid to simple inexpensive projects capable of rapid multiplication, and economic return to the individual and the community. There was a particular need for training in youth leadership at all levels.

124. The Conference recognized the urgency of mobilizing all forms of assistance both from within countries and from bilateral and multilateral agencies. In particular, assistance was required in the following fields:

- i) FAO was requested to conduct a comparative study of significant new types of rural youth projects, including the financial and credit requirements for the settlement of youth in agriculture;
- ii) The training of youth and youth leaders. The important role of youth leadership on a voluntary basis was emphasized;
- iii) The provision of audio-visual aids, and the wider dissemination of information on youth activities;
- iv) The provision of incentives to youth clubs and youth leaders;
- v) The provision of finance for the setting-up of revolving funds in support of youth projects.
- vi) The organization of youth seminars and camps, study tours for youth leaders and the international exchange of personnel.

125. Attention was drawn to the fact that FAO could render assistance in the fore-mentioned activities through WFP, the Fertilizer Program, and the FFHC national committees.

The World Food Program

126. The Conference stressed the role of food aid in financing development particularly in the agricultural sector, including the mobilization of rural youth for food production. It expressed appreciation of the assistance provided by the WFP to countries in the region in the implementation of economic and social development plans and in mitigating the hardship arising out of emergencies. It was gratified to note that the Program had been extended on an indefinite basis for as long as multilateral food aid was necessary and practicable.

127. It was pointed out that in order to make the greatest possible impact, food aid should be linked, wherever feasible, with other types of aid such as are offered by the UNDP(SF), the IBRD, and the African Development Bank.

128. The Conference noted the complementarity between food aid and other inputs for agricultural development. In this connection it recommended that, when established, the proposed FAO Food Production Resources Program should be closely linked with WFP.

129. The Conference was apprised of the regulations of the WFP providing for the purchase of essential commodities with a portion of the cash contribution, in cases where commodity pledging has been insufficient. It recommended that priority be given to purchases from countries with surplus production.

130. The Conference urged that FAO staff in the Region should help countries in the preparation of carefully formulated projects of sufficient size, and in suggesting corrective technical measures in the implementation of projects.

131. Concern was expressed at the short-fall in the resources of the Program for which the target of \$275 million had been set by the UN General Assembly and the FAO Conference for the pledging period of 1966-68. The Conference appealed to member countries of the Region to increase their voluntary contribution to the Program, and urged those that had not so far made any contribution to do so as soon as practicable. It also addressed an urgent appeal to developed countries to increase or supplement their pledges. In this connection, the importance was stressed of the rich countries sharing the cost of producing food deliberately for food aid in view of the rapid decline in world food reserves and surpluses. The USA observer informed the Conference of the liberalization of the 1966-68 pledge to the Program effective 1 August 1966.

132. The Conference noted that the WFP aid was not a form of charity, but that it should continue to be tied to specific projects and especially to those related to labour-intensive works through which reservoirs of unemployed and underemployed man-power could be harnessed to the development efforts of the countries of the Region. In selecting projects for food aid, special attention should be paid to those which stimulate food production. The nutrition aspects of food aid should continue to be stressed. Care should continue to be exercised to avoid market displacements.

133. The Conference agreed that, due to the inadequacy of resources, the "project approach" should continue to be the dominant method in utilizing WFP aid. It, however, expressed the hope that the "program approach", by which bulk food was supplied to fill the food gap created by the development process, would be introduced as soon as conditions permitted.

134. The delays in delivery of food aid, particularly in relation to emergency situations, were raised. In this connection, the Conference noted that the possibility of establishment by WFP of regional or subregional food stocks was under study. It urged the Program to continue to explore all possible alternatives in expediting food supplies to the countries where they were required.

135. The Conference also stressed the need for streamlining administrative machinery in view of the vital need for efficient reception, storage, transportation, and distribution of food aid at the receiving end. It suggested the creation of a central national agency to coordinate government services involved in the handling of food aid.

136. The Conference urged recipients of WFP aid to be timely in their submission of quarterly reports and annual end-use audited accounts.

Future Orientation of FAO's Work in the Region

137. The FAO Regional Representative summarized the trends and orientation that had emerged from Conference discussion on each of the major policy items that had been placed on the agenda of the Fourth FAO Regional Conference for Africa. In doing so, he thanked delegations for the recognition they had given throughout discussions to the contribution which FAO had so far made to agricultural development in their respective countries, and he paid tribute to the very high level of interest that they had evinced in regard to the many difficult problems discussed and which constituted inhibiting factors in the implementation of so many national economic development plans.

Invitations to the Fifth FAO Regional Conference for Africa

138. The Conference noted with gratitude the invitations extended, through their Heads of delegations, by the Governments of Kenya, Uganda and Zambia to hold the Fifth FAO Regional Conference for Africa in their respective capitals. In requesting the representatives of these countries to convey to their Governments the appreciation of the Conference and of the Director-General for their generous offer, the Regional Representative confirmed that the decision of the Director-General on this matter would be conveyed to all member countries of the Region in due course.

Closing Ceremony

139. The closing ceremony began on Saturday, 19 November 1966, with a statement by the Head of the delegation of the Republic of Cameroun, made on behalf of all participants in the Fourth FAO Regional Conference for Africa. He spoke of the spirit of sincerity, unity and solidarity among African countries, which had pervaded the deliberations of this Conference. He thanked the Host Government and its preparatory committee for the thoughtfulness and care with which the physical needs of the meeting had been met. His thanks went also to the Chairman and the three Vice-Chairmen who had so ably accomplished their difficult task. He also expressed the Conference's appreciation to the Director-General of FAO for his participation and sustained interest in Africa's problems; and to FAO Headquarters and Regional staff, the Conference Secretariat and to all those whose work lay behind the scenes, for their untiring contribution to the organization and smooth running of the Conference.

140. The FAO Regional Representative, on behalf of the Director-General, then expressed FAO's gratitude to the Government of the Ivory Coast Republic for the innumerable ways in which it had, in so exemplary a manner, acquitted itself of its responsibilities as host to the Fourth African Regional Conference.

141. The Minister of Agriculture of the Ivory Coast, as Chairman of the Conference, reiterated his thanks to the Conference for the honour and confidence vested in him by electing him Chairman. As representative of the Host Country, he then spoke his thanks to the Minister of Agriculture of the Cameroun for the sentiments expressed on behalf of all participants to the Government and people of the Ivory Coast. He thanked the Director-General and his entire secretariat for their preparatory and organizational work for the Conference, which had so worthily maintained FAO's excellent reputation and had paved the way for some most useful discussion on Africa's agricultural development problems. He referred with appreciation to the high level of contributions by all participants to the debate; and concluded with a word of thanks to the Vice-Chairmen for their able support at times when his other responsibilities prevented him from attending the Conference. He then declared the Fourth FAO Regional Conference for Africa officially closed.

APPENDIX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. DELEGATES

ALGERIA

Amar Toudji
Inspecteur général de l'agriculture
Ministère de l'agriculture

Djaffem Alloum
Ingénieur agricole
Direction de la production végétale
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	Mrs. N. Duguet
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F. FAO STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

B.R. Sen	Director-General
Miss J. Campbell	Executive Assistant to the Director-General

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APPENDIX II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Working Papers

ARC/66/1	Provisional Agenda
ARC/66/1a	Provisional Annotated Agenda
ARC/66/2	The Food and Agricultural Situation in Africa
ARC/66/3	Report on Action by FAO in the Region
ARC/66/4	Major Issues of International Commodity Trade
ARC/66/5	Major Issues of International Commodity Trade
ARC/66/6	Improved Organization of Agricultural Marketing
ARC/66/7	Prevention of Waste of Agricultural Produce during Harvesting, Storage and Transportation
ARC/66/8	Planning and Organization of Area Development Projects
ARC/66/9	Financing of Agricultural Development
ARC/66/10	The Role of Agriculture in the Build-up of Industrial Development
ARC/66/11	The Management and Rational Utilization of Fishery Resources with Special Reference to Problems of Common Exploitation
ARC/66/12	Mobilization of Rural Youth for Development
ARC/66/12a	Preliminary Summary Report - FAO/Massey-Ferguson Regional Preparatory Seminar for Africa of the Young World Food and Development Project
ARC/66/13	The World Food Programme

Background Papers

ARC/66/CONF/1	Director-General's Statement (Item B.4)
ARC/66/CONF/4	FAO's Commodity Review 1966 (Item C.6)
ARC/66/CONF/5	The World Rice Economy in Figures (Item C.6)
ARC/66/CONF/6	The International Organization of Commodity Trade - Case Study on Selected Fats and Oils (Item C.6)
ARC/66/CONF/7	Economic Survey of Modern Flour Mills (Item C.6)

ARC/66/CONF/8	The Location of Oilseed Crushing Industries (Case Study of Nigeria) (Item C.6)
ARC/66/CONF/8a	Emplacement des industries d'extraction de matières grasses (Etude de cas d'espèce: Sénégal) (Item C.6)
ARC/66/CONF/8b	Study Group on Oilseeds, Oils and Fats (Case Study of Sudan) (Item C.6)
ARC/66/CONF/8c	Economic Aspects of the Location of Oilseed Crushing (Item C.6)
ARC/66/CONF/9	Formulation of Agricultural Projects for International Financing (Item C.10)
ARC/66/CONF/10	FAO's Activities in the Field of Industrial Development (Item C.11)
ARC/66/CONF/11	FAO Agricultural Studies No. 68 - Agricultural Credit through Co-operatives and other Institutions (Item C.10)
ARC/66/CONF/12	Manual of Fumigation for Insect Control (Item C.8)
ARC/66/CONF/13	Grain Storage Newsletter and Abstracts (Item C.8)
ARC/66/CONF/14	Some Essential Considerations on the Storage of Food Grains in Tropical Africa (Item C.8)
ARC/66/CONF/15	Rice Drying Principles and Techniques (Item C.8)
ARC/66/CONF/16	Crop Ecologic Survey in West Africa - text (Item C.8)
ARC/66/CONF/16a	Crop Ecologic Survey in West Africa - map (Item C.8)
ARC/66/CONF/17	Agricultural Education in Africa - The Origin, Purpose and Work of the FAO Special Program for Education and Training in Africa - UN/ECA (Item C.8)
ARC/66/CONF/18	Manpower Requirements for Agricultural Development in Africa (Item C.8)
ARC/66/CONF/21	Indicative World Plan for Agricultural Development (Item C.7)
ARC/66/CONF/22	Information Note on Ad Hoc UNCTAD/FAO Working Party on Forest and Timber Products (Item C.6)

APPENDIX III

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

To Governments

To the Director-General of FAO

General

To ensure a greater number of African permanent representatives to FAO in Rome. (40)

To participate as member in the Inter-governmental Council of the Codex Alimentarius. (68)

To facilitate efforts to recruit personnel for FAO posts. (40)

To reorganize Regional Conferences to allow for the meeting at policy level to be immediately preceded by discussions at technical committees level. (18)

To draw the attention of the ad hoc Review Committee on FAO's structure to the need to establish already approved sub-regional FAO offices in Africa and to examine the desirability of creating further such offices. (39)

To give attention to more accurate reflection of national quotas in FAO staffing and particularly where representational or liaison posts of interest to a region are concerned. (39 - 40)

To ensure that Africa's interests and contribution be given greater recognition on FAO bodies. (39-40)

To strengthen regionally outposted staff in the interests of better appreciation of Africa's needs, and to vest in it such authority as would accelerate project implementation procedure. (39)

Commodity Problems and Trade

To establish multi-national export marketing organizations or centres for channelling exports of specific commodities in the interest of co-ordination and strengthening export policies. (47)

To provide for a Regional Commodity Adviser. (37)

To give further attention to local specialized interpretation of international commodity development and training in commodity analysis. (46)

To Governments

To the Director-General of FAO

Commodity Problems and Trade (cont.d)

To extend measures to arrangements on production management, control and financing of stocks, assistance in transfer of production resources, local organization of commodity markets, caution in release of carry-over stocks. (49)

To give increased attention to the collection and use of statistical data and market information. (26)

To give attention to additional and better systems of feeder roads throughout the Region. (64)

To expand research into new end-uses of a wider range of agricultural products, possibly through joint projects involving both developed and developing countries. (48)

To assist in diversifying production, on a national or group-country basis, in the interest of agricultural trade. (45)

To expand research into new end-uses of a wider range of agricultural products, possibly through joint projects involving both developed and developing countries. (48)

To carry out further work on the economic aspects of agricultural processing and related feasibility studies. (51)

To pursue studies on international price stabilization measures. (32)

To provide additional training facilities both at national and sub-regional level in agricultural marketing. (61)

To urge the 14th Session of the FAO Conference to establish Regional Marketing Commissions and contribute to closer intra-regional economic integration. (32-67)

To increase research on improving the collection and use of statistical data and market information. (62)

To assist in establishing regional and sub-regional agricultural statistics institutes. (36)

Planning and Organization of Area Development Projects

To establish autonomous national co-ordinating bodies to make realistic and alert overall surveys of areas for selection as pilot development units and to be responsible for the execution of such projects. (82-86)

To pay careful prior attention to other factors and facilities upon which the success of such area development depends. (84-85)

To assist in promoting area development with pre-investment surveys, fellowships, seminars and training centres on project evaluation, and identification and formulation missions. (88)

To Governments

To the Director-General of FAO

Food Aid/WFP

To increase their contribution to the WFP or to urgently pledge their help where none had hitherto been given. (131)

To enhance efficiency and coordination of effort in reception, storage, transportation and distribution of food aid by creation of central national agencies at an appropriate level. (135)

To ensure timely submission of quarterly reports and accounts to WFP. (136)

To link to WFP the proposed FAO Food Production Resources Program, as well as other forms of aid available through various FAO cooperative programs. (128)

To give priority, in the use of cash contributions for the purchase of essential commodities to supplement insufficient pledging, to countries with surplus production. (129)

To make FAO staff assigned to the Region available in assisting in WFP project formulation and review. (130)

To continue to explore means of expediting food supplies. (134)

To urge developed countries to increase or supplement their pledges to WFP and to share the cost of deliberately producing commodities for food aid. (131)

Role of Youth

To initiate or accelerate rural youth programs, as an integral part of national economic development plans. (118)

To pay special attention to simple, inexpensive projects capable of rapid multiplication and economic return, and providing incentives for active participation. (123)

To promote literacy instruction, local adaptation of school curricula, and group activities related to food production and conservation, in the interest of youth mobilization campaigns. (122)

To pursue promotion of rural youth programs in Africa. (118)

To give attention in particular to comparative studies of significant new types of rural youth projects, to training of youth leaders, to elaboration of audio-visual aids and incentives, to exploring possibilities of financial aid and to the organization of seminars, camps and exchange programs. (124)

To Governments

To the Director-General of FAO

Animal Production and Health

To assist by purchasing livestock vaccines possibly with the help of emergency funds. (37)

To expand action in eradication of livestock diseases and the setting up of relevant safeguards to sanitary standards in meat exports. (50)

Fisheries

To cooperate fully with other Governments fishing a common resource in respect of investigations and conservation aspects. (108)

To improve fisheries statistics. (108)

To adhere, where relevant, to the international convention for the conservation of Atlantic tunas. (110)

To facilitate the enrolment of trainees from other African countries in their national fishery schools. (113)

To utilize opportunities for mutual assistance between African countries in furthering development of their fisheries. (113)

To facilitate in-job training by making available suitable counterpart staff in technical assistance projects. (113)

To prepare definitions and standards for collection of fishery statistics. (108)

To request the FAO Committee on Fisheries and the ACMRR to give urgent attention to the problems of the Eastern Tropical Atlantic. (109)

To give more assistance to countries in increasing their catches from relatively unexploited resources. (111)

To promote UNDP-SF fishery projects in East Africa and appoint the Regional Fisheries Officer for East Africa without delay. (111)

To assist Governments in the establishment of national and sub-regional fishery schools. (112)

To give more attention to assisting countries in developing fisheries in brackish waters. (116)

To request the Technical Conference on the Fisheries of West African countries (1967) to consider alternative arrangements for prosecuting the tasks for which the RFCWA had been established, and to give attention to the development of African fisheries in the Eastern Tropical Atlantic and to the common problems of the inland waters of the Sub-region. (115)

To Governments

To the Director-General of FAO

Fisheries (cont.d)

To encourage the formation of suitable international bodies to facilitate co-operation between riparian countries in developing and conserving the fishery resources of inland water basins and in marketing the catches. (115)

Forestry and Forest Products

To take measures to promote more intensive use of secondary timber species (timber, depots, cheap protection methods). (67)

To explore possibilities for technical and financial aid to undertake forest resources surveys. (55)

To consider organizing a meeting in the near future on overall aspects of African forest development, conservation and utilization. (59)

Nutrition

To give attention to training of women teachers connected with school-feeding programs, etc. (37)

