

Report of the

# **TENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA**

---

**Arusha, Tanzania, 18-28 September 1978**



**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

*FAO Member Nations in the African Region (at 28 September 1978)*

Algeria	Guinea	Nigeria
Angola	Guinea-Bissau	Rwanda
Benin	Ivory Coast	São Tomé and Príncipe
Botswana	Kenya	Senegal
Burundi	Lesotho	Seychelles
Cameroon	Liberia	Sierra Leone
Cape Verde	Madagascar	Sudan
Central African Empire	Malawi	Swaziland
Chad	Mali	Tanzania
Comoros	Mauritania	Togo
Congo	Mauritius	Tunisia
Ethiopia	Morocco	Uganda
Gabon	Mozambique	Upper Volta
Gambia	Namibia	Zaire
Ghana	Niger	Zambia

*Date and place of FAO Regional Conferences for Africa*

First	—	Lagos, Nigeria, 3-12 November 1960
Second	—	Tunis, Tunisia, 1-10 November 1962
Third	—	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 3-15 September 1964
Fourth	—	Abidjan, Ivory Coast, 9-19 November 1966
Fifth	—	Kampala, Uganda, 18-29 November 1968
Sixth	—	Algiers, Algeria, 17 September-3 October 1970
Seventh	—	Libreville, Gabon, 14-30 September 1972
Eighth	—	Rose Hill, Mauritius, 1-17 August 1974
Ninth	—	Freetown, Sierra Leone, 2-12 November 1976
Tenth	—	Arusha, Tanzania, 18-28 September 1978

ARC/78/REP

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Rome, 1978



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## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in the Context of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development

#### For the Attention of FAO

1. Urged FAO to continue its present efforts to assist governments in the Region on these important matters (72).

#### For the Attention of Governments

1. Recognized that governments should allocate additional resources for the development of the rural areas and should establish a pricing system that encouraged agricultural production and guaranteed remunerative return to the producer (66).
2. Expressed the view that overall rural development policies should basically rely on national resources and self-reliance to achieve a high degree of self-sufficiency, particularly in food production (67).
3. Assistance should be given to farmers' training organizations, education and the establishment of an extension service capable of helping all agricultural producers (68).
4. Urged governments to give priority, in the allocation of their budgetary resources, to these important requirements (69).
5. Considered that the Africa Region has a number of common features and that governments could mutually benefit from exchanging their experiences (70).
6. Considered that governments should take the necessary measures to safeguard the environment and prevent desertification and that water resources should be utilized to increase production and provide suitable drinking water (72).

### The State of Natural Resources and the Human Environment for Food and Agriculture

#### For the Attention of FAO

1. Recommended that a report on the State of Natural Resources for Food and Agriculture, including mineral resources, be prepared for the Africa Region to complement the development and the implementation of the FAO Food Plan for Africa (78).

#### For the Attention of Governments

1. Urged speedy action to combat the degradation and loss of the natural resources essential to sustain food and agricultural production (76).

2. Urged that national institutions and existing sub-regional, regional and international institutions should take the necessary steps to improve statistics and provide the necessary training on rational management of resources to sustain production (80).
3. Stressed the need for adequate harmonization of regulations and legislation among neighbouring countries for a rational use of their resources (81).
4. Called on the interested governments to enlist the active participation of the population (82).

Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries with  
Particular Emphasis on National and Regional Institutions

For the Attention of FAO

1. Recommended the establishment of a Regional Centre for research on appropriate technology so as to bring about cooperation among neighbouring countries with similar conditions (87).
2. Urged FAO to assist in mobilizing the necessary resources to provide effective support where this was required (91).
3. Urged FAO to develop practical guidelines in this respect (92).
4. Requested FAO to assist in providing an inventory in line with its CARIS and AGRIS systems (93).

Regional Cooperation and Integration in the Field of  
Agriculture: Review of Progress and Prospects

For the Attention of Governments

1. Urged that failures should be regarded as a guide for improving future cooperation (95).
2. Suggested that modest beginning, with prospects of realizing immediate benefits, offered the greatest opportunity for success and would pave the way for future expanded cooperation and integration (97).
3. Agreed that agricultural production should be restructured to suit local requirements (98).

Regional Food Plan for Africa

For the Attention of FAO

1. Requested FAO to expand the operations of the TCP (Technical Cooperation Programme) to provide necessary support in the preparation and, wherever appropriate, execution of appropriate programmes for attaining food self-sufficiency (108).



2. Requested FAO, in collaboration with ECA, to establish a food commodity price intelligence service relevant to the needs of Africa (110).
3. Recommended FAO, in consultation with national governments, inter-governmental organizations and other international organizations, should explore the possibility of establishing sub-regional food technology centres whose objectives would be to conduct appropriate surveys and research programmes so as to reduce pre- and post-harvest food losses; to improve nutritional values of local foods and to evolve suitable techniques of processing and preserving these foods (111).
4. Requested FAO and donor countries to increase food security assistance to such developing countries (114).
5. Requested the Director-General of FAO to give the Regional Food Plan the widest publicity (116).

For the Attention of Governments

1. Noted that individual member countries should take the initiative and responsibility for the preparation of country plans, including the identification and preparation of investment programmes and projects for food production (106).
2. Proposed that development of the traditional sector should be accorded highest priority to enable it to play a pivotal role in food production (108).
3. Recommended that national annual budgets be restructured along the lines of Programme and Performance Budgetary System (PPBS) as an effective instrument for implementing plans and monitoring performance of the food production sector (109).
4. Recommended increased allocation of financial and other resources to this sector in national budgets (112).



## INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

### Organization of the Conference

1. The Tenth FAO Regional Conference for Africa was held in the Arusha International Conference Centre, Arusha, Tanzania from 18 to 28 September 1978. The Technical Committee which preceded the Plenary Session was held from 18 to 22 September 1978.
2. Delegates from 42 Member Nations, as well as observers from Member Nations outside the Region, Permanent Observers of the Holy See, Representatives of the United Nations and Specialized Agencies, observers from inter-governmental organizations and representatives of National Liberation Movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity (OAU), attended the Conference. A list of participants is given in Appendix B; Appendix C contains a list of Conference documents.

### Inaugural Ceremony

3. In his opening remarks the Director-General of FAO, Mr. Edouard Saouma, paid tribute to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for its warm hospitality and for the facilities made available for the Conference. He then invited Ndugu Edward M. Sokoine, Member of Parliament, Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, to address the Conference. The Honourable Prime Minister welcomed the delegates to Tanzania and in particular to Arusha. Agriculture, he emphasized, was the backbone of the country's economy and the principal source of livelihood and occupation. The Conference deliberations on agrarian reform, technical cooperation among developing countries, regional cooperation and integration, and the regional food plan, he noted, were all matters of central importance to development policies.
4. Ndugu Sokoine expressed concern at the slow rate of agricultural development despite the recognition that it was a crucial springboard towards greater self-reliance and prosperity. This, he said, was attributable to the use of primitive tools, to the inability to use animal and mechanized power to relieve peasants from heavy agricultural tasks, and the inability to use water resources optimally. Africa owed her labouring peasantry the duty of reassessing her policies and strategies and setting a target for breaking out of rural backwardness through the application of modern practices.
5. Referring to the agenda item on the Regional Food Plan for Africa, Ndugu Sokoine noted with satisfaction that the background document covered major issues which would lead to food self-sufficiency in the region if implemented. He reminded the Conference of the terrible famines that had been experienced by the continent during the last five years. With resolve, Africa could still solve her food problem; he appealed to the Conference to consider the establishment of Food Reserves at national and, if possible, at regional levels to complement other efforts designed to raise productivity and improve nutrition. He further appealed to the Delegates to consider the possibility of gearing their human resources development and fiscal policies towards the modernization of agriculture and food production.
6. In conclusion, Ndugu Sokoine drew the attention of the Conference to the thousands of people in Africa who lived in the world of scarcity, hunger, malnutrition and despair. This was a priority segment of the population which required the attention of the Conference. He called upon the Conference, the developed nations, and international organizations to play a greater role in liberating this segment of the population from the scourge of famine. While expressing appreciation for food aid received, he expressed the hope that the developed countries would endeavour to make deliberate policies for transferring appropriate agricultural technology and training as a long-term permanent solution to the food problem.

#### Election of Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur

7. At its first working session the Conference elected Ndugu John Malecela, Member of Parliament, Honourable Minister of Agriculture of the United Republic of Tanzania, by acclamation as the Chairman of the Plenary Session. In a short acceptance speech, Ndugu Malecela thanked the distinguished delegates for having confided the guidance of the Conference to him. He drew the attention of the Conference to the precarious food situation in the developing world, and stated that there was a life-and-death race between the growing numbers of people and the diminishing ability to feed them. The peoples of Africa were constantly threatened by recurrent famine. It was paradoxical that the rural people who produced food, were the people usually seriously affected in times of shortage. He again appealed to the Conference to tackle the food problems, where necessary, through cooperative arrangements.

8. The Conference then elected Mr. Koffi Attobra, Ministre des Eaux et forêts, Ivory Coast; Mr. Jerre Daffeh, Minister of Agriculture, Gambia; and Mr. T.K. Gorufoun, Ministre du Développement Rural, Togo, as the first, second and third Vice-Chairmen respectively. Mr. Horatio Mends, Permanent Representative of Ghana to FAO, was elected Rapporteur.

#### Adoption of the Agenda

9. The Conference considered and adopted the provisional agenda and timetable. The Agenda as adopted is reproduced in Appendix A.

### SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

#### Statement by the Director-General of FAO

10. In his opening address, the Director-General of FAO, Mr. Edouard Saouma, paid special tribute to the President, His Excellency Julius Nyerere, for his famous Arusha Declaration which eleven years ago had paved the way for Tanzanian African Socialism and self-reliance. He expressed appreciation for the President's effort to liberate southern Africa, and the support he had given to FAO. The Director-General also paid tribute to Ndugu John Malecela, Tanzanian Minister for Agriculture, for his efforts in mobilizing international assistance against the devastating onslaught of the desert locust in eastern Africa.

11. The Director-General expressed his pleasure in welcoming representatives of Angola, Djibouti, Mozambique, São Tome and Principe, and the Seychelles, who were attending the Conference for the first time. FAO had been the first United Nations Specialized Organization to admit Namibia as a full member, a manifestation of FAO's commitment to decolonization in southern Africa. He also welcomed representatives of National Liberation Movements recognized by the OAU.

12. The Director-General informed the Conference that he had recently appointed Dr. Samba Cor Sar of Senegal and Mr. Almamy Sylla of Mali to the rank of Assistant Director-General. Both men had had distinguished careers in their national governments and in the United Nations System. Mr. Sylla now fulfilled the functions of Secretary-General of the policy-making bodies of FAO; Dr. Sar was the Regional Representative for Africa.

13. The Director-General informed the Conference that Africa still lagged behind other developing regions in food production and supply. The increase in food production failed to match the population growth rate and fell further behind the accelerated increase in demand. With the exception of meat and sugar, production had declined in all major commodities, particularly cereals, with shortfalls being met by imports.

14. Africa commanded the highest attention in all of FAO's programmes as evidenced by its large share of the Technical Cooperation Programme, the newly established Programme for the Prevention of Food Losses, the Food Security Assistance Scheme and of emergency aid through the Office of Special Relief Operations and the International Fertilizer Scheme. He also informed the Conference of the expansion of FAO's investment activities in Africa

in cooperation with the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa. FAO's programme in Africa contained some 800 projects at a total value of US\$ 450 million and involving about 850 FAO advisers.

15. The Director-General drew the attention of the Conference to the enormous human and natural resources of the Region. It was the responsibility of African Governments to design appropriate policies and programmes to increase food and agricultural production. As problems occurred in different contexts, a variety of suitable policies and programmes were needed. The Director-General acknowledged that innovative strategies were being employed but observed that some problems called for close collaboration among African Governments, international organizations and external assistance, in particular the three scourges of drought, desert locust and trypanosomiasis.

16. The recurrence of drought required long-term agricultural development in areas prone to drought, especially the Sahel. The menace of desert locust had re-emerged, but FAO and Desert Locust Control Organization of East Africa were mobilizing resources to contain the devastation they caused. Twenty-one African countries, with a total area of some ten million square kilometres, were still menaced by the tsetse fly. He was, however, pleased to announce that a programme to control trypanosomiasis had been initiated though substantial investment would be required.

17. The African Regional Food Plan provided a basis for enabling African countries to tackle the problems of making Africa self-sufficient in food and highlighted the potential for cooperation which existed in the Region. Africa had also to continue playing an effective role in international fora, and FAO would continue to lend support, as it had shown by its participation in various international negotiations.

18. In concluding his address, the Director-General briefly informed the Conference of the progress being made in the preparation of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, and in the FAO programmes in southern Africa, especially against apartheid, which he described as the tragic mismanagement of human resources.

#### Statement by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa

19. Dr. Adebayo Adedeji, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, paid tribute to the leadership of Mr. Edouard Saouma, the Director-General of FAO, with whom he shared common objectives. He referred to the challenge Africa faced in achieving a breakthrough in food and agricultural production in Africa, and observed that agriculture, instead of spearheading economic growth, had retarded development. The situation could not be improved unless there was substantial structural transformation in the agricultural sector leading to sustained growth and self-reliance. Such a transformation should exploit the potential development linkages of all kinds. This could not be achieved if the current dualistic structure of agricultural production, with a heavy bias toward exports to the developed nations, was retained.

20. Referring to the Declaration of the New International Economic Order, Dr. Adedeji observed that Africa would adopt its own economic order through expanded and strengthened regional technical and economic cooperation. To this end the ECA, through its Multinational Programming and Operating Centres (MULPOCS), and with the support of the United Nations family, especially of FAO, had initiated a number of joint agricultural projects covering disease control, river basin development, integrated rural development, etc. In concluding, Dr. Adedeji advised the Conference to avoid rhetoric.

#### Statement by the Representative of the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU)

21. In his address, Ambassador Djoudi paid tribute to Tanzania for her Ujamaa policy, which was designed to overthrow anachronistic agrarian structures. He referred to the critical food situation in Africa and welcomed the Regional Food Plan prepared by FAO in response to the Freetown Declaration. He indicated that the OAU had already contributed

towards the amelioration of the situation as regards drought and other natural disasters, so as to help improve food and agricultural production in the Region. He appealed for the stabilization of prices of agriculture inputs, especially fertilizers.

22. In the context of trade and regional cooperation, he warned against complacency when the trade-creating potential of the Region was usurped by multinationals through various trade-diverting practices. This problem could be overcome if there were an inter-African information system on commodities. He recommended that FAO, in close collaboration with the OAU and ECA, should establish such a system. Another factor impeding regional cooperation, he observed, was the lack of infrastructure. He noted with satisfaction the construction of trans-African highways, which would promote regional trade.

#### Statement by the Representative of the World Food Council

23. Mr. Mustapha Faris, Vice-President of the World Food Council, summarized major elements of the Mexico Declaration in his short address. He emphasized that there was need for coordinated action in eradicating hunger and malnutrition. He further warned about the deteriorating food situation in Africa against the background of drought and population increases.

24. The problems to be faced were great, especially in increasing food production and in providing adequate food security. He observed that, unless more was done internationally and nationally, the objectives of the resolutions of the World Food Conference could not be achieved. On food plans, Mr. Faris emphasized the need to mount national food schemes and integrate them into regional food plans. The World Food Council, he said, was ready to mobilize the necessary political will and to collaborate with other organizations such as FAO. In concluding he warned against preoccupation with the arms race at the expense of food.

#### Summary of Country Statements

25. Country statements commented mainly on the theme of the Conference. However, delegates also reviewed measures being taken to improve food and agricultural production in their respective countries. Some delegates made special mention of programmes to organize the agrarian population into collective, cooperative, and production brigades in order to facilitate the provision of the basic social infrastructure, agricultural credit, technical inputs and marketing services.

26. Delegates expressed appreciation for the Director-General's policy initiatives, especially in trypanosomiasis control, plant protection and the reduction of post-harvest losses, seed and fertilizer supply schemes, the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) and investment. Many delegates expressed the wish that the scope of these programmes be expanded, especially the TCP and investment. The trypanosomiasis control programme should also include other livestock diseases and the development of trypano-tolerant breeds of cattle. The Uganda delegate suggested the establishment of a Food Technology Centre for Eastern Africa and expressed the willingness of his Government to host it if a decision were taken to establish one.

27. Delegates also expressed appreciation for the Director-General's response to a request to appoint African nationals to senior posts in the Organization. However, one delegate appealed to the Director-General to take cognizance of the diversity of interests in the Region when making future appointments. One delegate urged that, because of the importance of nutritional problems, the post of Director, Nutrition Division, be filled.

28. In assessing the food situation in the Region, many delegates remarked that it was anachronistic and intolerable that Africa, with its vast land resources, should still be suffering from malnutrition and recurrent famine. This was in part attributable to the pattern of food and agricultural production which, during the colonial era, had fulfilled the commercial objectives of the developed nations. This was still reflected in African trade patterns. Delegates appealed to national governments to restructure their production

and trade patterns. It was paradoxical to retain restrictive tariffs which would impede regional trade cooperation at a time when it was needed most. In particular, cooperation in the exchange of technical information was needed. FAO was therefore requested to assist in establishing a commodity intelligence service for the Region. Several delegates cited inadequacies in the road network as impeding horizontal cooperation, and urged that the Trans-African Highway Projects be revived by those organizations responsible for them.

29. Delegates expressed concern at the re-emergence of drought, especially in the Sahel, with its debilitating effects on the fragile ecology, and on livestock. Some delegates noted with concern that every time there was any calamity in the Region, national governments had to resort to developed nations for assistance as if there were no regional inter-governmental institutions in Africa responsible for fostering mutual cooperation in times of need.

30. To counteract the effects of drought, large investment was required, especially in the fields of afforestation, land and water development, disease control, etc. Appreciation was expressed for the international assistance received and an appeal was made for additional support. FAO's role in mobilizing international support was commended and delegates urged that the Organization should continue its efforts.

31. Many delegates appealed to donor countries to complement food aid with the supply of agricultural inputs and the transfer of technology as a long-term strategy to combat drought and other climatic calamities, and to attain sustained growth in food and agricultural production.

32. Several delegates referred to the need for the rational exploitation of natural resources, which required careful planning. Some delegates indicated that the exploitation of resources and an increase in agricultural production were being held back by shortages in the trained manpower needed to plan and execute national development programmes. Several delegates requested an expansion of training in a variety of technical fields.

33. Noting with appreciation the work that had gone into the Regional Food Plan for Africa, some delegates felt that the issues raised in the document were indicative and that the paper did not constitute a plan but provided a framework for the formulation of national plans. Some delegates confirmed that the Freetown Declaration did not prescribe any terms of reference for the Regional Food Plan, and few suggested that questions of establishing national and sub-regional food reserves should have received a greater treatment in the document. FAO was requested to follow up efforts already made, in particular through monitoring food production and the supply situation in Africa, commodities included.

34. One delegate also urged that the Conference should refrain from rhetoric at a time when millions of people lived in the world of food scarcity, but should come with practical solutions to problems. Delegates felt that the design of policies and strategies for increasing food and agricultural production was the responsibility of national governments. Delegates expressed strong support for the convening of WCARRD. They also urged governments to make adequate preparations for active participation in the forthcoming Conference.

35. One delegate observed that the task of agrarian reform in Africa had been usurped by a non-agrarian social class, the élite, and that the peasantry had been denied equal opportunity and access to resources. While expressing his hope for a successful outcome of the forthcoming World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, one delegate expressed the view that agrarian reform was the direct and sole responsibility of national governments, which were better placed to understand the socio-cultural background of their societies.

36. Some delegates also referred to the problem of urbanization in their countries, which led to urban unemployment, soaring food prices in urban centres, and inflationary pressures on the economy. The withdrawal of labour from the rural areas through migration could also lead to a decline in food output. The exodus, especially of youth, could only be checked through the provision of the necessary basic social and economic infrastructure to the rural areas, thus making them attractive places of habitation.

37. Emphasizing the importance of rural development, delegates generally agreed that there was a need to establish a centre for Integrated Rural Development in Africa patterned on the Asian model. The Tanzanian delegate expressed his Government's willingness to host such a centre, an offer which the Conference adopted by acclamation in recognition of Tanzania's pioneering role in bringing about rural transformation.

38. Delegates also recognized the role women have been playing in rural development. National Governments were urged to make efforts to improve the productivity of women.

39. Mention was also made of the FAO Regional Office's having undertaken evaluation exercises on programmes in the field of land and water, forestry and fishery, Integrated Rural Development, etc.

40. In a short statement, Mr. Moïse Mensah, Representative of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), informed the Conference of the inception, purpose, resources and criteria of operation of the Fund. The principal purpose of the Fund was to mobilize additional financial resources to be lent at concessional terms to finance projects designed to increase food production, especially in food deficit areas. The Fund also recognized the urgent need to help the poorest segment of the population. Mr. Mensah then informed the Conference that the first two loans had already been made, one to Tanzania and the other to Sri Lanka.

41. The Fund would follow with interest the deliberations of the Conference, in particular, discussion on Agrarian Reform, Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and the Regional Food Plan for Africa. In response to questions, Mr. Mensah informed the Conference that the Fund would contribute to the conceptualization and formulation of agricultural projects. He mentioned, in particular, institutional support, such as the strengthening of planning units in Ministries of Agriculture for project identification and preparation.

42. Mr. Cuomo, the Representative of the UN/FAO World Food Programme (WFP), in a brief statement, informed the Conference that WFP supported development projects in all countries in Africa. Over the last 16 years of its operation, the resources of the Programme had increased from a modest level of US\$ 30 million to US\$ 300 million per annum. He informed the Conference that the demand for aid was far greater than the available resources and that the Programme had established priorities in favour of vulnerable groups and of projects designed to increase agricultural production. Pipeline projects were estimated to amount to US\$ 600 million and the Programme had set a target of US\$ 950 million, most of which had already been pledged.

43. As Africa had the highest number of the Least Developed Countries (LDC), WFP aid proportion was correspondingly large in the Region. Of the total aid, 90 percent was channelled to support soil projects, feeding programmes for expectant and lactating mothers, school feeding programmes, the settlement of refugees and dairy development. Mr. Cuomo also informed the Conference that the Programme supported the development of basic agricultural infrastructure, in particular irrigation and land rehabilitation. The Programme was participating in establishing food reserves and in the prevention of food losses, especially of WFP aid. He further informed the Conference that the Programme also made major contributions to development programmes in the Sahel and other areas prone to natural calamities.

#### Director-General's Concluding Statement

44. The Director-General commented on various issues which had been raised during country statements. Referring to the favourable comments on the TCP, he stated the priority given to less developed countries, and noted with satisfaction the Conference's recommendation that the programme be expanded.

45. Regarding the reduction of post-harvest losses, the Director-General stated that he had been able to raise only US\$ 13 million of the target of US\$ 20 million: he had not yet despaired and with the support of the Conference, he hoped to succeed.



46. The Director-General concurred with the importance attached to technical cooperation among developing countries, especially in the field of research and high-level training. He regretted that TCDC activities could not be financed through the TCP. He offered, depending on availability of resources, to assist in the establishment of a centre for integrated rural development. His task would be eased if a host country were found. He also noted with satisfaction the interest shown in the forthcoming World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD).
47. He concurred with delegates that the desert locust remained another serious menace. In response to the DLCO-EA request, funds had been made available for anti-locust operations, and FAO was constantly mobilizing available resources to halt the spread of desert locust.
48. The Director-General thought the resolution on the control of African animal trypanosomiasis was satisfactory. FAO had already taken steps to strengthen the programme by increasing budgetary allocations, and the appointment of technical staff. He also agreed with the recommendation that trypano-tolerant breeds of cattle should be developed. He felt that planning for the use of reclaimed land should be the responsibility of national governments, and urged countries concerned to create national coordinating agencies.
49. In response to references made to drought in the Sahelian countries, the Director-General apprised the Conference of steps taken to help drought-stricken areas. These included the mobilization of funds, the provision of fertilizer, pesticides, vaccine, food aid and other supplies. Projects valued at about US\$ 3000 million over a period of five years had been prepared.
50. The Director-General agreed that the Freetown Declaration had not given well-defined guidelines or terms of reference for the Regional Food Plan for Africa. The next stage should be the preparation of national plans: he drew attention to the fact that preparing national food plans was the responsibility of Member Governments. FAO, upon request and within the limits of its resources, was prepared to assist in the preparation of national food plans, and in the preparation of programmes which lent themselves to regional or sub-regional cooperation.
51. The Director-General observed that the setting up of an information service on the prices of food commodities in Africa, so as to foster intra-regional trade, could only be based on statistical data from member countries. This would require, in the first instance, strengthening national statistical services for food and agricultural produce. The feasibility of creating such a service would, however, receive careful examination by FAO.
52. The Director-General reaffirmed that investment in the agricultural sector remained a priority. The FAO Investment Centre had been greatly expanded and continued to mobilize financial resources to support investment in the agricultural sector.
53. As regards African representation, the Director-General confirmed his earlier statement that there were already several Africans in senior posts. He had recently promoted and appointed several Africans.

#### Implementation of FAO Priority Programmes in the Region

54. Mr. Mudavadi, Deputy Regional Representative for Africa, introduced document ARC/78/6 which dealt with the implementation of FAO Priority Programmes in the Region. The period under review had been a difficult one for the Africa Region in terms of resource flows from bilateral and multilateral sources, and for execution of programmes previously accepted as commanding high priority. Plant pests, animal diseases, prolonged drought and other natural disasters had affected a number of countries, leading to a re-ordering of priorities and a diverting of resources earmarked for implementation of regular programmes.
55. Despite these difficulties, the African Region continued to enjoy a greater share of FAO projects, in terms of number and of value, than other regions. The Regional Office had been considerably strengthened by filling existing posts and by creating new ones, so as to cover a number of disciplines in the field of food and agriculture and to respond more readily to requests from governments for assistance.

56. The dynamic nature and the usefulness of the Technical Cooperation Programme which, within two years, had already had a great impact in assisting and promoting field programmes in the Africa Region, was noted, as was the resolution calling for intensification of this Programme, which had been unanimously acclaimed. The work of the International Fertilizer Scheme, the Office for Special Relief Operations, the Food Security Assistance Scheme, the Prevention of Food Losses Programme and the Freedom from Hunger Campaign/Action for Development over the recent past represented a positive orientation in the FAO field programme: these schemes deserved every support.

#### Report on Meetings of Regional Commissions and Bodies Held during the Biennium

57. Mr. Mudavadi reported briefly on meetings of Regional Commissions and Bodies held during the biennium under review. There were four regional commissions dealing with the development of fisheries, forestry, food and nutrition and agricultural statistics. In addition, there were two sub-committees dealing with soil correlation, one for Eastern and Southern Africa, and the other for West and Central Africa. These bodies had all met during the biennium except the Joint FAO/WHO/OAU Regional Food and Nutrition Commission.

58. For fisheries there were four statutory bodies: the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the Fisheries Committee for the East and Central Atlantic (CECAF), the Committee on Inland Fisheries of Africa (CIFA), and the Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (IOFC): the recommendations made during the meetings of these bodies were contained in document ARC/78/7. The attention of the Conference was drawn to a request by the agricultural statistics commission that the Conference pass a resolution requesting IFAD to set aside funds for the improvement of agricultural statistics in the Region so as to ensure timely and reliable data for the planning, evaluation and implementation of agricultural development. The Conference noted the report.

#### Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in Africa in the Context of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development

59. Prior to the consideration of document ARC/78/2, the Conference was informed of the status of preparations for the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD) which was scheduled to be held in July 1979. A resumé of the global conditions, which had prompted FAO to organize WCARRD in compliance with Resolution 13/77 of the Nineteenth FAO Conference, was given. Some details of conditions in Africa were also given.

60. The Conference was informed of two important observations regarding the orientation of the World Conference; firstly, that agrarian reform would be treated in its widest context, covering both the reform of land tenure and the overall transformation of economic, social and cultural conditions of the rural areas, especially those of the rural people. Secondly, that the World Conference did not mean to "promote" models or strategies for rural development: it was for countries themselves to work out their strategies, taking into consideration their social, economic and ecological conditions.

61. WCARRD would focus on fundamental issues of development, particularly changes in agrarian structures necessary to support the efforts of the rural population.

62. The subject of agrarian reform would be treated in its widest context and cover appropriate institutional and structural reforms in the social, economic and cultural systems. The Conference took note of the indication by the OAU observer that the OAU Council of Ministers would be approached on the possibility of sponsoring a symposium on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in preparation for WCARRD.

63. The Conference appreciated that the background document gave an up-to-date and comprehensive analysis of the conditions prevailing in the rural areas of Africa and indicated the constraints which governments faced in formulating and implementing their agrarian reform and rural development programmes. The document also analysed some of the measures taken by governments in the Region to promote rural development and indicated some of the main issues that should be given consideration at the Conference. Prominent among these

were the required changes in pricing policies, the provision of necessary inputs, effective land reforms and the interrelationship of productivity and the equitable access to fertile land by the rural poor. The improvement and provision of infrastructure, financial resources, research and development, extension services and farmer training were also mentioned.

64. The Conference agreed that the issues brought out in the paper could be a good basis for its deliberations. It agreed that the situation in the rural areas had become serious: large proportions of the rural population contributed only marginally to rural development. The problem was not limited to national conditions but also manifests itself at the regional and global level in the context of the present world economic system. The Conference gave support to the initiative of the Director-General to organize the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development and appreciated the steps taken for its preparation. Most delegates indicated that their governments had been actively engaged in preparatory work for the documentation through the preparation of country reviews and that they planned to participate actively in the discussions both at the preparatory committee in March 1979 and at the World Conference itself in July 1979.

65. Most delegates held that agrarian reform should not be restricted to changes in the land tenure system, as it involved substantial transformations in the agrarian and production structures in the rural areas so as to achieve overall development. These actions would determine the success or failure of reforms. The organization of the rural population and the beneficiaries of agrarian reform and rural development programmes into purposeful groupings, cooperatives and production structures was important if the social and economic goals of these programmes were to be achieved. The Conference noted the too limited role of women in rural development. However, it was brought to the attention of the Conference that, in some countries, women were already actively involved in rural development efforts through their participation in the fields of agriculture, health and education.

66. A number of delegates indicated that their governments followed rural development and agrarian reform policies oriented mainly towards improving the social and economic conditions of the rural poor. Pricing policies were considered as an incentive for production and a means for improving the living conditions of the rural population. The Conference recognized that governments should allocate additional resources for the development of the rural areas and should establish a pricing system that encouraged agricultural production and guaranteed remunerative returns to the producer.

67. A number of delegates observed that the allocation of resources at the national level was not sufficient and that international financing was needed to assist governments in agrarian reform and rural development. Such assistance should, in priority, aim at improving the social and economic conditions of the rural poor. At the same time, a number of delegates expressed the view that overall rural development policies should rely basically on national resources and on self-reliance to achieve a high degree of self-sufficiency, particularly in food production. International investment could supplement such efforts but should not be a major component.

68. The Conference agreed that rural development involved the development of the human being, who should be the centre and objective of all efforts. It expressed concern at the large-scale impoverishment in the rural areas which it considered the main barrier to the modernization of agriculture and to the possibility of the majority of the rural people to further develop themselves. Assistance should therefore be given to farmers' training organizations, education and the establishment of extension services capable of helping all agricultural producers.

69. The provision of services, particularly credit and marketing, as well as the necessary infrastructure, such as storage, roads and transport facilities, schools and health care, were considered essential for the improvement of living conditions in the rural areas. Governments were urged to give priority to these in the allocation of their budgetary resources. This would help the rural people in finding alternative employment opportunities through rural industries and public works programmes and would help reverse the present flow of migrants to the urban centres, which was causing concern to the governments of the Region.

70. The Conference indicated that agrarian reform programmes would vary from country to country, depending on the social and economic and cultural conditions in each area as well as on the political options available to governments. It was of the opinion that governments were solely responsible for the formulation of such policies. However, the Africa Region had a number of common features and governments could mutually benefit from exchanging their experience. Regional cooperation in this very important field should therefore be promoted and reinforced. Many delegates hoped that resolutions passed at the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development would be sufficiently flexible for their effective implementation under the differing conditions.

71. The Conference also considered a number of special issues, such as the settlement on new lands of people from over-densely occupied land and of transhumant populations, the modification of customary land tenure to suit changes in social and economic conditions, equitable access by all rural people to fertile and productive land, and the necessary provision of inputs and services to increase production. The organization and grouping of rural people to ensure their active participation in development should be given special attention by governments.

72. It was considered that governments should take the necessary measures to safeguard the environment and to prevent desertification; water resources should be utilized to increase production and provide suitable drinking water. The consolidation of small-holdings under block cultivation should be carried out where necessary to ensure an increase in production and to economize on resources. The Conference urged FAO to continue its present efforts to assist governments in the Region on these important matters.

73. The Conference was presented with a status report on developments in one of the pilot countries associated with the UN ACC Task Force in Rural Development.

#### Resolution 1/78

#### AGRARIAN REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

THE CONFERENCE,

Recalling Resolution 13/77 of the Nineteenth FAO Conference which convened a World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD) to be held in Rome in July 1979,

Concerned by the growing deterioration of the physical and human environment in the rural areas and by the rapid increase of migration to urban centres as a result of greater emphasis on the development of urban centres rather than on rural areas,

Aware that the highest proportion of their population is living in the rural areas and that a large majority is experiencing poverty, malnutrition, unemployment and under-employment, lack opportunities for access to and full use of resources, technology for increased productivity and lack of participation in the decision-making process,

Realizing that the traditional land tenure systems and rural institutions are subject to increasing economic and social pressures,

Aware that there are land tenure systems and production structures in the Africa Region that could be restructured to facilitate rural development and that demand positive action by African Governments,

Admitting that rural populations in Africa are an asset to their own development rather than a liability,

Pleased to note that governments in the Region have supported the holding of the World Conference on this important subject (WCARRD), are participating in its preparation and that a large number have presented reviews on the situation in their rural areas and work with FAO in its review of agrarian reform and rural development programmes,

Considering that the objectives of the World Conference should be geared towards eradicating rural poverty, increasing production in the rural areas and promoting effective people's participation, especially women, and promoting remunerative agricultural and non-agricultural employment for all and effective demand,

1. Urges governments of the Region to correct the present situation and to create individually or collectively conditions for a sustained improvement in the economic and social well-being as well as the quality of life of the rural population by providing supporting measures to the rural population so that they can overcome the development constraint;
2. Recommends governments to speed up agricultural production as an integral part of rural and national development, to increase the flow of financial resources for rural development, to expand employment opportunities and to achieve higher levels of productivity and equitable distribution of resources and income;
3. Recognizes that improvements in agrarian structure and in institutional framework, including changes in land tenures and in the organization of production, are essential and should be the responsibility of each sovereign nation;
4. Reaffirms that in order to achieve a genuine rural development, corrective actions and measures need to be taken to improve the international terms of trade for agriculture, to expand access to the markets of the developed countries, and to reduce the fluctuation and improve the prices of exported agricultural produce, and in general to create a more just and equitable system of international economic relations;
5. Calls for joint and coordinated action on the part of the UN Organizations to channel technical and financial resources to rural development programmes for the benefit of the poor;
6. Urges the Member Governments to take necessary measures for the establishment of a Regional Centre for Rural Development in Africa with the main objectives of undertaking analysis and evaluation of rural development programmes and formulating policies as well as for providing research and training facilities in this field;
7. Requests the Director-General of FAO in collaboration with the OAU and the ECA to assist the Member Governments in every possible way in the establishment of such a Centre and in the mobilization of financial resources for the purpose;
8. Appreciates the steps taken by the Director-General of FAO in the preparation of the World Conference and urges governments to participate effectively in the preparatory committee and the World Conference itself;
9. Welcomes the Director-General's efforts in seeking the full cooperation of the United Nations, its subsidiary bodies and main specialized agencies in the organization of the World Conference and in formulating joint action by the UN system for accelerating rural development.

#### The State of Natural Resources and the Human Environment for Food and Agriculture

74. The Conference reviewed document ARC/78/2(a) on the State of Natural Resources and the Human Environment for Food and Agriculture. It commended FAO for the quality of the document and its presentation. The important issues of natural resources and their management were comprehensively assessed by taking into consideration population increases, the ensuing socio-economic changes and the demand for agricultural products.

75. The Conference felt that rational utilization, management and conservation of natural resources such as land and water, forest, rangelands, genetic resources, fish and wildlife, should be at the core of any rural development programme. The necessity of integrating, wherever possible, crop production with animal husbandry, agrisilviculture and aquaculture was stressed. This could be achieved by developing farming systems adapted to the ecological conditions as well as to the socio-economic needs of farmers. This would include appropriate forest, rangeland and water conservation measures; the recycling of organic materials; the wider use of nitrogen-fixing organisms, integrated pest control; agrisilviculture; aquaculture and the better utilization of local genetic resources.

76. The Conference urged speedy action to combat the degradation and loss of natural resources essential in sustaining food and agricultural production. In particular, appropriate measures should be taken against the rapid depletion of forest and wildlife resources, the pollution of water resources, the erosion of local genetic resources, soil and rangeland degradation, and the menace of bush fires.

77. The Conference also drew attention to natural resources which were not yet fully exploited such as marine and fresh water fisheries, wetlands and solar energy, and called attention to the need to develop appropriate technology for the wider utilization of these resources to the benefit of the rural population.

78. The Conference also recommended that a report on the State of Natural Resources for Food and Agriculture, including mineral resources, be prepared for the Africa Region to complement the development and the implementation of the Food Plan for Africa. In this connexion the Conference took note of the FAO study on land-use potential for major crops in the different agro-ecological zones of Africa.

79. The Conference stressed the promotion of human resources, with particular emphasis on the participation of women so as to exploit, through appropriate management practices, the whole range of natural resources to the benefit of the rural population in order to increase agricultural production, improve the living conditions of farmers, and retain youth on the farm.

80. The Conference noted the paucity of basic data and statistics in the field of natural resources and the insufficiency of technical personnel for their management and conservation. The Conference urged national institutions and existing sub-regional, regional and international institutions to take the necessary steps to improve statistics and to provide the training in the rational management of resources necessary to sustain production.

81. Considering that the rational use and management of a number of natural resources implied actions which went beyond national boundaries, the Conference felt that there existed a need for a coordinated approach to resource management (wildlife, water, fish, etc.) among neighbouring countries. The Conference also stressed the need to harmonize regulations and legislation among neighbouring countries for a rational use of their resources.

82. In view of the extent of the effort that had to be made for the conservation and rational use of natural resources, the Conference called on the interested governments to enlist the active participation of the population by acquainting it, especially youth, with the gravity of the problem.

83. The Conference noted that OAU was preparing a comprehensive report on a Pan-African Programme for Natural Resources Management to deal with the problem of desertification, the conservation and management of resources on sound ecological principles, and the setting up of sub-regional and regional programmes for resource conservation.

Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries with Particular  
Emphasis on National and Regional Institutions

84. The Conference considered document ARC/78/3 on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC). There was general agreement that the analysis demonstrated the importance of TCDC in the Africa Region.

85. The Conference recognized the important role being played by FAO in support of TCDC, through its regular programmes, such as the TCP and the Post-Harvest Fund, as well as through extra-budgetary programmes and other Trust Fund activities. The Conference felt that, with its vast accumulated experience, FAO was in an excellent position to increase its assistance to Member Governments in their efforts to further develop practical cooperation in a number of areas such as agricultural production, agro-based industries, training and agricultural credit.

86. The Conference noted that TCDC was not a new subject: earlier regional and sub-regional research and training institutions had carried out programmes of a TCDC nature. The Conference noted that there was already bilateral cooperation in the Region, though on a limited scale with scope for its expansion.

87. The Conference recommended a number of specific areas for further cooperation: these included research, training, integrated rural development, rural employment, drought contingency planning, rangeland development, the improvement of staple crops, the control of plant and animal diseases, the efficient use of fertilizer, including the use of organic materials to improve crop yields, afforestation, forest management and forest industries, and the development of appropriate technology. Finally the Conference noted that joint research and the exchange of ideas on high-yielding varieties were needed. The Conference recommended the establishment of a regional centre for research in appropriate technology to facilitate cooperation among neighbouring countries with similar conditions.

88. Some delegates observed that the exchange of information between FAO and member countries might be enhanced if an OAU Liaison Office were established in Rome to cooperate closely with FAO Headquarters. Other delegates expressed doubts as to the purpose and usefulness of such an arrangement, and referred particularly to the budgetary implications.

89. The Conference discussed and agreed on the desirability of establishing a Centre for Integrated Rural Development in Africa, and noted that such a Centre had already been established for Asia. As there was an even stronger case for such a Centre in Africa, steps should be taken to establish one.

90. A number of delegates drew attention to the fact that their countries possessed facilities which might be more intensively used for TCDC. Some countries already had effective arrangements for such cooperation: WARDA, the Mano River Union, CILSS and the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries were among the examples mentioned.

91. While there was full agreement that many existing institutions and facilities could be utilized for TCDC, it was imperative to strengthen them, in terms of staff, physically, administratively and financially. The Conference urged FAO to assist in mobilizing the necessary resources to provide effective support where this was required. In this context the Conference noted with appreciation the contribution already made by TCP and the Post-Harvest Losses Programme and underlined their future potential.

92. The Conference made several specific recommendations with respect to the most effective ways of organizing TCDC and urged FAO to develop practical guidelines in this respect. These should deal in particular with the problems of language and communication, the exchange of personnel, the inventory of facilities and the dissemination of technical information.

93. The Conference also stressed the importance of inventorizing and classifying possible areas of cooperation. FAO was requested to assist in providing such an inventory, in line with its CARIS and AGRIS systems, so as to identify areas in which countries could provide assistance, or in which they would benefit from assistance from other countries in the Region or outside it.

Resolution 2/78

TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (TCDC)

THE CONFERENCE,

Recognizing the urgency to strengthen and expand Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries in Africa on the basis of common interest and complementarity of resources,

Taking into account UN General Assembly Resolutions 2974(XVII), 3251(XXIX), 3461(XXX), 31/179 of 21 December 1976, and 3362 (S VII), the Kuwait Declaration on TCDC, as well as FAO Conference Resolution 9/77 of November 1977,

Considering that food and agriculture, including forestry and fisheries, are of vital importance to the economies of African countries, and that the exchange of knowledge and experience can make a considerable contribution to the development of these sectors, leading to collective self-reliance,

Noting the action already being taken by many African States and FAO in advancing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries of the Region,

Noting further that many African countries have already offered their training and other facilities of their centres of excellence, and have indicated their eagerness to receive assistance from other African countries in several important subject matter fields,

Realizing, however, that further expansion of TCDC will require substantial additional resources for the purposes of strengthening relevant institutions in the Region thereby enhancing their capacity,

1. Endorses the areas identified in Document ARC/78/3 for strengthening TCDC in food and agriculture, including forestry and fisheries in Africa;
2. Invites governments in the Region to take all necessary measures to intensify their mutual cooperation at the national, sub-regional, regional and inter-regional levels in existing and new fields including in particular:
  - (a) the establishment of strong focal points for TCDC at the national level;
  - (b) the convening of inter-governmental meetings, seminars, workshops or training programmes, for the promotion of TCDC;
  - (c) the identification of national institutions and the evaluation of their technical capabilities in research, training and extension;
  - (d) the exchange of experience in and results of scientific research, appropriate technologies and development of new implements and machinery, and the exchange of technical personnel;
3. Requests the Director-General
  - (a) to take the necessary measures to orient the work of FAO both under its regular and extra-budgetary programmes more strongly in support of TCDC;
  - (b) to catalogue and evaluate, when requested, relevant information on the capabilities and physical facilities of regional, sub-regional and national institutions for TCDC;
  - (c) to increase the resources available within FAO's own Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) for the support of TCDC actions when requested by Member Governments;



- (d) to assist in mobilizing additional extra-budgetary financial support for the strengthening of relevant institutions in the developing countries in order to enhance their capabilities for TCDC;
4. Requests international financing organizations, especially IFAD, to provide financial assistance to the African countries for developing and improving agricultural statistics.

Resolution 3/78

TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME (TCP)

THE CONFERENCE,

Recalling the decision taken by the Sixty-Ninth Session of the FAO Council and confirmed by the Nineteenth Session of the FAO Conference to establish a Technical Cooperation Programme financed entirely from FAO's regular budget resources,

Noting with appreciation the substantial benefits already derived from this new programme by most Governments in the Region,

Considering that in future significant additional technical assistance will be required in order to support governments in meeting their food production targets and to strengthen cooperation among themselves in such important subject matter areas as rural development, training, research and the application of intermediate technology,

Keeping in mind the terms of reference of the TCP which are to provide assistance for practical training, investment preparation, emergencies and other small-scale actions where a quick response is decisive,

1. Urges Member Governments to strengthen this Programme in FAO's future Programme of Work and Budget with a view to allowing the Director-General to respond adequately to member countries' most urgent needs in their agriculture, forestry and fisheries development programmes.

Regional Cooperation and Integration in the Field of Agriculture:  
Review of Progress and Prospects

94. The Conference reviewed document ARC/78/4 which examined progress to date and the prospects for fostering regional cooperation and integration movements among African countries, with an emphasis on the agricultural sector. In general, delegates concurred with the suggestions made in the document, and noted that the need for regional, bilateral and multilateral cooperation had already been appreciated.

95. The Conference noted that past cooperation and integration arrangements have seen both success and failure and urged that failures should be regarded as a guide for improving future cooperation. Cooperation schemes should be designed in such a manner so as to not prejudice national development policies. A sectoral approach to regional cooperation and integration, as exemplified by river basin development, infrastructure development and the eradication of pests and diseases, would be a practical approach.

96. The Conference noted existing regional cooperation programmes especially in the field of river basin development, forest management, and agro-based industries. The Conference also noted that livestock rearing in the West Africa sub-region, with livestock bred in the Sahel and fattened at the coast, was a potential area for cooperation.

97. The Conference also noted that regional cooperation and integration was a means to an end and not an end by itself. Differences in agricultural production policies at national level have been partly responsible for the slow rate of African development. It was suggested that modest beginnings, with prospects of realizing immediate benefits, offered the greatest opportunity for success and would pave the way for future expanded cooperation and integration.

98. The Conference noted that, as current production patterns were largely designed to feed manufacturing industries in the industrialized world, much infrastructure, including research, was geared to this objective. Therefore, the Conference agreed that agricultural production should be restructured to produce goods required in the Region; that trade patterns should be restructured to suit local requirements; that, as socio-cultural background tended sometimes to impede cooperation in trade, there should be more trade in raw materials and not finished products in order to overcome this socio-cultural barrier.

99. There were also physical and man-made constraints in cooperation. The Conference urged that, as far as possible, Member Nations should avoid retaining and enacting legislation and local practice which negated international conventions and agreements designed to promote regional cooperation.

100. While recognizing that the need to mobilize domestic resources for development obliged Member Governments to impose taxes on commodity trade which had the effect of impeding intra-regional trade, the Conference expressed concern at the exploitative nature of the operations of trans-nationals, which quite often failed to recognize the interests of national development. The Conference agreed that the role of the international community should be to support national efforts.

101. The Conference noted the concern of some delegates that some projects prepared by external agencies failed because the experts concerned lacked knowledge and experience of local conditions. It was recommended that, contrary to past practice, FAO should participate in the pre-formulation stages of all agricultural projects, instead of acting as an executing agency only. It was also suggested that technical bodies should supervise sub-regional schemes without prejudice to national interest.

102. Shortage of manpower was also identified as a major constraint in designing and implementing cooperative programmes. This problem could be eliminated through expanding training facilities to accommodate trainees from other member countries. The Conference recommended that, as far as possible, African nationals should be trained in Africa.

#### Regional Food Plan for Africa

103. The Conference, in reviewing document ARC/78/5, expressed appreciation of the analysis prepared by FAO, in cooperation with ECA in response to the Freetown Declaration, of the perspectives for food self-sufficiency and their implications. The document covered 50 countries, divided into five sub-regions, and indicated what could and should be done to reverse the declining trend of food self-sufficiency in Africa and raise it to a level of at least 94 percent by 1985. Emphasizing that policies and programmes would vary among countries, the document outlined basic food development strategies and investment requirements for each sub-region. Critical policy choices facing African countries in respect of development objectives, price policy, the promotion of substitute foods, and models of production organization were clearly and concisely analysed.

104. The need for country strategies which balanced between short, medium and long-term priorities was recognized. The use of modern inputs, better use of available water and irrigation facilities and improved cultivation and animal husbandry practices, through education and extension, would be the principal short-term measures. However, in the long run, investment in new irrigation projects, the development of physical infrastructure and greatly expanded and diversified technological research were required. In view of the great diversity in agro-ecological conditions and soil characteristics in the different regions and countries of Africa, research on the chemical, biological and mechanical aspects

of improved agricultural productivity would have to be very country-specific. The delegates also agreed in general with the recommendations of the document regarding the strengthening of inter-governmental cooperation in matters of trade, resource development, industries, research and marketing and training.

105. It was recognized that the document could not and did not provide a blue print for national plans of individual countries. However, the Conference considered that the analysis of the better performance perspective provided a useful framework for the preparation of national plans as well as for strengthening regional and sub-regional cooperation.

106. The Conference noted that the individual member countries should take the initiative and responsibility for the preparation of country plans, including the identification and preparation of investment programmes, and projects for food production. Such national plans would be the foundation for later sub-regional and regional plans. Finally, the Conference noted that joint research and exchange of ideas on high-yielding varieties, and on the conversion of the peels of crops (such as cassava, plantain, cocoyam and yams) into feed for ruminants, was needed.

107. There were serious constraints to increased food production in Africa, such as the small size of peasant farms, the lack of water, the persistence of subsistence production, the lack of physical infrastructure, natural and biological hazards (in particular trypanosomiasis and onchocerciasis) and, in many areas, the absence of improved crop and livestock practices. These constraints were compounded by a general shortage of skilled manpower, weaknesses in government services and the inadequacy of investment and external financial assistance.

108. Emphasis should be placed on providing incentives for increased food production. As a starting point, it was proposed that development of the traditional sector should be accorded highest priority, to enable it to play a pivotal role in food production. This might be achieved through such measures as assured markets and guaranteed prices; selective input and product subsidies; tax incentives and fiscal policy; package schemes of improved seeds, fertilizers, chemicals and other inputs; the prevention of post-harvest losses; expanded and improved storage facilities; the development of livestock rangelands and irrigation and land reclamation programmes for swamp land and tsetse- and simlium-infested areas. Greater emphasis should be given to increasing the production of protein-rich foods, such as dairy products, poultry, pulses, and fish through the expansion of fish farming. FAO was requested to expand the operations of the TCP to provide necessary support in the preparation and, wherever appropriate, execution of appropriate programmes for attaining food self-sufficiency.

109. It was also recommended that national annual budgets be restructured along the lines of the Programme and Performance Budgetary System (PPBS) so as to make them effective instruments for implementing plans and monitoring performance in the food production sector.

110. Several delegates pointed out the special difficulties that many African countries faced in fostering trade and cooperation among themselves because of physical handicaps and infra-structural inadequacies. FAO, in collaboration with ECA, was requested to establish a food commodity price intelligence service relevant to the needs of Africa. A number of delegates indicated the problems their countries encountered in trade with developed countries because of inadequate market intelligence for food product exports.

111. The Conference stressed the role that the Multinational Programme and Operational Centres (MULPOCS), in close cooperation with FAO, could play in the identification and formulation of inter-country programmes for food production and trade. The Conference further recommended that FAO, in consultation with national governments, intergovernmental organizations and other international organizations, should explore the possibility of establishing sub-regional food technology centres to conduct appropriate surveys and research programmes so as to reduce pre- and post-harvest food losses, to improve nutritional values of local foods, and to evolve suitable techniques of processing and preserving these foods.

112. The Conference was of the view that the achievement of higher food self-sufficiency by African countries would require much higher levels of investment in the food and agriculture sector, and accordingly recommended increased allocation of financial and other resources to this sector in national budgets.

113. External financial assistance from multilateral and bilateral agencies fell far short of what was needed to improve food self-sufficiency in Africa. The Conference urged the international community to substantially increase such assistance and the grant element in loans for food development projects, and to adopt flexible and liberal financing policies, especially to meet the urgent needs of the low-income, food-priority, land-locked and most seriously affected countries.

114. The Conference also observed that many African countries, such as in the Sahel, faced drought and other environmental hazards, which caused severe fluctuations in their food production. Such countries were in urgent need of food security assistance which should be harmonized with their long-term development strategies. The Conference requested FAO and donor countries to increase food security assistance to these countries.

115. The Conference recognized the need to facilitate national food plan formulation and execution, and recommended that FAO provide, on request and within the limits of its resources, assistance to member countries in this regard.

116. The Conference felt that the challenges that the Regional Food Plan had posed should be brought to the notice of the international community, as well as to various agencies and organizations in Africa. Accordingly, it requested the Director-General of FAO to give the document the widest publicity.

#### Resolution 4/78

#### REGIONAL FOOD PLAN FOR AFRICA

THE CONFERENCE,

Recalling the Freetown Declaration adopted by the Member States at the Ninth FAO Regional Conference for Africa in November 1976,

Deeply concerned that in the 1970's food production per caput in Africa has been declining due to adverse environmental conditions (especially drought), weaknesses in technical and economic programmes, insufficient agricultural investment and inadequate socio-economic and institutional structures,

Mindful of the fact that their already burdensome food imports could reach unimaginable proportions if their annual increase in food production continues to fall short of rising demand,

Aware of the urgent need for a political commitment and greater efforts by African governments, both individually and collectively, to increase food production and to ensure its equitable distribution and consumption through appropriate pricing income and other policies in order to improve nutritional status of the population, to expand intra-regional trade in food and to attain self-reliance,

Recognizing that there is considerable scope for expanding food production in Africa, provided appropriate policies, programmes and projects for increased food production are formulated, and provided that substantial resources, both domestic and external, are made available,

1. Endorses in general the findings and recommendations of the Regional Food Plan for Africa, and requests the Director-General of FAO to give it the widest possible circulation;

2. Invites the governments of African countries to prepare and implement appropriate policies and programmes for improved food self-sufficiency giving special attention to modernization of the subsistence and small farm sector and to mobilize and allocate larger financial resources for investment in food and agriculture;
3. Recommends that FAO, in collaboration with ECA, provide, on request and within the limits of its resources, assistance to Member Governments in the preparation and formulation of plans and programmes for increased food production;
4. Invites the Director-General of FAO to continue to call on international and regional financial institutions such as World Bank/IDA, ADB, IFAD and ABED to support the existing sub-regional and regional inter-governmental agricultural organizations in their declared agricultural development objectives;
5. Urges African governments to seize the opportunities that the different sub-regional and regional inter-governmental organizations offer for improving the food self-sufficiency in Africa and in particular to exert much greater efforts than in the past to intensify economic and technical cooperation for:
  - (a) the promotion of joint ventures in research and in production of agricultural inputs and promotion of inter-country transport and communication;
  - (b) joint exploitation of water and land resources and cooperation in control of pests and diseases;
  - (c) promotion of regional trade in food products by progressive reduction of both tariff and non-tariff constraints which remain obstacles to regional and sub-regional trade.
6. Calls on FAO in collaboration with ECA, OAU Member States and IFAD to examine the feasibility of establishing a food commodity price intelligence service to collect and disseminate information on prices and quantities of food commodities available in the region with the view to facilitating the growth of intra-regional trade, and report the outcome to the next FAO Regional Conference for Africa;
7. Calls the attention of the international community to the dimension of the food problem in Africa and urges the bilateral and multilateral donors and institutions to substantially increase their technical and financial assistance - especially concessional assistance, for the preparation of sectoral programmes and plans and for the identification, formulation and implementation of economically viable investment projects for food production.

Resolution 5/78

REDUCTION OF FOOD LOSSES (RFL)

THE CONFERENCE,

Recognizing the crucial importance of preventing food losses, particularly post-harvest food losses, for the purpose of meeting the food needs of the world,

Recalling paragraph V.3 of Resolution No. 3362 (S-VII) of the Seventh Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, which stated that the further reduction of post-harvest food losses in developing countries should be undertaken as a matter of priority, with a view to reaching at least a 50 percent reduction by 1985,

Welcoming the adoption by the Nineteenth Session of the FAO Conference of Resolution 3/77 initiating an action programme for the prevention of food losses and establishment of a special account under Art. 6.7 of the Financial Regulations,

Expressing appreciation to all Member Governments which in accordance with Para. 4 of Resolution 3/77 refrained from requesting return of their portion of the amount which would otherwise have been allocated to them under Resolution 35/75,

Further appreciating the action of those Member Governments which, having requested release of the amounts on their behalf under the Provisions of Financial Regulation 6.1 (b), subsequently returned the same amounts to the Special Account,

Expressing appreciation for the contributions made by governments to the Special Account and further expressing great satisfaction with the action taken by some governments to make additional contributions to the Special Account,

Noting with approval the action taken by the Director-General to keep Member Governments informed of action taken under Resolution 3/77, to mobilize contributions to the Special Account, to establish a coordinating unit, to issue guidelines and procedures in regard to implementation of projects, and to carry out missions in several countries of the region,

1. Strongly urges Member Nations which have withdrawn their portion of the amount due under Resolution 35/75 to make equivalent contributions to the Special Account at the earliest possible time;
2. Invites other Member Nations of FAO and other contributors to make further substantial contributions to the Special Account so as to bring it up to the minimum level of \$20 million and thereafter to \$10 million per annum;
3. Requests the Director-General to continue his energetic efforts to mobilize resources for implementation of projects under the Action Programme in countries of the Region.

#### Resolution 6/78

#### CONTROL OF AFRICAN ANIMAL TRYPANOSOMIASIS

##### THE CONFERENCE,

Recognizing the importance of tsetse fly and trypanosomiasis control for the future agricultural development of the African continent, expecting that it will result in a significant increase in agricultural production in the areas developed to accommodate the continuously growing human population of African countries,

Recalling Resolution XI of the World Food Conference recommending that FAO, in cooperation with the governments of the countries concerned and bilateral assistance agencies, launch, as a matter of urgency, a long-term programme for the control of African animal trypanosomiasis, as a project of high priority,

Acknowledging the important role played thus far by FAO in planning, launching and coordinating the preparatory phase of this programme and the Director-General's special interest with respect to this scourge,

Endorsing the preparatory activities carried out by FAO in cooperation with African governments, OAU, WHO, and bilateral assistance agencies,

1. Recommends that:
  - (a) the Programme for the Control of African Animal Trypanosomiasis and related development be vigorously pursued and be given high priority in the FAO Programme of Work and Budget;
  - (b) the capacity of OAU be strengthened by technical assistance for coordination of tsetse and trypanosomiasis control programmes on a regional basis, wherever required, and for collaboration with FAO in corresponding joint action programmes;

- (c) Member Governments of countries giving this problem high priority cooperate to the fullest extent with FAO in development planning and in the implementation of the programme. In these countries, in addition to already existing control units, establishment of a national multi-disciplinary body comprising appropriate technical staff who will be involved in the land-use planning and control activities and subsequent development of the tsetse-freed areas, should be given high priority;
- (d) bilateral and multilateral assistance agencies cooperate with FAO in implementation of the various activities of the programme; and that FAO, in close collaboration with OAU, should exercise a coordinative role to ensure harmonization of efforts;
- (e) the resolution take cognizance of the fact that the programme will take into consideration the use of tripano-tolerant breeds of cattle wherever desirable and that FAO, in close collaboration with OAU, will undertake to make periodic reports on the status of progress of the programme.

Resolution 7/78

DROUGHT PROBLEMS IN AFRICA AND THEIR  
IMPLICATIONS FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN FOOD

THE CONFERENCE,

Considering the importance FAO attaches to the implementation of the Regional Food Plan for Africa,

Considering the disastrous effects of drought affecting African countries, especially in the Sahel, Ethiopia and Somalia in the past ten years,

Considering the need for African countries to establish groupings in appropriate frameworks for controlling drought,

Considering the political determination repeatedly reaffirmed by the African Chiefs of State that their countries shall achieve self-sufficiency in food,

Considering the adoption of a drought control strategy and programme by CILSS and the Club of the Sahel,

Considering also the drought control strategy and rehabilitation programme of Ethiopia and Somalia,

1. Recommends

- (a) That FAO continue its support to sustain the efforts of the CILSS member countries, Ethiopia and Somalia in working out and implementing their food plans;
- (b) that FAO and the other United Nations institutions intervene with donor countries and agencies for carrying out the overall development strategy adopted by the Chiefs of State of the CILSS member countries at the Summit Conference held at Banjul (The Gambia) in December 1977;
- (c) that FAO and other United Nations institutions intervene with donor countries and agencies for carrying out the overall development strategy of Ethiopia and Somalia.

Representation of Developing Regions on the Consultative Group  
on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

117. The Conference noted with appreciation a report by the delegate of Ghana that his country, one of the two representing the Africa Region on CGIAR, had attended all meetings held during the last two years. The Conference then elected Kenya and Senegal to represent the Africa Region on the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research for a period of two years, 1979-1980.

## CONCLUDING ITEMS

### Consideration and Adoption of the Report

118. The Conference considered the report of the Technical Committee and adopted it.

### Date and Place of the Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Africa

119. The delegate of the Republic of Togo indicated the willingness of his Government to host the Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Africa in 1980 and expressed the hope that the invitation, to be confirmed later, would be accepted by the Conference.

120. Mr. Almamy Sylla, the Director-General's Representative, through the Conference Chairman, thanked the delegate of the Republic of Togo for the kind invitation and indicated that the Director-General, in consultation with Member Nations, would give serious consideration to the invitation in arriving at a final decision.

### Closing of the Conference

121. The delegates of Chad and Lesotho and the observer for the United Kingdom speaking on behalf of the delegates and observers respectively, expressed sincere appreciation for the excellent arrangements made by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for the success of the Conference and the numerous facilities put at the disposal of participants, which had made their stay in the country a pleasant and memorable one. Thanks were also extended to members of the FAO Secretariat and all those who had worked hard for the success of the Conference.

122. In his concluding remarks, Mr. Sylla, on behalf of the Director-General, again thanked the Government and people of the United Republic of Tanzania for their generous and cordial hospitality. He reaffirmed that the Director-General would study carefully the recommendations addressed to him by the Conference. The supreme governing bodies of the Organization, the Council and the General Conference, would be kept informed of the necessary budgetary arrangements.

123. Mr. Sylla noted with satisfaction that the Tenth FAO Regional Conference for Africa had been an occasion of significant importance, which was reflected in the various resolutions adopted by the Conference. Their significance had further been strengthened by reaffirmation of African agriculture as the essential basis for building a better future for the countries of the Region. This hinged largely on the achievement of the New International Economic Order, which had been launched some four years before. This New Order could only be achieved if the successes of developing countries, gained through their new spirit of self-reliance, would demonstrate to the developed countries the need of a more just and equal partnership in the world. He assured the Conference that FAO would do all it could in its field of competence to assist Member Nations in finding the solutions they sought. He emphasized the need for the Organization to work in unison with Member Governments.

124. Ndugu John Malecela, Chairman of the Conference, thanked all delegates for their valuable contributions to the proceedings of the Conference. He also thanked members of the FAO Secretariat and all those local staff who had worked tirelessly to bring the Conference to a successful conclusion.

125. The Tenth Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa was then declared closed.



AGENDA

Technical Committee (18-22 September)

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1. Opening of the Technical Committee
2. Election of Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda

II. SELECTED ISSUES OF AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in the Region with reference to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, including the State of Natural Resources and the Human Environment for Food and Agriculture.
2. Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries with Particular Emphasis on National and Regional Institutions.
3. Regional Cooperation and Integration in the Field of Agriculture: Review of Progress and Prospects.
4. Regional Food Plan for Africa.

III. REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Plenary Session (25-28 September)

IV. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

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

V. STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF FAO

VI. STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF OAU

VII. STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

VIII. STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WFP

IX. GENERAL DEBATE ON THE SITUATION AND PROSPECTS OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA, INCLUDING COUNTRY STATEMENTS

X. FAO PROGRAMME AND ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA

1. Implementation of the FAO Priority Programme in the Region (Report by the FAO Regional Representative for Africa)
2. Report on Meetings of Regional Commissions and Bodies held during the biennium

XI. CONCLUDING ITEMS

1. Any other business
2. Report of the Technical Committee
3. Consideration and Adoption of the Report
4. Date and Place of the Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Africa
5. Closing of the Conference.



LIST OF PARTICIPANTS  
LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

Chairman Président	John MALECELA (Tanzania)
First Vice-Chairman Premier Vice-Président	Koffi ATTOBRA (Côte d'Ivoire)
Second Vice-Chairman Deuxième Vice-Président	Jerre DAFFEH (Gambia)
Third Vice-Chairman Troisième Vice-Président	T.K. GOROFOUN (Togo)
Rapporteur	Horatio MENDS (Ghana)

MEMBER NATIONS IN THE REGION  
ETATS MEMBRES DE LA REGION

ALGERIA – ALGERIE

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Suppléant                \*Sid-Ahmed CHENTOUF  
Directeur Etudes et Planification  
Ministère de l'Agriculture et de  
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ANGOLA

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Nutritionniste  
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BENIN

Délégué                    \*Tadjou BELLO  
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BOTSWANA

Delegate                \*L.M. SERETSE  
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Ministry of Agriculture  
Gaborone

Alternate                \*Kambiso BINGANA  
Chief Animal Production Officer  
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Associate	*Bahiti TEMANE Deputy Permanent Secretary Ministry of Local Government and Lands Gaborone
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Conseiller	*Epitace NOBERA Conseiller Bujumbura

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Délégué	*Samnuel N. NDUM Technical Adviser Ministry of Agriculture Yaounde
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CAPE VERDE – CAP VERT

Suppléant	*Carlos Eduardo P. SILVA Ingénieur Agronome Ministère du Développement Rural Praia
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Ministère de l’Agriculture  
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Projet CANADA/TCHAD (Pêches)  
N’djamena

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CONGO

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Alternate	*Shimelis ADUGNA Commissioner, Relief and Rehabilitation Commission Addis Ababa

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now High Commissioner to the United Kingdom
- Alternate            \*Y.T. SESAY  
Ag. Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
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- Adviser             \*A.R. SIAFA  
Chief Agriculturist  
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- Adviser             \*Raymond S. KAMARA  
Chief Veterinary Officer  
Freetown
- Adviser             \*J. SHORUNKEH SAWYERR  
Chief Fisheries Officer  
Freetown
- Adviser             \*M.B.D. FEIKA  
Chief Conservator of Forests  
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- Adviser             \*T.E.C. PALMER  
Agricultural Attaché,  
Sierra Leone Embassy  
Italy
- Adviser             \*Birch M. CONTE  
New Ambassador to Italy and Permanent Representative to FAO

SUDAN – SOUDAN

- Delegate            \*Mohamed EL SHAZALI OSMAN  
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Ministry of Agriculture  
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- Alternate            \*Muddathir ALI AHMED  
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- Alternate            \*Abdallah Mohamed ELMUBARAK  
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TANZANIA – TANZANIE

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Alternate	*S. Ole SAIBUL, MP Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Dar-es-Salaam
Alternate	*Abdulrahman RASHIDI, MP Minister for Agriculture Zanzibar
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Adviser	*N.K. MAEDA Director of Livestock Development Dar-es-Salaam
Adviser	*Jabir Uki DAHOMA Director of Forestry Ministry of Natural Resources Zanzibar



TANZANIA (cont.) – TANZANIE (suite)

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Adviser	*Ali Abdullah SELEMANI Director of Agriculture Zanzibar
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Adviser	*David MASANJA Director of Crop Development Ministry of Agriculture Dar-es-Salaam
Adviser	*Hamisi MWINYGOHA Director of Irrigation Dar-es-Salaam
Adviser	*John E.U. MCHECHU Director of Manpower Development Ministry of Agriculture Dar-es-Salaam
Adviser	*I.S. MPELUMBE Assistant Director Livestock Division Ministry of Agriculture Dar-es-Salaam
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Adviser	*P.M. LYIMO Agricultural Economist Ministry of Agriculture Dar-es-Salaam
Adviser	*D.K. KATABARUKI Economist State House Dar-es-Salaam
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TANZANIA (cont.) – TANZANIE (suite)

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Adviser	*John HAULE Marketing Manager GAT
Adviser	*Z.D. MAGINGA General Manager CATA
Adviser	*B.N. MAKANI Director-General BOT
Adviser	*B. SIMON Director Lyamungu
Adviser	*S.P. MURO General Manager – CAPEX Dar-es-Salaam
Adviser	*Andrew P. URNO Associate Professor University of Dar-es-Salaam

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LIST OF DOCUMENTS

ARC/78/1	Provisional Agenda
ARC/78/1(a)	Provisional Annotated Agenda
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ARC/78/2(a)	The State of Natural Resources and Human Environment for Food and Agriculture
ARC/78/3	Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries with Particular Emphasis on National and Regional Institutions
ARC/78/4	Regional Cooperation and Integration in the Field of Agriculture: Review of Progress and Prospects
ARC/78/5	Regional Food Plan for Africa
ARC/78/6	Implementation of FAO Priority Programme in the Region (Report by the FAO Regional Representative for Africa)
ARC/78/7	Report on Meetings of Regional Commissions and Bodies Held during the Biennium
ARC/78/8	Representation of Developing Regions on the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

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ARC/78/INF/1	Information Note
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ARC/78/INF/2(b)-Rev.1	Timetable of the Plenary Session
ARC/78/INF/3-Rev.1	Provisional list of Documents
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ARC/78/INF/5	Report of the UN/FAO World Food Programme to the Regional Conference

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ARC/78/CONF/1	Opening Statement by the Director-General on 25 September 1978
ARC/78/CONF/2	No document
ARC/78/CONF/3	No document
ARC/78/CONF/4	Statement by the Representative of the UN/FAO World Food Programme
ARC/78/CONF/5	Opening Statement to the Technical Committee by Mr. Almamy Sylla, Representative of the Director-General
ARC/78/CONF/6	Statement by the Director-General at the Presentation of the FAO "AGRICOLA" Medal to H.E. Mwalimu J. K. Nyerere on 25 September 1978

ARC/78/CONF/7	Statement by Mr. Hernán Santa Cruz, WCARRD, to the Technical Committee on 20 September 1978
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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

18-22 September 1978

Organization of the Committee

1. The Tenth FAO Regional Conference for Africa was held in Arusha International Conference Centre, Arusha, Tanzania, from 18 to 28 September 1978. The Committee Meeting which preceded the Plenary Session was held from 18 to 22 September 1978.
2. Delegates from 42 Member Nations, as well as observers from Member Nations outside the Region, Permanent Observers of the Holy See, Representatives of the United Nations and Specialized Agencies, and observers from inter-governmental organizations and representatives of National Liberation Movements recognised by the OAU attended the meeting. A full list of participants is given in Appendix B of the Conference Report.

Inaugural Ceremony

3. In his opening statement, Mr. Almamy Sylla, Representative of the Director-General, paid tribute to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for its warm hospitality and the facilities made available for the Meeting of the Technical Committee. On behalf of the Director-General, he welcomed the delegates and representatives of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), United Nations and Specialized Agencies and Regional Bodies.
4. Mr. Sylla reminded delegates that they would, during the session, be examining aspects of some of the major problems confronting agriculture in the Region and would recommend remedial measures to achieve self-sufficiency in food and improved standards of living for the rural population. The background documents contained suggestions for achieving these objectives. The realism and determination of delegates in discussing these issues would lead to practical conclusions and to efforts to create conditions for lasting success in the struggle against the scourges of malnutrition, human and animal diseases, etc. FAO would continue to work closely with the OAU, the ECA, Regional Groupings and International Specialized Agencies to realize the objectives.

Election of Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur

5. At its first working session the Committee elected Dr. S.A. Madallali, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, United Republic of Tanzania, by acclaim as its Chairman. In a short acceptance speech, Dr. Madallali expressed his gratitude to the delegates for having confided to him the guidance of the Committee.
6. The Committee then unanimously elected Mr. Joseph Budarara, Directeur-général de l'Agriculture, Burundi, Mr. O.M. Selikane, Chief Agricultural Officer, Lesotho, and Mr. Mapela Nga-Ma, Alternate Permanent Representative of Zaire to FAO, as first, second and third Vice-Chairmen respectively. Mr. Alfred I. Machayo, Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Kenya to FAO, was unanimously elected as Rapporteur.

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