

Report of the

NINTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

Punta del Este, Uruguay, 5-16 December 1966



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
ROME, 1967

R E P O R T

of the

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Ninth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America was held from 5 to 16 December 1966 in Punta del Este at the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Uruguay.

Inaugural ceremony

2. The Government of Uruguay organized a welcoming ceremony held on 5 December 1966 under the auspices of the President of the National Council of Government, at which statements were made by Mr. Wilson Ferreira Aldunate, Minister of Agriculture, Dr. B.R. Sen, Director-General of FAO and by His Excellency Dr. Carlos María Penadés, President of the National Governing Council of the Republic of Uruguay.

3. The Minister of Agriculture of Uruguay laid special emphasis on the problem of hunger in a world where the population was increasing rapidly and agricultural production almost at a standstill. Unfortunately there was insufficient awareness of the situation: the problem of agricultural development could not be solved unless attention were given to the problem of hunger and to the modification of agricultural structures. A great effort would also be needed to narrow the existing gap between the earnings of the wealthy countries, which were increasing, and those of the poorer countries which constantly diminishing. The rates of growth of production and earnings, as set out in development programs, would not in themselves be enough to bring about an early balance between countries since the figures given were relative while in absolute terms the differences were constantly increasing. Latin America, he added, offered a sharp contrast between the extremely modern industries of some of its major cities and the millions of farmers who were today still tilling the land as their forebears had done many centuries ago. Uruguay, with its economy based on agriculture, asked of the world only that the developing countries be given a chance of making agricultural progress so that they might meet the challenge inherent in the existence of millions of human beings suffering from hunger.

4. Speaking after the Minister of Agriculture, Dr. B.R. Sen, Director-General of FAO, said he was much pleased by what the former had said. Punta del Este, he went on, was the point of departure of a major international effort to promote the development of the Latin American countries; now, men of the Americas were once more meeting there to satisfy the future requirements of a rapidly-growing world population. The policies and ideas now current in Latin America aimed particularly at overcoming the obstacles to agricultural development. Lastly, he thanked the President of the Governing Council and the people of Uruguay for the support they were giving to the objectives of FAO, and declared the Conference open.

5. The inaugural ceremony ended with a speech by the President of the National Governing Council of the Republic of Uruguay, Dr. Carlos María Penadés, who thanked Dr. B.R. Sen for his words and praised his dedication to the problems of food and agricultural development. The meeting was an important one, he said, for it sought no less than to improve economic conditions and above all standards of living in an unsettled world in which whole peoples were deprived of even the most basic means of livelihood; investment in weapons of destruction was unstinted, yet the help needed by millions of people was not sufficiently forthcoming. After referring to the potential of Uruguay - a country which could raise its food production eight to tenfold - he said it was necessary not only to improve agricultural techniques but also to bring about an institutional transformation and to secure collaboration between peoples as a prerequisite for any movement of progress. There was also a need to create conditions whereby foodstuffs could be placed on the external market, and that could best be done by ensuring that they circulated as freely as possible. Then again, the disadvantages of monetary parity should be examined. In conclusion, he wished the Conference the utmost success and hoped that its findings would serve to increase agricultural production and provide food for the peoples and nations suffering from hunger.

Opening of the Conference

6. Dr. B.R. Sen, Director-General of FAO, declared open the first plenary sitting of the Conference.

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen

7. At its first plenary sitting, the Conference elected as its Chairman Dr. Wilson Ferreira Aldunate, Minister of Agriculture of Uruguay, having agreed that the other Ministers attending the Conference should act as Vice-Chairmen in alphabetical order, followed by heads of delegations also in alphabetical order. Mr. Arnaldo Ron Pedrique, Head of the Agricultural Policy Division of the Venezuelan Ministry of Agriculture, was elected Rapporteur.

Statement made by Dr. B.R. Sen, Director-General of FAO, at the first plenary sitting

8. The Director-General of FAO welcomed delegates to the Ninth Regional Conference and referred again to the symbolic importance of the fact that this meeting should be held at Punta del Este, the place where the same countries had already gathered to express their conviction that it was necessary to undertake urgent, massive and joint action to change old structures and to lay new foundations for economic and social development.

9. The Director-General went on to say that FAO had been associated with practically all activities concerning agriculture in Latin America. For instance, FAO was one of the "founding fathers" of ICAD (Inter-American Committee for Agricultural Development); it had co-operated with IICA (Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences) and had signed an agreement with the IDB (Inter-American Development Bank), linking FAO's technical competence with the Bank's investment resources. Finally, negotiations had just been concluded which would enable FAO to participate in the reviews made by CIAP (Inter-American Committee on the Alliance for Progress) of the existing situation and of the development programs of the various countries, which participation would strengthen its role of adviser to Latin American nations in the field of agriculture.

10. The Director-General recalled that in his opening address to the Eighth Regional Conference he had referred to the magnitude of the obstacles to agricultural development in the region. While during the past biennium much progress had been made, the measures taken had not been sufficient to produce a radical change in the basic conditions of Latin American agriculture; indeed, those conditions had continued to deteriorate on a per caput basis as a consequence of demographic pressure. The population growth rate for the world as a whole between 1962 and 1985 would be about two percent per annum. In the case of Latin America, however, the estimated growth rate for the same period reached 2.7 percent per year, which meant that the total population - 224 million in 1962 - would have nearly doubled by 1985 to 422 million. By then, to meet the food needs of that population, allowing for only a slight improvement in the diet, an increase of food production at a rate of close to 4 percent per annum would be required.

11. A 4 percent growth rate, which at present had been achieved only in a few countries within the region, was technically feasible when viewed from the point of view of land resources and potential increases in yields. But it was essential that all productive forces should be applied to agricultural development, otherwise social and political unrest would continue or even worsen. The world was nearing the end of a period of agricultural surplus which had saved many countries from starvation.

12. Referring to the Freedom from Hunger Campaign, the Director-General stressed that Latin America had been more fortunate than other regions inasmuch as hunger had been limited to certain critical areas, although it was nevertheless true that malnutrition was widespread and the race between population growth and food production

might produce difficulties of considerable magnitude. The Campaign's role in Latin America had remained rather restricted; he therefore appealed to governments to lend all their support to the creation of national committees to help educate people to play a more effective part in the fight against hunger.

13. The Director-General went on to say that the overall food and agricultural situation of the region was dominated by trade problems which unfortunately persisted in spite of the important efforts made to overcome them. Most of the Latin American countries depended on agricultural exports for their foreign exchange earnings, but it should be noted that the terms of trade in recent years had not favoured the region. While the volume of exports had been rising on the whole, export earnings had shown a tendency to decline owing to falling world prices of agricultural commodities such as coffee, bananas, cocoa, cotton and sugar. The Indicative World Plan (IWP) studies for the sub-region of Western South America indicated that the volume of exports for agricultural products had grown at the rate of 3.8 percent per year during the period from 1950-54 to 1960-64, while imports for the same period had grown at the annual rate of 4.9 percent. This revealed not only the serious balance of trade position, but also the erosion of valuable domestic capital which should be re-invested in development activities.

14. The situation clearly required, on the one hand, a stepping up of agricultural productivity and production and, on the other, a stabilization of commodity prices in world trade. Although the volume of inter-regional trade was still relatively small, it was expected that, through the efforts of the Latin American Free Trade Area and the Central American Common Market, it would expand in the near future. It was also hoped that the burning problems of international commodity trade would sooner or later be brought under some measure of control through policy consultation within the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems, GATT, UNCTAD, and LAFTA.

15. The Director-General then referred to the great importance of careful planning if orderly and sustained development was to be ensured. Such planning should be seen in the framework of the world situation so that each country might find its true bearings in its development aims. This need for an overall framework was one of the factors that had led to the concept of an Indicative World Plan, work on which was now well under way. In developing countries the IWP would examine the various policy issues which governments faced in planning their agricultural development programs.

16. In developed countries the Plan would deal mainly with agricultural and trade policies that had a bearing on the export opportunities of the developing countries; it would also consider the extent to which the former might provide food for the latter.

17. He underlined that, so far as Latin America was concerned, work was well advanced on the sub-region of Western South America and should be completed by early 1967. This would be followed work on the Eastern sub-region. As soon as the draft plan was completed it would be discussed with the countries concerned. He was convinced that all governments would recognize the vital importance of the Plan and would offer their views and comments on that important FAO activity.

18. Referring to FAO's new position in relation to the inter-American system, the Director-General said that FAO would now advise CIAP and other inter-American institutions on all matters pertaining to agriculture, making use of its twenty years' experience in the field and of its many technicians working in Latin America. It would thus be possible for FAO to bring the results of the IWP to bear directly on the development plans of the individual countries; the IWP would become a frame of reference for certain institutions of the inter-American or international systems.

19. Returning to the subject of planning, the Director-General said he was satisfied that considerable progress had been made in that field over the last few years. Implementation of plans was largely dependent on adequate financing and it was for

that reason, he said, that financing of agricultural development had been selected as the central theme of the Conference.

20. Referring to the obstacles to agricultural development, the Director-General commented on a particular problem which was leading to a paradoxical situation: while the overall availability of funds for development fell far short of the requirements, there was nevertheless a surplus of immediately available money which could not be utilized owing to the continued lack of adequate and sound projects for which financial resources could be requested.

21. The Director-General then stressed the importance of FAO's co-operation with international and regional banking institutions, referring especially to the agreement of June 1965 with the Inter-American Development Bank and the FAO/IBRD Co-operative Program, both of which were included in the agenda of the Conference.

22. With regard to the implementation of development plans, the Director-General pointed out the need to ensure adequate supplies of agricultural requisites such as fertilizers, pesticides, farm equipment, etc. To meet the rapidly rising demand for such requisites, he had drawn up proposals for a 500-million dollar joint program for their production, consisting of two parts; the first and major one would be on a bilateral basis, under which certain developed countries would provide the low-income countries with assistance, primarily in kind, to the value of 450 million dollars. For its part, FAO would assist by carrying out the necessary studies and helping in the implementation and supervision of projects. It had been proposed that the FAO Program should amount to 10 percent of the overall program, i.e. 50 million dollars.

23. The Director-General then went on to refer to the World Food Program which had proved that multilateral food aid is a workable proposition for emergency relief and for promoting economic and social development.

24. Turning to the shortage of trained personnel, he pointed out that the numbers graduating in agriculture from the universities within the region clearly showed that the present rate of increase was only slightly above what was required to replace normal losses. The picture was only slightly better in the group corresponding to intermediate-level agricultural education. If the picture were viewed together with the insufficient capacity of governmental services and private industry to absorb new graduates and with the migration of professional staff to other countries, it became evident that a new approach was urgently required. One solution might be to interest rural youth in the problems it would have to face. Consequently, the Director-General had launched, within the framework of the World Freedom from Hunger Campaign, the Young World Mobilization Appeal which had just held a meeting in Lima, Peru.

25. The Director-General then mentioned another important item for combating the lack of training: farm broadcasting, a medium which was breaking through illiteracy barriers, helping to teach how best to use available resources and training farmers, at the same time giving them up-to-the-minute information on the marketing of their produce.

26. He went on to point out the serious shortcomings still existing in the preservation and processing of food; waste was considerable and processing still very deficient. To tackle those problems, FAO had increased its activities in food technology and had established links with private industry which had resulted in the establishment of the FAO/Industry Co-operative Program, a program based on the concept that private enterprise in the developed countries had a vital role to play in agricultural progress in the developing regions. The program aimed at furthering the exchange of technical and economic information and mobilizing the managerial ability and capital resources of private industry.

27. However, the Director-General said, it was difficult to speak of better food and at the same time overlook the importance of proper nutrition. In Latin America,

per capita food production had dropped by 4 percent between 1958-59 and 1964-65, children being the main victims. That was why FAO was co-operating with the programs sponsored by AID and UNICEF for supplementary school and pre-school feeding. The co-operation with UNICEF also extended to training and extension programs.

28. Dr. Sen recalled that at the last Regional Conference he had emphasised that the land tenure situation was one of the main obstacles to agricultural development. Real awareness of that fact had developed in most countries and was being translated into action. However, that was only the beginning of a process; he reminded delegates that at the World Land Reform Conference held in June 1966, attention had been drawn once more to the serious consequences which resulted from outmoded and inadequate land tenure systems. In that respect, FAO had continued its collaboration with ICAD in the land tenure studies and with IDB in a study of the problems associated with the financing of land reform.

29. The Director-General went on to comment on three particular technical fields: fisheries, forestry and livestock production. Fisheries should have an increasingly important part to play in the region, creating sufficient food supplies wherever they could be developed along the wide seaboard of the continent. By contrast, forestry was the most striking example of under-utilization of resources. In spite of its considerable forest resources, Latin America's trade balance in forest products became worse with every year. Given the necessary effort, the region could assume a leading competitive role in the world market for forest products.

30. Latin America also offered great potential for livestock production, yet development was slow. Despite the fact that world market prices were rising rapidly, social factors and economic restraints had discouraged investments and the introduction of technical changes. It was of the utmost urgency that governments should adapt their policies to the dynamics of change in that sector.

31. Referring briefly to some of FAO's activities in the Latin American region, the Director-General mentioned the Joint FAO/ECLA study on agricultural inputs, the fertilizer demonstration program under the World Freedom from Hunger Campaign, the group of experts associated with the Central American Integration Program and the assistance lent to the LAFTA Secretariat. He also referred to the considerable number of field experts provided by FAO within framework of the Expanded Program for Technical Assistance and the UNDP/Special Fund projects. Finally, he mentioned the new international volunteers program which was providing a useful complement to FAO's field activities.

32. The Director-General of FAO ended his address by expressing his growing concern for the problem of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, his desire for quick progress and his hope that the discussions of the Conference might serve as a guide for mapping out FAO's policies and programs in the future.

Statement by Dr. José Antonio Mayobre, Executive Secretary of ECLA.

33. Also at the first plenary sitting, Dr. Mayobre said that FAO regional conferences were gradually acquiring the nature of continental forums, to exchange opinions on agricultural development and to find solutions to the problems raised. It was very wise that the Conference had decided to give emphasis to the financing of such development, especially when major decisions were being taken to modify agrarian structures in many countries of the region and to boost the modernization of agriculture. ECLA had continually pointed out that the low level of gross investment was one of the major obstacles to economic progress which, so far in this decade, had been considerably below the target set in the Punta del Este Charter and in the United Nations Development Decade. ECLA had also warned against the increasing foreign debt of Latin American countries, which year after year, through the payment of interest, were absorbing an ever-growing portion of export earnings.

34. One of the principal causes of under-development, he said, derived from the small progress achieved in the agricultural sector, whose rate of growth of 3.7 percent per annum might appear satisfactory in other regions but was insufficient in Latin America because of the explosive demographic increase. Output per capita was only 15-18 percent higher than it had been at the end of the last world war. Whilst imports had increased at an accelerated rate, it had been necessary to limit exports in order to meet the needs of domestic consumption.

35. On the other hand, unlike what had happened in regions such as Europe where there had been dramatic technological progress, 70 percent of the increase of production in Latin America was due to an increase in the area cultivated; only the remaining 30 percent could be attributed to higher individual yields.

36. The situation in the livestock sector was even more critical. Not only did production indices reveal a rate of growth slower than that of the agricultural sector as a whole, but the lag in productivity was even greater.

37. The insufficient development of agriculture was having an immediate and dramatic effect on the living conditions of most of the rural population. Furthermore, the income of the sector was very unevenly distributed among the different groups participating in the productive process. Due to the bad distribution of ownership and to the archaic systems of land tenure, some 70 million inhabitants of the rural regions had an annual income of less than 100 dollars per head. The result, he said, was that one-third of the total population of Latin America could barely obtain a diet 35 percent lower in terms of calories and lower still in terms of protein than the minimum diet recommended by nutritionists. On the other hand, he added, their consumption of manufactured non-food products and services did not exceed 15 dollars per capita per year. These figures indicated that in many rural regions of Latin America there existed a situation of poverty and backwardness comparable to that of the poorest areas in the world.

38. Returning to the inadequate systems of land tenure, he stated that, in the region as a whole, approximately two-thirds of the rural families received one-third of the income derived from the agricultural sector. At the other end of the scale, only 2 percent of families shared the remaining third.

39. The bad distribution of land ownership and of income from the agricultural sector had proved to be one of the main hindrances to increasing agricultural investment. Whilst the great mass of the population had no economic surplus and therefore could not increase agricultural investments, the owners of most of the land usually lacked either the interest or the ability to capitalize their holdings, intensify production and improve productivity. The latter group did not as a rule re-invest in agriculture itself, but in urban enterprises, luxury goods or foreign bank accounts. Nor did existing tax systems enable the State to collect any significant part of this surplus in order to increase its agricultural investments.

40. The Executive Secretary of ECLA pointed out that serious defects in the marketing systems of most countries in the region tended to make agricultural products more expensive, to the detriment of the consumer, and to minimize the share of the producer, especially small and medium ones, in the final price of products. This, combined with factors such as a price policy sometimes harmful to the producer, the unavailability and high prices of inputs and inadequate systems of credit and of technical assistance services to the farmer, also limited investment, hampered technological progress and conspired against higher production.

41. Latin America, he noted, was endowed with abundant natural resources which, adequately exploited, would not only provide amply for its population but would allow significant exports. To accomplish this, however, a planned strategy of agricultural development was needed to remove the structural and institutional obstacles which directly or indirectly were acting as a brake on development in that important sector.

Public and private investment towards those goals would have to be increased so that by better management of State resources and through the tax reforms already being introduced governments and the private sector would be able to allot to agriculture a higher proportion of the real surplus obtained from larger domestic savings. Even so, the foreign aid required would necessarily be much greater than anything Latin America had received in the past.

42. Pursuing the point, he explained that purely preliminary estimates of the total investments necessary for agrarian reform and projects complementary thereto indicated amounts in excess of 50,000 million dollars for the period of fifteen years from 1965 to 1980 if agricultural production was to increase by an annual amount of only 4.4 percent; bearing in mind a demographic growth of 3 percent per annum, such a rate could not be considered excessive. Several thousand million dollars would be needed in foreign aid to finance the foreign component and to complement national savings which, in any case, would have to increase tremendously. Between 1961 and 1965, foreign aid had amounted to an average of only 125 million dollars per annum. Simultaneously, important changes would have to be made in the system of granting loans and in terms of payment and rates of interest, etc.

43. The Executive Secretary of ECLA expressed his concern at the persistent fall in the prices of important primary products on world markets, the difficulties of access to the main importing markets, the excessive protectionism practised by those countries and discrimination in favour of other regions - all of them aspects which were being studied and discussed by UNCTAD, FAO and the regional organizations. At that very moment, he said, the Conference of Latin American Heads of State was being prepared, a Conference at which problems of foreign trade and regional economic integration would be given priority and the agricultural dilemma considered as a whole.

44. He emphasized that regional agricultural development could not be thought of as an autarchic process. Admittedly, a certain degree of self sufficiency for the region as a whole was acceptable, since there were abundant resources and a variety of climates. Those resources, however, were not evenly distributed and the ability to produce given commodities varied from one country to another. This showed the usefulness of regional production planning so that each country might produce those articles for which it was most suited, even though it was not possible to provide for a perfect division of labour. Unfortunately, he added, the Latin American countries individually were even closer to the autarchic tendency which the process of economic integration would have to modify for the benefit of all. That process would undoubtedly take some time in view of the complexity of the agricultural sector, the enormous number of people employed in it and their lack of knowledge about alternative uses of the soil, and other adverse factors.

45. Progress along the path of integration could be made more rapidly by means of specific agreements on certain commodities or groups of commodities than by agreements of a general nature. Those agreements, which would allow a gradual organization of Latin American markets, linking them to world markets while national development plans and policies were co-ordinated to a growing degree. The advantage of such an "organized" approach would be to allow a gradual specialization and complementation without violently changing the present production centres of each country. Unfortunately, achievements had so far been few.

46. The Executive Secretary of ECLA concluded by pointing out the close ties between ECLA and FAO, ties which originate from their common interest in promoting the economic and social development of the countries of the region. Both organizations, he added, had been working hand in hand for many years and would continue to do so in the future with ever-growing dedication and zeal in their search for ways of removing the obstacles to progress. Until the agricultural crisis was solved, he said, any hope of rapid economic and social development became more and more remote. Nonetheless, he was optimistic since he believed in Latin American vitality which he was convinced would remove such obstacles in a reasonably short time.

Statement made by Dr. Felipe Herrera, President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

47. During the discussion of agricultural financing at the ninth plenary sitting of the Conference, Dr. Herrera spoke of IDB experience in that field, of the problems facing international financing institutions in meeting the credit requirements of the agricultural sector, and of the action the institution proposed to take in support of Latin American agriculture.

48. Agricultural financing and increased incomes for the rural population of Latin America had been matters of constant concern to the IDB and had therefore received its closest attention ever since the inception of the bank. At the first meeting of Governors in February 1960, before even the loan policy of the bank had been decided upon, he had stated his personal concern in the following terms: "There are important areas to which we can contribute funds and thus increase their potential. So it may be in the field of agriculture...that our help is needed to secure maximum results".

49. He went on to warn that the backwardness of Latin America was to a great extent a reflection of the institutional conditions of land tenure, with the forms of exploitation it involved and the price instability of agricultural products.

50. He also referred to the absence or scarcity of medium and long-term credit mechanisms which might effectively raise agricultural output; in some places, technical and social advances had benefited only small sectors of industrial employees or labourers, while agricultural workers, who formed the main social nucleus of the continent, had been left to one side.

51. Dr. Herrera then spoke to the Conference of the Trust Fund for Social Progress, set up under the Bogota Act, which was helping to ensure the effectiveness of IDB agricultural policy. The basic aim of the Fund was to provide capital resources and technical assistance on flexible terms and conditions, at low interest and longer rates than usual, to support the efforts of Latin American countries that were prepared to introduce or extend institutional improvements and to adopt measures for the effective utilization of their own resources with a view to achieving greater social progress and better balanced economic growth. The Constitutional Contract had established that the Fund's first action should be in the field of land settlement and improved land usage, including the opening of access roads, assistance to agricultural credit institutions, supervised credit, agricultural extension and the development of storage and marketing facilities.

52. In the last period, the aims of the Trust Fund for Social Progress had been incorporated with those of the expanded "Special Operations Fund", thus enabling the IDB to pursue its flexible financing activities intensively for the economic and social development of the Latin American agricultural sector.

53. The accelerated rate of growth of agricultural output was a matter of the utmost importance to the economic and social wellbeing of the region. He was convinced that to achieve that goal it would be necessary to bring about without delay a reform of agrarian structures, increase infrastructure services and overcome many different problems.

54. IDB policy in the field of agricultural financing was closely linked with the objectives contained in the Punta del Este Charter. Agricultural production in Latin America would have to increase at an estimated average rate of 5 percent if the overall target rate of 2.5 percent per capita was to be achieved throughout the region as a whole. The primary objective of the agricultural policy of IDB was to help achieve that target, a task which would require the granting of loans to promote the fastest and most sustained agricultural growth possible, taking into account the

capacity of each country for contracting foreign loans and its ability to absorb investment and finance its own contributions in local currency.

55. He then went on to give details of IDB action in the agricultural field. Despite the few years it had been in existence, IDB had already become a main source of foreign resources for financing the agricultural development of Latin America. Between 1961 and 1965, the bank had contributed more than half the total value of the loans for agriculture in the region, provided by official international credit institutions.

56. If account were taken only of direct support given to specific agricultural development projects, he said, 23 percent of the bank's portfolio had been assigned to agriculture by 15 November 1966, to a total value of 400 million dollars. This showed that agriculture had been the main area of concern of the bank.

57. Forty-one percent of the funds devoted to agriculture - 159 million dollars - had been granted in the form of total loans to national development organizations in order to improve their loan capacity and ensure that external financing should reach the medium-sized farming and livestock enterprises, farming co-operatives and low-income rural workers.

58. Loans amounting to 122 million dollars had been granted for land settlement and improved land usage. Such allocations were intended to support agrarian reform programs and permit the consolidation of rural settlements through the provision of resources which would allow the new owners to start producing.

59. Another 63 million dollars were helping to finance irrigation projects; 13 million had been devoted to crop diversification programs, and 48 million to various projects including pre-investment surveys.

60. If to that 400 million dollars directly committed to agricultural development were added about 300 million invested in infrastructure services, technical assistance and higher education in the field of agriculture, the total amounted to almost 700 million dollars. This meant that nearly 40 percent of IDB resources had been assigned to rural development in the widest sense.

61. Such financial assistance was directed not only towards providing external support for the various projects but more particularly towards encouraging complementary financing by means of local savings, public as well as private. Approximately three-quarters of the cost of agricultural projects supported by the bank were being financed with resources from the countries concerned. This meant that for every dollar invested IDB had mobilized the equivalent of three dollars in local resources for the development of the rural sector.

62. The operational rhythm of the bank in support of agriculture depended more than anything on the availability of viable projects, on well-formulated loan applications which could be given high priority within the development program, and on the availability of counterpart funds with the applicant governments.

63. The nature of agricultural development financing was such that a high proportion of IDB loans had to be channeled into infrastructure projects which, although they increased the actual capital, did not solve individual loan problems, particularly those of the farmer. For instance, the bank found it had to help the producer in such a way that he could free himself from debts so as to absorb new investments; by its very nature, however, the bank could not undertake to refinance debts, nor could it supply funds for buying land.

64. The agricultural credit organizations which provided local funds to meet the needs of producers were playing an extremely important role; that was why, from its very inception, the IDB had set about strengthening the network of development institutions which helped the farmer with credit and technical assistance. IDB was constantly

on the watch for new, flexible and dynamic ways of increasing the flow of funds to Latin American agriculture and of supporting the efforts of that sector at the national level in as many ways as possible.

65. One manifestation of the bank's attitude - and a formula for avoiding many of the difficulties mentioned - had been the granting of total lines of finance to the agricultural credit institutions of the Latin American countries, lines which were subsequently distributed to the beneficiaries in the form of sub-loans on terms in keeping with the purposes approved by IDB. By 30 September 1966, IDB activities in that field had, he said, benefited approximately 200,000 rural families.

66. The President of the IDB then referred to the loans granted to the Chilean Institute of Agricultural Development and to the Central Reserve Bank of El Salvador.

67. Turning to the field of agricultural conversion, he said the bank had set a new trend in international financing by attempting to reconcile the achievement of short-term productivity goals with better distribution of earnings and greater participation by the rural population in the process of economic development. A high percentage of IDB resources had been spent towards raising the real income and production capacity of the underprivileged sectors of the farming population.

68. The bank was the largest source of foreign capital for financing programs of agrarian reform in its widest sense. During the five-year period from 1961 to 1965, it had assigned about 80 million dollars to programs of land tenure reform, and another 100 million to financing rural development programs for the benefit of small-holders.

69. With regard to agricultural diversification, IDB was pursuing a policy aimed at stimulating both domestic consumption and exports. From the point of view of regional economic development, it attached the utmost importance to the diversification of Latin America's agricultural exports. On the other hand, it realized that a policy of diversification had to be consistent with the aim of regional economic integration, so that national programs for the replacement of imports had to be brought into line with the targets of increase of inter-regional trade. The economies of many of the Latin American countries depended to a great extent on the export sector, which in turn suffered from periodic crises in the international market. IDB had sought through diversification plans to free the economies of the Latin American countries from their excessive dependency on a given crop. Although those plans were being implemented successfully, however, they were not free from difficulties owing to the complexity of the aims they pursued.

70. During the last few months, the authorities of the International Coffee Agreement had been seeking to attain the production goals recommended in the Agreement so as to avoid the accumulation of coffee produced in excess of world requirements. The IDB, together with the World Bank and the African Development Bank, had attended the discussions relating to the creation of a coffee diversification fund.

71. Work done by the IDB in the field of technical assistance for agriculture had been of fundamental importance; without it, the benefits and goals pursued through loan operations would not have been fully achieved. Those activities, which had so far accounted for 7.3 million dollars, had sometimes been conducted on a repayable basis and sometimes not, depending on the nature of the operation.

72. National qualification to prepare plans and projects was of fundamental importance in allowing full and due advantage to be taken of external financing. Countries should be helped to overcome obstacles to the preparation of projects and to their efficient implementation. Not only was it essential for the bank to act flexibly; there was at the same time a need for planning at the national level, the restructuring of institutions and the training of staff to facilitate the absorption of whatever resources might be granted from abroad.

73. The Bank had co-operated in that field with most of the Member countries.

74. He then spoke of the importance of the work it had been doing in conjunction with other international bodies and agencies, particularly under the Agreement signed for the co-ordination of IDB/FAO activities in the identification, preparation and implementation of agricultural projects, evaluation of projects, training of personnel and studies for the development of the rural sector. As a result of the work of IDB/FAO missions, the Bank had granted loans to various countries and had conducted several surveys.

75. A further example of co-operation between the two organizations was the preparatory work for the Round Table Conference on Agricultural Development in Latin America in the forthcoming decade. FAO was preparing a basic study on the agricultural situation and its projections to the year 1980, which would serve as a guide to the discussions during the meeting.

76. The Bank had also formed links with the Organization of American States and with the Israeli Government so as to take advantage of such experience acquired by Israeli experts as might prove useful in various regions of Latin America. Teams of Israeli experts were to be formed and combined with national groups for the identification, preparation and implementation of agricultural projects.

77. The IDB had secured the help of the Pan-American Health Bureau in drawing up plans and programs to fight and control foot-and-mouth disease.

78. Similarly, the IDB was co-operating with the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences to improve and modernize the structure and operating methods of the Institutions receiving IDB loans in the fields of agricultural credit and agrarian reform. The Bank had signed an Agreement with IICA to achieve better co-ordination of training activities in the field of agricultural credit and agrarian reform within both Organizations.

79. Speaking of agricultural training, he said the shortage of high-level technicians, both numerically and as regards specialization, was a well-known fact. One of the reasons for the shortage had been the scarcity of specialized teaching establishments and, in many instances, the inadequacy of their teaching programs. Since the start of its program to support higher education, therefore, the IDB had been giving preference to projects designed to extend and modernize university agricultural training in Latin America.

80. He then referred to a few of those projects, beginning with the National Centre of Teaching, Research and Extension in Agriculture at Chapingo (Mexico), which he described as one of the most praiseworthy Latin American efforts for the co-ordination of teaching with research and extension in the field of agriculture.

81. A similar program was also being carried out at the University of Molina, in Peru, through the joint co-operation of the Peruvian Government, the IDB, the United Nations and certain United States foundations. The Faculty of Agronomy, Animal Science and Veterinary Medicine of the University of Chile was also receiving aid from the Bank.

82. Referring to training activities as another important aspect of the Bank's work in the field of agriculture, he said that agreements had been signed with the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences and with FAO to co-ordinate technical assistance for the training of Latin American staff responsible for guiding and directing agrarian reform programs.

83. Besides taking part in programs of training for agrarian reform, the IDB had helped, mainly through fellowships, to ensure the success of extension and study seminars and meetings.

84. The substantive research promoted by the Bank in the field of agriculture was also worth mentioning. In collaboration with FAO and ECLA, surveys were being conducted on the use of fertilizers, pesticides, machinery, seeds, etc. and studies were being made to find out whether industries could be set up within the region to meet the multi-national demand for such products.

85. The IDB was also collaborating in research relating to land tenure and agrarian reform in Latin America. This work was being done by the Inter-American Committee for Agricultural Development (ICAD), which had already completed reports on seven countries. With regard to the agrarian reforms already carried out and the new structures set up, the IDB had considered it useful to collaborate with ICAD in the evaluation of key aspects of several agrarian programs. It had also carried out studies of agricultural credit, again in conjunction with ICAD.

86. With regard to the role of agriculture in integration, another of the aims of the Bank's loan policy had been to support the economic integration of the region. It was much more difficult to achieve satisfactory short-term results in agricultural integration than in other sectors of the economy, since the high degree of self-sufficiency of many countries in foodstuffs and fibres limited intra-regional trade in those articles. So far as possible, however, the Bank had promoted the expansion of agricultural trade by concentrating on helping the basic infrastructure. Moreover, because it believed that integration went beyond mere trade, the Bank was supporting the establishment and development of regional institutions.

87. Latin American agriculture was extremely inflexible and there were very appreciable differences in the competitiveness of certain commodities. The structural problems of Latin American agriculture made it much less amenable than other economic activities to adaptation to the inevitable changes that a "common market" would require.

88. To facilitate agricultural integration in Latin America it would be advisable to strive for a high degree of specialization and complementation; full use could then be made of the comparative advantages of each area in the production of certain items. Agricultural integration would, however, require special conditions if it were to proceed at an orderly and planned pace, in accordance with set time-tables and with due allowance for the peculiarities of each individual product or group of associated products. But as it would not be easy for such complex action to produce specific results in the short term, a regional agricultural investment policy should be framed immediately to enable the sector to overcome its present structural inflexibility.

89. There was much scepticism concerning the advantages of agricultural integration, so experts were needed to point out how agriculture could be developed and integrated at the regional level. In that sense, IDB action had been a decisive factor in the initiation of programs such as that relating to fertilizer production, which was being carried out under a joint IDB/ECLA/ILPES program.

90. The Bank had also collaborated with ECLA and FAO in an agricultural inputs survey aimed at collecting the technical data necessary for the formulation of a regional policy for raising Latin America's agricultural productivity.

91. As was known, the Bank had recently established a "Pre-investment Fund for Latin American Integration". The first program of work of that Fund included basic studies for the integration of the agricultural sector to determine the overall situation of the region's foreign trade in agricultural products and the conditions under which exports and imports of selected products were effected.

92. The IDB had shown its willingness and determination to support the accelerated development of agriculture, and governments could be certain that it would continue to give aid in the fields already explored. It was important, however, to increase the flow of foreign funds for agricultural development without overlooking the requirements

of the other economic sectors. To bring about that increase, it would be necessary to intensify the search for and preparation of new projects of sufficient value and quantity as to ensure that an ever-increasing flow of applications for loans was kept under study and pending decision. It would also be useful to explore, in collaboration with FAO, new fields in which viable projects to be financed by IDB might be identified; that would be in line with the course of action proposed by the Director-General of FAO.

93. There was a clear need to intensify livestock development, particularly on medium- and small-sized farms, with a view to raising the protein content in the diet of most of the populations of the region.

94. The Bank had already engaged in major transactions to develop meat production. Two loans had, for instance, been granted to the National Bank of Nicaragua for the development of livestock.

95. So far as the development of forest industries was concerned, several studies and specific proposals had been made and could be used in structuring specific projects for financing. Latin America's timber resources were abundant yet had hardly been exploited; their development would make it possible to strengthen the balance of payments position of many countries whose foreign trade was at present hampered by the under-development of forestry activities.

96. One of the main obstacles preventing agricultural production from increasing at a faster rate was the level of and uncertainty about commodity prices. In recent years, items which in some countries had been dynamic had, generally speaking, enjoyed the support of a price maintenance policy, storage facilities and efficient marketing programs. Consequently, a program for the financing of stores, warehouses and silos might have a rapid impact on the growth and diversification of agricultural production.

97. Winding up his speech, the President of the IDB said that the Ninth FAO Regional Conference was an important one. As to the Bank, it was not a specialized body for framing the continent's agrarian policy; it had, however, placed itself at the service of the agricultural development of the region and sought to improve and extend the attention it had already been giving to the rural sector of the continent. Its future activities would, of course, depend on the resources made available to it. In that respect, a proposal had been submitted to the IDB Member countries to the effect that the course of action recommended in the Constitutional Contract of the Trust Fund for Social Progress should be pursued and intensified.

98. That proposal was so important that there was room for optimism in hoping that the forthcoming meeting of American Heads of State would, on the one hand, support at the highest level a set of measures designed to strengthen the region's agrarian policy and, in the other, endorse the need for greater foreign financial support for those aims.

99. It was of fundamental importance to define how those resources could be used. Owing to its intrinsic nature, the agricultural financing of the continent required that those resources should be applicable flexibly as regards fields of action, rates of interest, repayment terms, systems of amortization and attention to local costs.

100. The capital-exporting countries should be sufficiently understanding as to enable international public financing to be granted to agriculture on suitable terms, terms which, incidentally, had been persistently pointed out by the developing countries. This did not exclude the thesis that the financing of Latin American development should be substantially the result of national action.

101. In conclusion, he said that the IDB and the Latin American countries were associated in one of the vastest and most difficult processes of our time, namely of creating for a continent in rapid demographic expansion the foundations of a modern agricultural system which, together with the requisites for higher levels of productivity, should meet the requirements of the social justice being demanded by the large rural masses.

102. A number of delegates then put questions to Dr. Herrera who, after answering them, reaffirmed the Bank's policy and outlined its future activities, mainly in the financing of livestock, forestry and marketing development. During the plenary sitting, comments were made expressing satisfaction with the achievements made by the IDB, achievements which had placed it at the forefront of agricultural financing in Latin America. Delegates were confident that it would continue to make an effective contribution to development.

Participants at the Conference

103. The following countries attended the Conference :

Argentina	Mexico
Bolivia	Netherlands
Brazil	Nicaragua
Colombia	Panama
Costa Rica	Paraguay
Chile	Peru
Cuba	Trinidad and Tobago
Dominican Republic	United Kingdom
El Salvador	United States of America
France	Uruguay
Guatemala	Venezuela

104. The following countries were represented by observers :

Canada
Federal Republic of Germany
Holy See
Italy
Spain

105. Representatives attended from the following organizations :

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
Latin-American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES)
United Nations
 Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA)
International Labour Organisation (ILO)
World Health Organization (WHO)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

106. The following organizations were represented by observers :

Latin-American Free Trade Association (LAFTA)
Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
Inter-American Committee for Agricultural Development (ICAD)
Inter-American Committee on the Alliance for Progress (CIAP)
Inter-Governmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM)
Inter-American Council of Commerce and Production (CICYP)
Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences (IICA)
Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN)
Organization of American States (OAS)
Inter-American Regional Organization of Workers of the ICFTU (ORIT)
Catholic International Union for Social Service (CIUSS)
World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO)

107. The names of the delegates, observers and FAO officials present are given in Appendix I to this Report.

Agenda of the Conference

108. The Conference approved the following Agenda :

A. PRELIMINARY SUBJECTS

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen
3. Approval of the agenda and organization of the Conference

B. THE WORK OF FAO AND THE POSITION OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

4. Statement by the Director-General

C. MAIN POLICY QUESTIONS (financial and other problems relating to agricultural development)

5. Financing of agricultural development (general aspects)
 - a) Some general and common problems in financing agricultural development
 - b) Development assistance programs
 - c) Project formulation and the FAO/IBRD and FAO/IDB programs
6. Agrarian reform (financial aspects)
7. Development of human resources, and improvement of institutions and services
8. Major issues in international commodity trade
9. Marketing and storage
10. Agricultural industries
11. Use and distribution of fertilizers
12. Livestock development
13. Forestry and forest industries development
14. Fisheries development
15. World Food Program
16. Indicative World Plan for Agricultural Development

D. FINAL TOPICS

17. The future orientation of FAO's work in the region
18. Date and place of the Tenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America
19. Statement by the Assistant Director-General for Latin American Affairs and Regional Representative
20. Approval of the Report

SUMMARY OF THE DEBATES

FINANCING OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL ASPECTS)

109. On opening its debate on the financing of agricultural development, the Conference established that although the financing of agrarian reform was a separate item of the agenda, both questions were so closely linked that in practice it would be impossible to discuss them separately, since economic and social development were merely two phases of the same process. It was therefore agreed that delegates should have full freedom to refer in their statements on item 5 to those subjects relating to item 6 of the agenda.

110. The Conference considered the general problem of agricultural development financing in the light of past and current experience in the various countries. Some documented contributions on the subject proved useful during the discussions. On the basis of the experiences recounted by various delegations and taking into account the prevalent conditions and trends, it was agreed that if the rate of economic and social development in Latin America was to be stepped up, there was today a greater need than ever for concerted action at the national level which would lead to an acceleration of the annual growth rate of the agricultural sector of the region. The Conference agreed that the main problem facing economic and agricultural development policies in most countries was one of time. Unless the agricultural sector expanded fast enough to meet not only demand but also the requirements imposed by rapid demographic expansion, not to mention the aims to improve the diet, social conditions and standard of living of the bulk of the population, then the hunger and social unrest for which several parts of the region were already notorious would become progressively worse.

111. The Conference considered that the problem of stepping up the development of the agricultural sector within the framework of the conditions prevailing in Latin America was not only a matter of raising the levels of production and income, but also a question of improving social conditions for the rural population. In developing the rural economy of Latin America - on which almost half of the total population depended - the main thing was to raise the cultural, economic and social level of rural families, most of which lived in a state of backwardness and ignorance and, in many instances, under primitive conditions. The Conference therefore concluded that the financing of development under those conditions would truly be a formidable one.

112. The Conference pointed out that the expansion of the production capacity of regional agriculture, which, in short, entailed the need to improve institutional and technological conditions, raise the production capacity of agricultural workers and producers, and progressively increase land resources, was a question which called for ever-greater financing resources within the sector. The bulk of those resources should go to increasing the available amount of capital in terms of fixed assets per person working in agriculture; but a sizeable amount would also have to be devoted to collective welfare work or social investment, and to the endowment of greater funds for recurrent expenditure. This was a process which would have to take place in both the public and the private sector, so as to achieve first the expansion of production and marketing and, second, the essential development of government services and facilities for agricultural producers.

113. The extent of the effort to be made to accelerate the development of regional agriculture was indicated by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America who pointed out that, on the basis of provisional estimates, financing requirements over the next fifteen years would amount on average to about 3,000-3,500 million dollars per annum. Since the estimates referred to were purely provisional, the Conference invited the countries of the region systematically to collect data and information concerning public as well as private savings and investment in the agricultural sector. This would enable a more precise quantitative estimate to be made of the amount of financial resources each country would require to promote and bring about the rapid development of its agricultural sector.

114. Delegations agreed that the financing resources required should for the most part be obtained from local sources. Local resources would, furthermore, play a decisive part in future efforts to accelerate development. Be that as it may, the Conference showed concern about the enormous gap between the amount of financial resources needed and those immediately available. Foreign financing, which was in any case of a complementary nature for speeding up development, was relatively scarce, particularly if allowance were made for the urgency of producing more foodstuffs and raising the purchasing power. Consequently, it was decided that foreign investment should be increased considerably over the coming years, both for financing the growing need for the import of capital goods and for complementing domestic savings efforts.

115. The Conference stressed that it would not be possible to promote more rapid development if foreign investment remained at the same level as in recent years, i.e. slightly under 125 million dollars per annum for the agricultural sector of the region

as a whole. To bridge the gap, several alternatives were proposed: first, an intensification of the inflow of internal resources into the public and private sectors and the adoption of policy measures to that end; second, the fullest possible utilization of opportunities to increase the flow of foreign resources, whether from financing agencies or private sources; and finally, integral planning, with programs and flexible goals which would allow for the readjustment of planned operations in keeping with the actual resources available and the progress made in the implementation of each program.

116. The Conference also noted the basic role played by international commodity trade as a source of foreign financing and, to that end, requested the Director-General of FAO to consider the possibility of entering into greater contact with the appropriate international agencies with a view to pursuing the studies of new methods of foreign financing for international trade.

117. The Conference agreed that the question of encouraging a greater flow of foreign private capital towards the agricultural sector was one which each country should examine and decide individually in the light of its policy in the field of investment for national development and economic expansion.

118. With regard to increasing internal revenue resources, delegations called attention to the usefulness of refashioning tax systems, strengthening the re-distributive nature of fiscal policies and duly increasing the amount of public investment and expenditure on: improving agrarian infrastructures, administering agricultural development, creating economic and social incentives for the agricultural producer, improving the nutritional position of the vulnerable sectors of the population as a whole, and improving other conditions which affected the life of the rural population of the region and the productive efficiency of the agricultural sector.

119. With regard to internal financing, attention was also drawn to the possibilities of increasing the social capital of the rural sector by means of unpaid voluntary work in mutual assistance and community development programs, and of increasing the individual capital of the producer through works beneficial to the value of his property and carried out with his own unpaid labour and with the co-operation of family and neighbours.

120. It was agreed that while the securing of a greater amount of capital per agricultural worker called for a greater flow of savings towards agricultural investment, the expansion of financial resources to meet the needs of greater production and the improvement of services to the agricultural worker also implied, on the one hand, the provision of higher budgetary allocations to reinforce basic services and, on the other, a stronger organization of as well as greater resources for agricultural credit systems.

121. The Conference also stressed that investments for improving the infrastructure and for modernizing outmoded systems of land tenure were essential for improving the distribution of earnings among farmers. Recent experience had shown, some delegations said, that a better distribution of income among the agricultural sector of the population helped to generate a higher degree of savings and investment within the sector and eventually became a powerful dynamic force in the process of agricultural development. Consequently, when agricultural growth rates were found to be inadequate, it was important to devote attention to policy measures that were likely to rectify the distribution of land and of agricultural earnings.

122. The Conference particularly stressed that the agricultural and livestock economy of the region should be the main lever for development. That being the case, it was essential that the greatest possible amount of earnings generated by agricultural and livestock activities should be reinvested within the sector so as not to handicap it. Inadequate systems of land ownership which permitted continual and massive displacement of income towards other sectors of the economy, and very often the squandering of it on luxury goods and the flight of capital abroad, openly conspired against such ends.

123. The Conference examined with interest several cases where structural improvement policies had been applied, resulting in stimulating effects on the behaviour of peasants and bringing about community organization for self-help. Self-help had come to have a genuine significance so far as savings and investment rates were concerned, without

demanding an equivalent participation of monetary financing. Unpaid self-help in collective undertakings appeared to be a useful tool for raising capital in developing areas.

124. On the basis of experience gained in some countries, it was noted that political stability, administrative efficiency and monetary stability were fundamental factors for encouraging and speeding development. Given those ingredients, together with the formulation of general and sectorial development programs with realistic goals and a clear though flexible definition of priorities, suitable conditions might be brought about to achieve the higher level of resources needed for financing the economic and social development of the agricultural sector.

125. Referring to experience gained in the countries of the region, the Conference stressed the importance of institutional agricultural credit in the question of financing. By reinforcing that system of credit and adapting it, in operational terms, to the idiosyncrasies of the peasantry in each country, surprising results might be achieved, both in efficiency in the use of credits and in the rechannelling and strengthening of rural savings. Integrated forms of agricultural credit and technical assistance to the producer should similarly be taken into account as methods which had proved useful in furthering the process of improvement of the sector. The new spirit of association and co-operation generated by the adoption of certain policies for improving structures, also served as a powerful means of reinforcing the machinery and organization of agricultural credit. Delegations spoke of the merits of certain measures designed to promote co-operatives and joint-action associations in furthering dissemination of institutional agricultural credit, especially among small farmers. Through such action, and with the help of policy measures designed to improve marketing and to create economic incentives for the efficient producer, non-institutional agricultural credit - which is disadvantageous from the point of view of the peasant's economy and that of rural development - would soon be banished. It was in the interests of each country to take whatever action was needed to achieve that objective.

126. In establishing priorities for financing agricultural development, a long-term approach should be adopted for production expansion to meet both internal demand and export requirements. It was generally agreed that import replacement policies should come to an end and that production financing should primarily take into account regional co-operation and economic integration programs and agreements.

127. With regard to investment priorities, the Conference also decided to recommend to participating countries that in framing their plans for increasing production they should carefully examine which measures would give the most positive results in the short term: increasing the productivity of land already in use, or incorporating new areas by means of irrigation or settlement. In so doing, they should bear in mind that in certain circumstances it was useful to achieve productivity increases in the short term for they were higher than those attainable through the invariably lengthy process of exploiting new areas.

128. Delegations generally accepted the need for more flexible and rapid procedures for the dissemination of institutional agricultural credit among the rural population; they further agreed that international or bilateral financing bodies should also examine formulae to allow for greater flexibility and speed in their loan procedures. It was also hoped that those bodies would consider the possible advantages to recipient countries of foreign financial aid based on programs, as well as for specific projects. The countries concerned could thus ensure continuity in the implementation of both programs and development projects. Circumstances relating to the balance of payments and to fluctuations in foreign trade sometimes led to the untimely interruption of such programs, an occurrence which could cause the rate of development to fall. Program financing would be more in keeping with the need to achieve without undue delay the goals established for the development of the sector and of the economy in general.

129. Considering the need to attain the goals of inter-American economic co-operation and integration, except in the case of countries that had not joined the movement, the Conference underlined the advantage of future co-ordination and consistency between financing within the agricultural sector - and particularly State action to that end - and the principle of multinational co-operation and integration. In weighing political

decisions concerning goals and objectives for the development of the agricultural sector, it should be borne in mind that the ultimate aim was to promote the faster development of each and every one of the countries within the region and not just the isolated development of each individual country. With that aim in view, delegations considered it would be useful if FAO, in preparing its studies for an Indicative World Plan for Agricultural Development, particularly in so far as it related to Latin America, were to examine the long-term advantages of regionalizing and zoning specialized areas for the production of important products; such a course would serve as a basis for appropriate agreements between the various countries within the framework of regional integration.

130. Another important aspect of financing development which held the attention of delegations, and which derived from experience gained in several countries, was the shortage of specialized manpower for the tasks of agricultural development. Training in all kinds of work at all levels was an essential prerequisite - an emerging need which must be met at an increasing rate. Delegations noted with satisfaction that FAO and other international bodies were offering training facilities in various aspects relating to development and financing within the agricultural sector. They were also pleased to note the assistance given by FAO to improve agricultural credit systems. Delegations showed interest in the new courses contemplated by FAO for 1967 in the field of planning for agricultural development, courses which for the first time were also to be given in Spanish. Part of the curriculum included training in the preparation and evaluation of agricultural projects. The courses would be offered to a limited number of students and their purpose was to train experts of a high professional level holding positions of responsibility in competent agricultural development agencies. Candidates would be selected by each government and upon their return to their respective countries would help to train other experts.

131. The Conference further agreed that it would be useful if FAO were to take part - together with the United Nations Development Program (Special Fund) - in general pre-investment study projects designed to facilitate the overall development of those areas in which the most favourable conditions in Latin America were to be found. In that respect, the international financing bodies should make long-term credits available at low interest for the area development projects resulting from such pre-investment studies.

132. FAO co-operation with international financing institutions under the FAO/IBRD and FAO/IDB programs was considered of great importance. Special emphasis was placed on the technical assistance which FAO was giving to such institutions to foster the agricultural development of the region.

133. It was pointed out that a large-scale exchange of information would be useful regarding the policies pursued by both financing institutions and the kind of projects which might interest them. The value of a co-ordinated approach regarding foreign investment in agriculture was recognized. Such a plan might range from the analysis of agricultural programs to an exchange of views on the methodology applied.

134. Several delegations insisted that greater importance should be given to the financing of programs rather than to isolated projects. In that respect, projects financed with external aid should correspond to a complex of investments falling within the priorities of development programs; it was pointed out that the financing of programs or of well-defined groups of projects in the field of agricultural credit offered an opportunity to combine the project approach with the program approach. Furthermore, project financing could in certain cases be considered as an important step in the program financing of the sector as a whole.

135. With regard to the problems of identifying and preparing specific projects, it was pointed out that evaluation by the financing institutions called for sound definition of the project, its objectives, proof of its technical and economic feasibility, an outline of its institutional framework and especially of the work of the program of which it formed part, as well as the supporting financial ability of the country concerned. The definition of objectives required that the project be included in the

national development program, that it be realistic and that its link with the programs be clearly established, bearing in mind all pertinent considerations of a national and international nature. Once the FAO Indicative World Plan had been worked out, it would provide a useful guide to that end.

136. The information required for evaluating projects should be specifically intended for the financing institutions; there were gaps in many of the feasibility studies undertaken in several field programs, because the economical and financing limitations had not been taken into consideration. Studies limited only to technical feasibility did not constitute an adequate ground for external financing. It was essential to view realistically the economic implications of a project and the whole series of measures - ranging from price policies to administrative changes - necessary for success. The lack of sufficient counterpart personnel and, in some cases, of an adequate institutional framework for the preparation of projects, meant that co-operative programs had to help government staff to fill those gaps and to direct field studies from beginning to end.

137. The criteria for assisting in the identification and preparation of projects (which also implied assistance in establishing priorities) required flexibility and allowance for the differences between countries, even though the criteria on which loans were approved were, perforce, uniform. In all cases, the institutional framework and the procedures for the preparation of projects must be taken into account, and the personnel assigned to the programs would have to observe them closely. Whilst the financing institutions had a strong interest in ensuring that the best possible use was made of national and foreign resources and placed emphasis on that aspect in their selection of projects, applications for financing and the implementation of projects obviously depended on the will of the governments which had to ensure that the loans reached the recipients on the easy terms generally required.

138. Delegates expressed the hope that the programs and projects would help to diversify the economies of the countries of the region. Briefly, the FAO/IDB and FAO/IBRD programs should explore different ways and different fields in which national and foreign financing might be usefully combined. Rates of interest, terms and other conditions should be established in such a way that both financing sources could be utilized for the benefit of all types of farmers, so enabling their investments to complement one another as well as the efforts of the community.

139. The countries of the region were greatly interested in obtaining foreign financial support to speed their social and economic development, but the lack of personnel having the specialized knowledge to prepare projects fulfilling the conditions required by the financial institutions had hampered the full utilization of the available foreign resources. A revision of those conditions and the training of personnel might make for better-prepared projects and help to ensure their subsequent acceptance.

140. Lastly, considering the importance of the FAO/IDB and FAO/IBRD programs, delegates were confident that FAO would try to stimulate international financing as a necessary complement to the efforts being made by the countries of the region to overcome their underdevelopment. To achieve that aim specific fields of action should be taken into consideration: for instance, the financing of (i) the investments required to raise the income of the small rural producers who benefit by the change in the agrarian structures; (ii) crop marketing, so as to ensure fair prices and market security; (iii) agro-industrial integration to promote the processing of farm products as a way of widening the markets of both sectors; and (iv) all the productive activities of the rural sector and of the industries and services linked to it.

141. The Conference noted with satisfaction the arrangements recently made between CIAP and FAO. The CIAP representative reiterated to the Conference the Director-General's assertion that FAO would participate actively in the annual country reviews made by CIAP. The experience of FAO would be most useful to that end. In the above-mentioned task, CIAP had been receiving help from ECLA, IDB, IBRD and of the Pan-American Health Organization and was also trying to establish a similar agreement with the United Nations Development Program.

142. The CIAP representative also stated that CIAP examined such programs for several reasons, one of them being to help secure the external technical and financing assistance needed by the countries to complement their own efforts. In that respect, the "Fulbright Amendment" to the 1966 Foreign Aid Act of the United States had established that the Latin American countries would receive financial co-operation from the United States Government under the Alliance for Progress, if their policies and programs had been studied by CIAP; and that such financial aid would be given in accordance with CIAP recommendations.

143. The Director-General informed the Conference of his proposal to create an Agricultural Requisites Program; if adopted, the Program would seek to procure for the developing countries fertilizers, seeds and light equipment to boost the rate of increase of their agricultural production. The bulk of the Program - about 500 million dollars - would be made available bilaterally, but provision had also been made to establish a 50-million-dollar program which would be administered direct by FAO. Under the proposed program, FAO experience and the services of its experts would be utilized to the full.

144. Questions were asked as to the origin of the program resources, the link between the program and other aid programs and the extent to which results obtained in wider FAO research programs such as the Indicative World Plan would be applied. The Conference was informed that all those questions would be examined as part of a broader study of the problem, which FAO would be making in conjunction with other interested organizations. Details of that study and FAO's contribution to its achievement would have to be considered by a Committee consisting of twenty Member States and set up by the Council to advise the Director-General. The Committee would hold its first meeting in January 1967.

145. With regard to the financing of agricultural and livestock development, the Conference pointed out that the importance of certain external financing methods for projects and specific programs such as those financed by the World Food Program, joint UN/FAO program, and other similar multilateral or bilateral programs, should not be underestimated.

146. The Conference approved the following recommendations :

Recommendation 1/66 ^{*/}

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

the need to ensure that loans granted by the various international financing institutions for financing agricultural development plans are issued in a co-ordinated manner;

the need for Latin American countries to have at their disposal the fullest possible information concerning the various financing channels and the ways of access to them;

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1. The Cuban delegation reserved its position (see paragraph 311).
 2. The French delegation declared that it could not associate itself with the recommendation since it considered that international aid should be linked with an awareness of the problems on the part of the countries themselves and that the co-ordination of such aid was a matter exclusively for the recipient country or group of countries.

that FAO has just completed highly satisfactory co-operative agreements with IBRD and IDB for the identification, preparation and implementation of agricultural development projects, and with CIAP for the constant reviewing of the respective programs;

that several countries of the region do not have at the national level sufficient personnel trained in the formulation of agricultural and livestock projects;

Recommends the Director-General of FAO

(1) that through such co-operative programs an attempt should be made to harmonize methods of evaluating projects and conditions and procedures for financing agricultural development;

(2) that such programs should also make available to the countries in the Region all the information necessary for obtaining international loans to finance their agricultural development projects;

(3) to make available to the Latin American countries a greater number of courses for training in the preparation and evaluation of agricultural and livestock projects, in order to provide those countries with a greater number of technicians qualified for these tasks.

Recommendation 2/66

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

that the Latin American countries are pledged to the dynamic and balanced development of their natural resources with a view to ensuring the rational and efficient exploitation thereof;

that the lack of internal resources is preventing large areas from being properly developed and in some instances keeping them totally underdeveloped, thereby retarding economic development;

Recommends

the Director-General of FAO

to consider in collaboration with the United Nations Special Fund the implementation of area pre-investment projects for preparing firm technical and financial feasibility studies;

the international financing bodies

to consider the possibility of granting long-term loans at low interest for integral area development programs based on the aforementioned pre-investment studies with a view to implementing in order of priority various programs of action in areas offering greater potential for development in Latin America.

147. Certain aspects of the FAO/Industries Co-operative Program were considered briefly insofar as they affected the financing of agricultural development. The meeting was reminded that in his opening statement the Director-General had already indicated that under the Freedom from Hunger Campaign private industries in developed countries were co-operating with FAO to accelerate development mainly through investment.

In this undertaking, three partners were involved:

- (a) FAO provided early information on investment needs and prospects;
- (b) Industry supplied managers, know-how and capital;
- (c) Governments, if they wished, attracted industry by improving the investment climate - mainly by eliminating apparently small obstacles and delays.

There had been some early results (with CORFO in Chile, for instance), but feasibility gaps remained: doubts regarding investment climate and needs for consortia.

The Conference was informed that FAO could help as follows:

(1) By making feasibility studies during and after pre-investment surveys. The Special Fund had reached a decision and had informed FAO of its willingness to cover the cost of feasibility studies whenever needed. An information circular setting out conditions, methods and procedures for such feasibility studies would be prepared and sent to interested governments and industries.

(2) By initiating correspondence, questionnaires or industrial missions regarding investment climate. But industrial missions needed preparation, e.g. priority lists or even project suggestions.

(3) By initiating contact between industry and banks.

The Conference expressed considerable interest in the new program and several delegations stressed that the mobilization of private industry under the Freedom from Hunger Campaign in support of greater food production and accelerated agricultural development constituted an important addition to FAO's activities.

In response to specific questions, it was pointed out that the resolution establishing the new United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) stressed as a basic principle that duplication of the work of other specialized agencies including FAO should be avoided. Accordingly, FAO planned to continue and expand its work with agro-allied industries, particularly those processing raw materials from farms, forests and the sea, and to maintain close ties of continuous co-operation with input and distribution industries such as the manufacturers of fertilizers, farm machinery, pesticides, and refrigeration and packaging equipment.

The Conference stated its belief that agro-allied industries could make a major contribution to the accelerated expansion of food and agricultural raw material production and that their establishment should be planned and organized in keeping with the development and exploitation of renewable resources.

The Conference also noted with approval the Director-General's desire that FAO should co-operate in the World Symposium on Industrialization scheduled for December 1967.

AGRARIAN REFORM (FINANCIAL ASPECTS)

148. Before the topic of agrarian reform was considered by the Conference as a whole, an informal working group was established, its purpose being to develop appropriate guidelines which individual delegations might use in stating their positions at the plenary sitting. Several aspects of the agrarian reform problem were considered by the working group and later enlarged upon in plenary. Many delegations offered data to demonstrate the serious shortcomings of the defective systems of land tenure and income distribution which were responsible for high rural unemployment and poverty, social and political backwardness, irrational land use militating against the conservation of natural resources, and the lack of improvements in agricultural production. The scope of agrarian reform programs now under way in countries of the region was also described, with special emphasis on issues directly associated with the financing of the reform.

149. Reference was again made to recommendations of past FAO conferences affirming that the reform of agrarian structures was a prerequisite of accelerated economic and social development. The inhibiting nature of traditional land tenure structures in which latifundio and minifundio predominated was stressed by various speakers. Although some delegates believed that structural problems were less acute in their countries, or were already being solved by agrarian reform programs, it was generally agreed that land tenure reforms were still of key importance to Latin American development.

150. In estimating the extent of the region's agrarian reform problem, the Conference took note of the studies on land tenure systems conducted by the Inter-American Committee for Agricultural Development (ICAD). In the countries studied - Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala and Peru - a little over seven million rural families could be considered as potential beneficiaries of agrarian reform programs. In the region as a whole, it was estimated that at least ten million families would qualify; these were families with insufficient land and precarious tenure arrangements, and the landless workers. Failure to give priority to programs for improving the situation of such families was severely jeopardizing the economic development potential of the region.

151. The Conference recognized that major reforms had been initiated in only a few countries since the adoption of the Punta del Este Charter in 1961, and that those reforms had affected only a fraction of the net natural increase in the number of rural families. That meant that the number of potential beneficiaries was today considerably greater than a decade ago.

152. The Conference noted the study of agrarian reform financing which was already being made in five countries of the region under joint FAO/IDB sponsorship. The study had been initiated in pursuance of the recommendation of the Eighth Regional Conference at Viña del Mar. The Conference resolution had requested FAO to expand and strengthen such studies in other countries of the region.

153. The Conference stressed that the possibilities for internal financing of large-scale agrarian reform programs depended on the priority the latter were given in national development plans. The real costs of land reform to the economy were small since they were essentially redistributive, passing land and the power which accompanies land-ownership from one social group to another. Small producers and landless agricultural workers became the principal beneficiaries when traditional landowners had to give up some of their land and privileges. Society as a whole could expect to benefit from the reform through the more efficient use of land and labour resources and through better integration of the rural population into the development process and national goals. When the agrarian structure was faulty, much of the agricultural land and labour remained partly or totally unused; reforms enabled them to be used economically for more intensive production than at present. Substantial manpower was available from the ten million low-income rural families now only partly employed for most of the year. Widespread malnutrition, both rural and urban, and rapidly increasing imports of foodstuffs in recent years, were cited to demonstrate the existence of potential markets for greater farm production.

154. One of the main limiting factors to the implementation of agrarian reform programs was the relative scarcity of qualified personnel, both administrative and technical. The strains upon administrative machinery might be greatly reduced if the beneficiaries were organized to play an active part in the reform and to assume major responsibilities in the process through their unions, co-operatives and political institutions.

155. The Conference emphasized the advantages of land reform over the other redistributive measures applicable in most nonindustrialized countries. Measures such as progressive taxation and social security required more sophisticated and effective civil services and administrative institutions in rural areas than were available in most countries of the region.

156. It was agreed that the types of agrarian reforms sought by the countries of the region eventually required considerable new investment in credit, education, marketing, roads and other infrastructure services, to enable the new landowners to contribute to more rapid economic growth; in that sense, the reforms were meant to be as "integral" as possible. The net additional costs of such programs were, however, sometimes exaggerated. Much of the investment needed could be obtained by rechanneling resources already available. Thus, agricultural credit was now available almost exclusively to large owners, many of whom used it for low-priority investment and luxury spending; it could instead be rechanneled to smallholders for productive investment with relatively high short-term returns. Similarly, some of the resources now spent on education, housing and roads, etc., could be rechanneled to meet many of the requirements for converting the beneficiaries of land reform into productive farmers.

157. The Conference called particular attention to the need for massive efforts to train properly the peasantry and technical cadres responsible for administering the reforms. Training - both of technicians and of the peasantry - lay at the heart of successful reform and of accelerated development, and could be improved and hastened forward by appropriate international aid. The Conference expressed its satisfaction with the efforts so far expended by FAO in assisting the IICA Agrarian Reform Training Institute at Bogota and in administering the UNDP project at Santiago (ICIRA).

158. Considerable discussion, both in the working group and at subsequent plenary sittings, centred around deferred payments to former owners in respect of land affected by reforms. Although reservations were made by some delegations concerning the need to postpone full settlement for expropriated lands, the general resolution approved by the Conference regarding domestic and foreign financing of agrarian reforms proposed deferred payment as one of the means of financing the reform.

159. The Conference also discussed other aspects of domestic financing - particularly those relating to agricultural taxation and repayments made by beneficiaries of the reform. When well administered, higher land taxes had the twofold advantage of inducing more intensive land use and increasing revenues available for agrarian reform and related projects. Beneficiaries could help to finance the reform in several ways: they could be directly assessed for land, water, credit, etc., or taxed - like other producers - on their lands, output or earnings. In any event, payments had to be commensurate with the need to assist the beneficiary groups rapidly to capitalize their new farm units.

160. Several delegations offered evidence that production had increased during the period when their agrarian reform had been put into effect. Venezuela, for instance, had experienced increases of 5-7 percent per annum in total output since the commencement of its reform.

161. Repeated attention was given by the Conference to the effects of trade balances and terms of trade between Latin America and the main consumers of its raw materials. Improvement in the volume and the prices of commercial exports from the region would obviate the need for much of the present foreign assistance for land reform and other development programs. The inter-relationship of trade and aid, although dealt with in greater detail at other sittings, was specifically noted by the Conference in relation to the problem of land reform financing.

162. The Conference heard some of the difficulties of using international finance in land reform programs. For instance, few agrarian reform projects could be made to pay for themselves within the period that typical "bricks and mortar" projects could. As a rule, Governments had to recuperate the cost of reform programs by raising taxes, lowering the costs of other programs, or through the inflation-offsetting effect of higher production. In those respects, land reform required the same long-term view and recognition of indirect benefits as investments in education and health programs. It was noted that international finance agencies had observed regulations which restricted their support for the domestic costs of programs, by confining their financing to imported components.

163. The difficulties occasionally imposed by certain requirements of the international finance agencies were noted by the Conference. Although demands for project "perfection", for instance, might have the laudable aim of improving program planning and implementation, some delegations hinted that the opposite was the result: the best personnel dealt with formal activities which contributed nothing to the reforms but merely increased administrative costs and delays.

164. The Conference observed that some problems were traceable to a preference by some international agencies for financing "projects" rather than "programs". Such a procedure often obliged the reform agencies to invest in lower-priority projects when funds could be used more advantageously on other aspects of the reform program.

165. The following recommendations were approved:

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Recommendation 3/66

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

the fundamental importance of agrarian reform as an indispensable prerequisite for the agricultural development, industrialization and general welfare of the countries of the region;

the obligation to pursue on a massive scale the integral agrarian reforms already initiated or about to be initiated in some countries of the region;

the need to make those agrarian reform programs truly national undertakings involving the entire economy of the country concerned and having prior claim upon the resources of the public sector;

that agrarian reform above all means changing structures through redistribution of the land and of the rights inherent in its ownership, in favour of peasants and rural workers;

Recommends

to Governments of the region

(1) that in formulating general economic policies, and especially in planning public expenditure, the priority accorded to agrarian reform should be in keeping with the decisive contribution made by such reforms to the general development of those countries of the region which suffer from inadequate land tenure structure and poor land use;

*/ Argentina, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and France stated reservations to this recommendation, as follows:

The Argentine delegation stated that:

"it made reservations to this recommendation, and particularly to item 2 (to Governments of the region), since it contravenes the relevant legal provisions in force in the country."

The United Kingdom delegation stated that:

"it wished to make known its reservations regarding the deferred payment of expropriations mentioned in operative Paragraph 2 of the recommendation. It believes that the ways and means of such processes should be studied in each individual case since they fall within the competence of the respective governments, and that the adoption of the text of this recommendation does not imply the approval of any specific form of payment."

The delegation of the Netherlands stated that it:

"reserves its position regarding the second sentence of item 2 of the recommendation referring to the deferred payment of expropriated land."

The French delegation stated that:

"(1) The approval of the wording of item 4 regarding the effects of international commodity trade should be interpreted in the light of the statement made by the French delegation during the discussion of item 8 of the agenda.

"(2) Governments are solely responsible for determining their own agrarian reform policy."

(2) that financing for the purchase of land for redistribution must come from domestic resources, particularly those originating as a result of changes in the structure of the agricultural sector itself. This may be achieved by deferring payment for expropriated lands. Each country should seek ways of bringing about this change without incurring foreign debts and without financially neutralizing the social and economic effects of redistribution sought through the introduction of structural changes;

(3) once there has been full utilization of potential internal resources, including human resources and community co-operation as well as financial resources, foreign financing might help support investments needed by beneficiaries of the agrarian reform. Such investments should form part of an integrated agricultural development plan;

(4) besides direct foreign financing, the most important source of foreign funds should be through higher earnings from commercial trade. The deterioration in the terms of trade between Latin American countries and major consumers of their basic products, is removing a substantial proportion of the earnings generated within the region which might otherwise be channeled into the financing of processes such as agrarian reform;

to the Director-General of FAO

(1) to insist that the international financial and technical assistance agencies adapt the volume and types of credit granted, as well as their operating criteria, to the countries' agrarian reform programs in order to achieve more effective utilization of loans. It is particularly important that the international credit institutions should approve financing on the basis of programs, thus ensuring continuity in the implementation of complementary projects. With regard to those programs, special emphasis should be given to assistance in training rural workers on a massive scale;

(2) that FAO and other international organizations should promote the carrying out and extension of studies on the financing of each country's agrarian reform.

Recommendation 4/66 ^{*/}

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

that the Eighth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America, held at Viña del Mar, Chile, in 1965, recommended that a study be made of the possibility of establishing the Latin American Institute of Research and Training for Agrarian Reform, taking into account the support offered by the Government of Venezuela and giving due consideration to the work done by the Inter-American Centre for Agrarian Reform (IICA-ICAR), established in Bogota, Colombia, by the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences with the assistance of the OAS Technical Co-operation Program, and the co-operation of the National University of Colombia and the Colombian Institute of Agrarian Reform;

that the report on the "Measures taken to comply with the recommendations of the Eighth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America, 1965" establishes among other measures the possibility of enlarging the work done by the Inter-American Centre for Agrarian Reform already created by the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences in Colombia;

*/ The Cuban delegation reserved its position (see paragraph 311).

that thanks to the work done by the Inter-American Centre for Agrarian Reform of the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences, the establishment of National Centres of Training and Studies on Agrarian Reform, such as CENRA in Peru and CIERA in Ecuador has been promoted and steps are being taken to establish new ones;

that the measures taken by FAO, UNDP and IDB to strengthen ICIRA in Santiago, Chile, have fostered and facilitated the training of many technicians from various nations of the region;

that it is useful to co-ordinate the action of United Nations agencies and Inter-American bodies in order to concentrate efforts and strengthen the task assigned to the already established international centres;

that the Director-General of FAO said in his statement to the Ninth Regional Conference (LARC/66/CONF/1) that he will sign a co-operation agreement with the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences, thereby increasing conditions favourable to the co-ordination of efforts and the strengthening of the work being done by the Inter-American Centre for Agrarian Reform (IICA-ICAR) established in Bogota, Colombia;

Agrees

to express its satisfaction for the work done by FAO, UNDP and the IDB to strengthen the ICIRA, Santiago, Chile, thereby substantially increasing the facilities for training in agrarian reform in several countries of the region;

Recommends to the Director-General of FAO

that in view of the provisions of the Agreement of Co-operation with the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences, announced by the Director-General, FAO should co-ordinate to a greater extent the action which both institutions are taking in the field of training and research in agrarian reform, so that this co-operative action should benefit the national centres already established or to be established in future;

Similarly, that FAO should try, through its available resources or those which may be obtained from other sources, to participate in extending and strengthening the activities of the Inter-American Centre for Agrarian Reform (IICA-ICAR), established in Bogota, Colombia, in order to increase the services required by the governments of the region.

DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND IMPROVEMENT OF RURAL SERVICES AND INSTITUTIONS

166. The Conference debated this subject at length and concluded that a more steady and rapid development of agriculture and livestock production was not possible without paying due attention to an integral but realistic and efficient development of human resources and a rationalized improvement in the structure and operation of basic rural institutions and services. It was pointed out that internal investment and foreign financial aid could not achieve the desired success if the institutional machinery for their application was faulty.

167. Consequently proper organization of institutions and services, agricultural teaching and training, extension, research work, credit facilities, distribution of inputs and marketing should be given priority in the distribution of resources for development. Such institutions and services would, of course, be unable to achieve their aims unless they had enough qualified staff and unless the rural population, especially agricultural producers, employers and workers, had the necessary education and training.

168. The Conference was given an analysis of the situation of the agricultural sector in several countries, particularly concerning human resources; the analysis revealed a low level of education and training and a scarcity of staff trained to a level whereby the objectives of their plans might be achieved. The Conference stressed the need for a real understanding of the role played by education and training in the institutional organization of the developing countries. The intelligence of the population was the greatest potential resource of any country, and education was the means of developing it. Education was therefore the truest and most realistic answer to the problem of hunger and poverty. The hunger and under-development map coincided not with the map of natural resources but with the degree of education and training of the population. For this reason, the Conference was of the opinion that investment in the development of material resources would have but scant results unless it were accompanied by complementary investment in the development of human resources.

169. The Conference noted that although a certain amount of progress was being made within the Latin American region in the development of training and teaching institutions for agriculture and nutrition, the situation was still far from satisfactory. It also endorsed the conclusion reached at the Eighth Regional Conference, namely that education should be accorded high priority, second only to the introduction of the changes needed in the agrarian structure.

170. The Conference noted the fact that there was no balanced development of agricultural education and training. Besides the inadequacy of university training in the region, even worse faults were discernible in the training of medium-level or technical staff and in the qualifications of low-level staff, including the great mass of workers in the agricultural, forestry and fishery sectors. It was decided that, within existing financial possibilities, national and regional seminars should be promoted to give guidance for the development of those levels of agricultural education.

171. The Conference noted with satisfaction the results of the studies made simultaneously by the Inter-American Committee for Agricultural Development (ICAD) in the fields of agricultural education, extension and research. So far as education was concerned, they would serve to prepare comprehensive plans for the co-ordinated development of all three branches and, through those plans, to establish which projects should have priority in foreign aid programs for agricultural education. Accordingly, the Conference expressed its support for the ICAD studies on agricultural education, extension and research work, and suggested that FAO and other organizations participating in the project should continue to co-operate to the extent of their available resources in such countries as so requested.

172. The Conference considered, however, that it was not enough just to study the situation at a given moment of time; because of the dynamic nature of the situation, particularly at the lowest levels of training, the various ministries of agriculture should have at least one expert on human resources responsible for making systematic probes into staff requirements in both the public and the private sector, as well as in the agricultural, forestry and fisheries production sectors and those concerned with the marketing and processing of agricultural products. To that end, the Conference thought it advisable to hold regional seminars at which national officers might discuss suitable principles and methods of carrying out such work.

173. The Conference particularly stressed the importance of organizing facilities for training farmers and rural workers in close co-ordination with extension services, communal action and credit services, co-operatives and similar institutions.

174. On this same subject, the Conference pointed out the advantages of encouraging private institutions such as rural workers' associations in each country to lend their support to agricultural training and teaching programs and to appreciate the importance of co-ordinating and guiding their educational activities through properly trained leaders. In that respect, it would be useful to hold an exchange of experiences between countries of the region.

175. The Conference stressed the urgent need to promote rural radio broadcasting as an aid to agricultural development since it was one of the most efficient ways of disseminating technical information about markets and other matters of interest to inhabitants who could not easily be reached by other means either because they were very scattered and did not receive newspapers or other informative material, or because they were cut off by language barriers. The Conference asked FAO and the United Nations Development Program to help countries within the region to organize an efficient system of rural broadcasting by providing experts in the establishment of systems, and to assist in the organization of national and regional seminars and of institutes for training local staff in rural broadcasting.

176. Concerning investment in programs for rural youth, the Conference agreed that one way to ensure a greater degree of interest in the teaching of agriculture and nutrition was to interest young people, particularly in rural areas, in the problems they would have to face and the decisive role they would have to play in the process of economic and social development. It was emphasized that because of the remarkable increase of the young element in the Latin American and Caribbean populations as a result of rapid demographic growth, it had to be recognized that the responsibility for building a new society rested mainly with the younger generation.

177. The Conference considered the Young World Appeal made by FAO to be an effective step towards promoting the more active participation of world youth in general development activities. It was generally agreed that the Young World Project for Food and Development, launched under the auspices of the World Freedom from Hunger Campaign and generously subsidized by private enterprise, would enable FAO to promote the planning and implementation of a broad program for the intensification of extra-curricular activities for rural youth, thus assigning to the latter a more decisive role in the improvement of agriculture and the development of rural areas in the developing countries.

178. Consequently, the Conference acknowledged and supported the Preliminary Report of the Regional Seminar for Latin America of the Young World Project for Food and Development, held in Lima, Peru, from 21 to 26 November 1966; the report contained the principles of the project, the conclusions reached by the Seminar and the courses of action to be adopted.

179. The Regional Conference received and approved the Report of the Informal Meeting of the World Freedom from Hunger Campaign, held simultaneously on Monday, 12 December (see Appendix II of the present document).

180. The Regional Conference noted the desire expressed by one delegation (United States of America) to the effect that at the next FAO Regional Conference for Latin America the activities and plans of the World Freedom from Hunger Campaign should be discussed formally during the plenary sittings.

181. The Conference noted that although progress had been made in some countries of the region as regards the development of agricultural research institutes - progress in which foreign co-operation had played a valuable part - there was still much to be done if they were to make the necessary contribution to the achievement of agricultural development goals. A phase of institutional development was needed, during which those institutes might organize themselves effectively, secure highly qualified personnel and obtain the resources required for their operation; failing this, it was unlikely that they would give the expected results. It was of the utmost importance to guide research in such a way that it dealt not only with the specific problems of the producer but also with those which had the greatest impact for raising productivity. To that end, research work should not be confined to isolated conclusions on each aspect of specific soil, plant or animal problems, but should also include the economic application of results within a rational system of agricultural and livestock management. Otherwise, extension services would encounter difficulties in convincing farmers of its usefulness.

182. The Conference considered the fact that, although the amount of technical information at present available throughout the world was of tremendous value to all countries, its validity had constantly to be checked against a new set of physical, biological, economic and social factors. The introduction of new agricultural techniques in turn generated changes which posed new local problems - problems which had to be solved through research. It was therefore necessary to have local research institutions and scientific personnel who knew how, under what conditions, and why techniques created elsewhere had been developed, the limitations of those techniques, their possible applications, their relationship with other associated fields and how they might affect the economic organization of agricultural undertakings. For those reasons it was considered essential that permanent institutions should be set up to allow for steady progress.

183. If such research were to make its expected contribution towards agricultural development, it should be assigned an adequate share of the foreign and internal financing devoted to agricultural development in general. Financial bodies and international organizations could play an important part in developing agricultural research by supporting it steadily throughout the process of formation and consolidation. Each institute should be considered as a unit when help was offered for its systematic and integral development; it was no good supporting only the implementation of parts of specific projects in institutes whose basic organization was faulty.

184. The Conference analyzed the conditions of agricultural undertakings within the region and concluded that owing to the prevailing nature of the agrarian structure and other limiting factors, most undertakings tended to remain in a state of inertia because they lacked the capacity to act dynamically by incorporating or copying technical innovations. Consequently, the State had to take upon itself the promotion and development of agricultural education, research and extension.

185. Available facts and experience suggested that agricultural extension had a fundamental part to play in disseminating modern technological innovations and in overcoming the obstacle of traditional passiveness in the agricultural sector. This fact was unanimously accepted by the delegations attending the Conference, although doubts were voiced concerning the importance of the educational impact of agricultural extension on Latin America unless the knowledge it spread were put into practice and offered a real contribution to development.

186. Delegates spoke of the need to decide what steps might be taken to foster agricultural extension under the precarious circumstances prevailing in Latin American rural areas. Some asked whether extension could survive on its own as an efficient factor of agricultural development, or whether it should be integrated with other services such as credit, input distribution and marketing etc.; which also helped to promote it. In short, the Conference affirmed the need to establish efficient agricultural extension services, to increase the number of extension workers and to improve their training, and to improve the methods and practices applied. Members were also convinced of the need to renew, reinforce and suitably integrate the various institutional structures, to enable them more efficiently to promote rural development.

187. The shortage of funds was one of the most widely debated obstacles to agricultural development. Credit restrictions were of crucial significance in the financing of small and medium producers. It was hoped that the study on agricultural credit in Latin America, currently being carried out by ICAD, would help to make a better evaluation and to correct a situation seriously affecting the agriculture of the region.

188. In accepting the view that agricultural development was a complex process involving many closely related factors of an economic, political, social, cultural and sociological nature, the Conference recognized the urgent need to promote the active and conscientious participation of rural workers in development programs designed to secure their technical and social advancement. To that end, rural workers would have to be

convinced that they could rely on proper technical and financial assistance and guidance if they were determined to increase productivity by adopting new methods and modern systems of organization.

189. Lastly, the Conference recognized that upon the efficient integration of extension services, agricultural credits, distribution of inputs and marketing, would depend the success of much of the effort directed towards improving the agricultural situation as well as the living and working conditions of Latin American producers. Special attention was given to the pilot projects being undertaken in some countries of the region to provide comprehensive technical and financing assistance. It was agreed that such demonstration projects - which were designed specifically to integrate or co-ordinate the plans and activities of the extension, financing, input distribution and marketing services - could contribute valuable experience gained in the co-ordinated or integrated action of such services, towards the improvement of the conditions of rural workers and the accelerated increase of production. Similarly, the Conference recognized the advisability of making those demonstration projects an integral part of national agricultural development plans, so that the results achieved might be speedily applied on a national scale and a realistic and efficient evaluation made of all aspects of financing and staff requirements.

190. The Conference approved the following recommendations:

Recommendation 5/66

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Observing

that the increasing number of technical and scientific publications issued in the world calls for the proper organization of technical and scientific document services to furnish users with analytical summaries, bibliographies, translations and photocopies;

Considering

that owing to the underdeveloped nature and linguistic difficulties of the Latin American region it is difficult for research workers and technicians to obtain the proper information needed for their work;

Bearing in mind

that the Programs Committee of the Council of FAO suggested in its report on the Tenth Session the possibility of "establishing documents offices in developing countries or regions, to meet such problems as may arise";

Recommends to the Director-General of FAO

that in co-ordination with Unesco the necessary steps be taken to organize a Regional Centre of Food Science and Technology Documentation for Latin America.

Recommendation 6/66 ^{*/}

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

(1) that despite the acknowledged priority of agricultural education and training, most countries in the region lack integral plans for the development of human resources in the agricultural sector, and that an imbalance is discernible in the training of high, medium- and low-level staff in the various aspects and activities of agriculture and food;

Recommends

to the Governments of the region

(1) to take the steps necessary for the formulation of integral plans for training staff for food and agricultural activities;

(2) to offer universities the necessary support to enable their faculties of agriculture and of veterinary medicine and similar sciences to train high-quality staff in sufficient numbers to university level and, in appropriate cases, to post-graduate level;

(3) that enough attention be paid to technical agricultural schools, according to the specific requirements of the public and private sectors in the various fields of agriculture and food;

(4) that in the different geo-economic areas of each country training centres should be organized with facilities suited to their specific aims and to the conditions of agriculture and rural life, to offer courses of varying duration to agricultural and livestock producers, agricultural workers and rural leaders on subjects such as farm management, co-operatives and rural trade-unions, the organization of communities, agricultural mechanization and rural electrification, marketing, rural credit, nutrition, home improvement, etc., according to the needs periodically gauged by the Ministry of Agriculture;

to the Director-General of FAO

(1) that he should sponsor a regional program to advise countries on the periodical survey of their human resources for food and agriculture;

(2) that he should foster the development of technical and material assistance projects for the above-mentioned teaching and training institutions, through organizations and programs such as the Special Fund of the United Nations Development Program, the Inter-American Development Bank, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the World Food Program, the World Freedom from Hunger Campaign and other international or national sources of financing.

^{*/} The Cuban delegation reserved its position (see paragraph 311).

Recommendation 7/66

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Recognizing

- (1) the need to consider agricultural development as a complex process involving numerous closely-related economic, social, cultural and sociological factors;
- (2) that the ever-increasing knowledge of this interrelationship between the different aspects of underdevelopment undoubtedly indicates considerable progress;
- (3) the need for a more efficient adaptation of the prevailing conditions and resources of each country, in order to formulate a comprehensive structure of agricultural promotion services on a demonstration or pilot scale to serve as an efficient means of persuasion to prepare the way for more ambitious programs and projects;
- (4) that through the said programs and projects the institutional structures at the service of agricultural development could be established and integrated in order to train more efficiently the technicians working in them, and to give rural workers more effective assistance in keeping with their needs and with the plans drawn up to develop agriculture and rural life;
- (5) the positive experience gained in some countries of the region where demonstration or pilot projects are being established to apply a new comprehensive approach to technical and credit assistance, input distribution and marketing of the products obtained, as a contribution to accelerate agricultural development;

Recommends to the Director-General of FAO

that FAO should encourage the wider use of this new type of demonstration or pilot project, in which the extension services, credit, co-operatives, input distribution and marketing are suitably integrated, this process being considered as an efficient and appropriate way to accelerate the agricultural development of the countries of the region.

Recommendation 8/66 ^{*/}

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

the fundamental importance of the development of human resources to the raising of agricultural productivity; and that the deficient nutritional conditions of the Latin American populations, particularly among the rural sector, are partly responsible for the low levels of health and productivity;

^{*/} The Cuban delegation voted for this recommendation but stated that it was not applicable to the Republic of Cuba.

Recommends to the Director-General of FAO

(1) that FAO should continue co-operating with applied nutrition programs being carried out in the majority of Latin American countries, as the fundamental basis for improving the standards of living and productivity of the human resources engaged in agricultural development;

(2) that in training personnel to participate in the implementation of agricultural development plans and programs, special emphasis should be placed on knowledge concerning human nutrition as a properly integrated factor of agricultural extension and home economy activities.

Recommendation 9/66

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

(1) the need for a strong promotional movement designed to secure the greater participation of rural youth in the various activities of rural communities;

(2) that in all countries of the area programs or movements of a public or private nature are being carried out in isolation and in an unco-ordinated manner, thus causing a wastage of efforts, resources and time and to a greater or lesser extent limiting their efficiency in promoting comprehensive agricultural development;

(3) that the Preparatory Regional Seminar for Latin America, of the Young World Food and Development Project, held in Lima, Peru, from 21 to 26 November 1966, reaffirmed FAO's appeal that the youth of the region should start a movement to enable the extra-curricular programs for rural youth to be strengthened with a view to intensifying and expanding their contribution to food production and to the improvement of agriculture and rural life;

(4) that the said Seminar has produced a Preliminary Report - stating the arguments which justify the appeal, the conclusions reached and its future action - the text of which has been circulated to the different delegations attending this Ninth Regional Conference;

Agrees

to support and endorse the Preliminary Report of the Preparatory Regional Seminar for Latin America, of the Young World Food and Development Project held in Lima, Peru, from 21 to 26 November 1966, on the understanding that the said project will be implemented in accordance with its basic objective which is to strengthen the extra-curricular programs for rural youth already existing in the countries of the area.

Recommendation 9A/66

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

the important role of rural radio broadcasting in agricultural development and

the need to promote it as an efficient means of information on technical and market matters, etc.;

Recommends the Director-General of FAO

(1) to assist the countries of the region, possibly with the support of the United Nations Development Program, in organizing an efficient system of rural radio broadcasting;

(2) to organize regional and national seminars and a regional institute to train local personnel in that field.

Recommendation 9B/66 ^{*/}

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

(1) the need to synchronize the various development plans and programs so as to avoid counter-productive imbalances;

(2) that the infrastructure at the agricultural community level is a conditioning factor of agrarian development;

(3) that rural community development work undertaken in the Americas has not always been combined with rural development efforts;

Recommends Governments of the region

to integrate their agricultural and livestock development programs with their rural development programs.

MAJOR ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY TRADE

191. The Conference considered with special attention the various aspects of the export commodity trade of the countries of the region and agreed to issue an express statement to that effect in the form of a Declaration in the Final Report.

192. It must be pointed out, however, that after an exhaustive discussion the delegations of the Netherlands, United Kingdom and France, together with the United States of America owing to the disagreement of its delegation with item 1 of the Declaration, indicated that they would abstain from the vote on the said statement. The content of the Declaration is as follows:

^{*/} The Cuban delegation voted for this recommendation but stated that it was not applicable to the Republic of Cuba.

DECLARATION

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Bearing in mind

the objectives of the Organization, the Declaration of the World Food Congress, within the framework of the World Freedom from Hunger Campaign and the undertakings contracted by the Latin American countries in various international forums;

Convinced

of the possibilities offered by the development of the potential capacity of Latin America's agricultural and human resources as a contribution towards the attainment of those objectives;

Recognizing

the decision of the Latin American countries to assume fully their responsibilities and to adopt measures likely to promote economic and social development in keeping with the richness of their soil and with the human values of their peoples;

Declares

(1) that restrictions imposed by the developed countries which limit international commodity trade constitute an obstacle to the full utilization of the vast potential agricultural resources of Latin America thus acting as a brake on its development;

(2) that international commodity trade with the developed countries provides an important source of finance to the developing countries of the region for the mobilization of their internal resources and as a contribution to world food production efforts;

(3) that international technical and financial help in promoting greater agricultural production and particularly food production for export is less effective to the extent that restrictive practices prevail in international trade in those products;

(4) that all the national and international efforts made to narrow the increasing gap between the developed and the developing countries may therefore fail unless FAO Member Governments decide to harmonize their trade policies so as to foster the competitiveness of the developing countries in the international commodity markets.

193. In discussing this item, the Conference stressed the importance of including commodity trade in the agendas of regional conferences. Because of the large share of Latin America's total foreign earnings derived from its agricultural exports, developments in that sector exerted a decisive influence on both agricultural and economic progress in general. A fall in commodity prices could largely offset the beneficial effect of external aid and national development programs.

194. The Conference stressed the seriousness of the resumption of the downward drift in prices, following their temporary improvement in 1963-1964. Developing countries pointed also to the long-term upward movement in prices of many of their basic imports, particularly manufactures, and the resultant worsening of terms of trade.

195. The Conference expressed its concern at the pointers given by the FAO commodity projections for 1975, but noted that they were provisional pending their examination by the CCP in March 1967. The conclusions of the projections were particularly relevant to the discussion of commodity trade.

196. One such conclusion was that only a very modest rate of growth could be projected for the future import demand of the high-income countries for agricultural products from developing regions; this reflected present high consumption levels and protective policies in importing countries as well as, for agricultural raw materials, competition from synthetics.

197. Assuming a continuation of current policies, the projected volume of increase of those imports would not be more than 2 percent per annum. That rate might be increased to approximately 2.5 percent if certain policy decisions were adopted by the developed countries. Increases in volume would, however, probably be accompanied by a slight fall in prices.

198. The net external receipts earned by the developing countries from the export of agricultural commodities to the rest of the world amounted to US \$9,400 million during the period 1961-63. The projected value for 1975 might reach US \$12,400 million on the most favourable policy assumptions.

199. The Conference observed that such projections implied a grave deterioration in the economic prospects of the region, and discussed at length various possibilities for improving the position of commodity exports.

200. There was a widespread feeling that the time had come for much more attention to be given to improved market organization and to a planned relationship between production and market outlets. It was no use producing supplies in excess of market requirements since this simply depressed prices. At the same time developing countries were faced with the need to widen external markets for agricultural products, particularly when the scope for saving foreign exchange by substituting imports was becoming seriously limited in several countries. Views were divided as to whether market organization should be approached in the first place through efforts to draw up general trade principles and standards or by increasing the number of agreements on individual commodities. Many delegates thought increased attention should be given to commodity agreements and pointed out the solid advantages accruing from the present Coffee Agreement. They thought that agreements should also be negotiated for cocoa, sugar and other exports of the region. Assured markets at remunerative prices would give incentives to producers, but at the same time the need for discipline in supply so as to avoid surpluses had to be recognized in commodity agreements.

201. The continued existence in industrialized countries of various obstacles to imports of agricultural products from the region was considered by many delegates to be seriously hampering the commodity trade of their countries. They expressed disappointment that UNCTAD recommendations for the removal of those obstacles had not yet been given effect; although recognizing the various policy constraints facing developed countries, they pointed to the contribution which freer access to the markets of industrialized countries could make to the export prospects of the developing countries. In view of the significance and urgency of the problem to developing countries, the Conference approved a Declaration and invited the Director-General to call to the attention of developed countries the concern of Latin American countries at the maintenance in many developed countries of measures restrictive to trade in products exported by the region. ^{1/}

202. Other ways to improve the commodity trade of the region were suggested to the Conference. Some of the developed importing countries pointed to the need for greater efficiency in the production of tropical foodstuffs and raw materials and for increasing the competitive strength of raw materials facing competition from synthetics. Possible new uses of agricultural products should be fully investigated.

^{1/} See Declaration (paragraph 191).

203. Difficulties raised by price fluctuations were also referred to; they made the implementation of long-term development programs much more difficult, particularly through the uncertainty they aroused as to the future level of foreign exchange availabilities. The Conference welcomed recent IMF provisions for increased assistance in the event of downward fluctuations in exchange earnings arising from price instability, and noted that proposals for supplementary financing were to be examined in 1967 by the Board of UNCTAD. In view of the considerable importance of the work of international institutions in the financing of external trade, especially of developing countries, the Conference requested FAO to intensify its contacts with such institutions.

204. The Conference paid special attention to the question of intra-regional trade in agricultural products. FAO Commodity Projections had concluded that the greatest increase in demand for agricultural commodities would in future occur in the developing countries themselves, where there was both the need for and the prospect of increasing the consumption of individual commodities by 45-55 percent between 1961-1963 and 1975. While most of the increase in demand would be satisfied by home production, there would nevertheless be opportunities for a substantial expansion in trade, particularly between the developing countries.

205. The Conference was informed of the progress made in increasing intra-zonal trade, which had more than doubled in the last five years. However, the lack of adequate machinery and procedures for promoting agricultural commodity trade was pointed out, as was the failure to harmonize national agricultural development programs in the countries of the zone. Delegates recognized that the present movements towards regional integration were suitable instruments for liberalizing and increasing trade and for promoting the economic development of the countries thus grouped. Nevertheless, the Conference pointed out the slowness of the progress now being made, and underlined the limitations that were being imposed by the selective reduction by commodities of import tariffs and other obstacles to trade. It also drew attention to the need for countries to try to co-ordinate national development policies within the regional framework, so that, although taking account of the particular situation in each country, they would gradually arrive at concerted agreements on the production of and trade in individual agricultural products or groups of products.

206. The Conference expressed its satisfaction with the program of work of FAO in the field of international commodity trade. The Secretariat should ensure that its studies dealt as closely as possible with the trade problems of the developing regions and with the trade relationships between developing and developed countries.

207. Among the various alternative approaches to integration, due attention should be given to the possibilities of single-product complementation agreements.

208. The Conference approved the following recommendations:

Recommendation 10/66 ^{*/}

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Bearing in mind

the considerations stated in the Declaration concerning the difficulties created by restrictions to international commodities trade;

^{*/} Approved with the abstention of the French, Netherlands and United Kingdom delegations.

Requests the Director-General of FAO

(1) to bring the said Declaration to the attention of the Governments of the developed countries which maintain national policies restrictive to the commodity trade of the developing countries, and to stress the concern of the Latin American countries at the damage caused to them by such policies, including the practice of some developed countries of subsidizing non-competitive domestic production and guaranteeing prices higher than those of the international market and particularly the tax systems and other adverse practices adopted by regional commercial blocks;

(2) to continue to pay permanent attention to the study of tariffs and other barriers to commodity trade, including the evaluation of their incidence on the trade of producing countries of the region; and regularly to inform Latin American governments of such studies.

(3) that the FAO Secretariat, acting jointly or in consultation with the Board of UNCTAD and other competent organizations, should study the possibility of preparing a draft code of standards or principles which the developed countries should apply to the trade in commodities from the developing countries, so as to assure that the latter secure a fair and reasonable share of the international markets and in the growth thereof, and to report on the advantages and disadvantages of such a procedure to the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems.

Recommendation 11/66 ^{*/}

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

that developed countries have not implemented the recommendations on commodity trade approved by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and that the faithful honouring of those commitments is of the utmost importance to the Latin American countries;

that the assurance of remunerative prices and of an increasing volume of exports of commodities from countries of the region is a prerequisite for upholding and stepping up the process of economic development of those countries;

Ratifies

the agreements of the Seventh FAO Regional Conference for Latin America concerning the non-adoption of "prohibition measures in international trade, particularly those which directly or indirectly might impede or hamper the normal flow of food supplies in either direction"; it further declares itself in favour of trade conducted in accordance with the principles laid down by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

*/ Approved with the abstention of the delegations of the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and France. The United States delegation reaffirmed the reservations it stated at the Seventh FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and abstained from the vote on the recommendation as a whole.

Recommends the Director-General of FAO

(1) to convey to the Second United Nations Conference on Trade and Development the concern of Latin American countries with the aforesaid situation, and to reiterate to the developed countries the need for their active collaboration in compliance with the already established principles concerning export trade in commodities from the developing countries;

(2) to suggest accordingly to the developed countries (a) that they should reduce, until they are eliminated, their direct or indirect subsidies to commodities which they export in competition with similar products from the developing countries of this region, and (b) that in exporting their commodities they should observe the principles laid down by FAO concerning the placing of surpluses.

Recommendation 12/66 ^{*/}

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

the importance of intra-zonal trade in agricultural and livestock products for the expansion of markets and for helping to secure a more accurate and efficient distribution of productive resources;

the difficulties which might arise if those objectives were pursued solely through the automatic effects of tariff reductions possibly prejudicial to important sectors of the agricultural and livestock production of the countries of the region;

Declares

that among integration mechanisms it would seem useful to give due importance to single product agreements which would also benefit agricultural and livestock development programming at the regional level;

Recommends the Director-General of FAO

to promote among regional integration bodies and among Member countries:

- (1) the establishment of a permanent advisory and information service among competent bodies, on shortages and surpluses in agricultural production and on other matters relating to regional agricultural integration;
- (2) the carrying out of studies leading to the co-ordination of single commodity agreements and to agricultural planning at the regional level, including the harmonization of quality standards and weights and measures for the main agricultural products in the region.

^{*/} The Cuban delegation reserved its position (see paragraph 311).

Recommendation 12A/66

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

that one of the most important objectives of FAO is the fight against hunger and malnutrition, a fight which implies an effort to raise food production and to increase the exchange of food supplies;

that large underdeveloped areas are facing serious nutritional problems, aggravated by the limitation of their foreign exchange resources;

that in many countries production is insufficient to satisfy the ever-growing food requirements of the population, and that in order to maintain adequate nutritional levels it is frequently necessary to import agricultural products;

that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development pointed out that one way to increase trade between the developing zones is by reciprocal granting of the most favourable commercial terms given to developed countries in respect of agricultural products;

Recommends to Governments of the region

that the developing countries producing food supplies should carry out plans for increasing their production, not only to provide a source of income but also to meet their own needs and for exchange with other developing countries.

MARKETING AND STORAGE

209. Based on document LARC/66/8 the Conference considered at length and with keen interest the present situation of agricultural marketing within the region, the chief obstacles to the orderly development of that essential activity, and the main methods which should be adopted to achieve its rational organization within a short time.

210. The Conference acknowledged that, taking the region as a whole, the urgent need to improve marketing services had been recognized for some years. In some countries these services appeared to be rationally organized, especially in respect of such basic export products as meat, grain, and fruit, but it was admitted that this was far from being the general rule and that there were areas where action would have to be taken in all aspects of organization, installations and services.

211. The Conference particularly stressed the fact that the shortage of proper installations caused great losses in agricultural products, estimated as high as 30 percent of the production of basic items such as wheat, maize and rice.

212. The Conference noted with interest that the improvement of marketing services was meeting with serious obstacles of differing nature and importance; the lack of financial resources and of specialized staff at all levels was particularly remarked upon.

213. The recommendations aimed at solving financial and credit problems emphasized that governments should channel a higher proportion of their financial availabilities towards marketing and to the small farmer or co-operatives direct, to avoid the sale of the crop before harvest time owing to lack of resources. The Conference therefore

suggested that the Director-General of FAO should try to persuade the international financing bodies to accord it the importance it deserved.

214. The Conference pointed out that funds were required for a wide range of purposes including (a) the financing of identification, pre-investment and viability studies for marketing projects; (b) the financing of storage, sorting, packing and other installations; (c) the provision of suitable means of transport for agricultural products and (d) the establishment of market intelligence services. It was generally agreed that all programs requiring substantial investments should be based on studies showing the technical and economic feasibility of each individual project.

215. The Conference noted with satisfaction the offer made by several countries to collaborate in the provision of equipment and the financing of installations provided that, as already pointed out, such programs were the result of proper feasibility studies.

216. The Conference generally emphasized that programs for the promotion of agricultural and livestock production should, if they were to succeed, include provision for a substantial improvement in marketing systems. That was especially important in agrarian reform areas and in settlement and supervised credit projects. The Conference took note of the experiments carried out in some countries in the socially-oriented organization of marketing and of the governments' active participation in it at all stages, and recommended that they be continued, without, however, closing the door to action by private enterprise in the case of certain products.

217. In the field of research and training of specialized staff, the Conference noted the important work carried out by the Latin American Institute of Agricultural Marketing (ILMA) and stressed the need to strengthen its activities and to ensure the continuity of the project once the Special Fund of the United Nations Development Program had ceased to participate in it. The establishment of similar bodies was recommended for other parts of the region; if the various countries had readier access to them, a start would have been made towards solving the serious problem arising from the shortage of competent staff.

218. The Conference unanimously recognized the effective work done by FAO in the field of technical advice, research and training related to the marketing of agricultural and livestock products. At the same time, however, it stressed the urgent need for FAO to intensify its action in every aspect of those subjects and to co-ordinate that action with that of the international financing bodies so that the countries of the region might rely on obtaining the integral technical and financial assistance they required.

219. The Conference suggested that FAO, acting in collaboration with the aforesaid international financing bodies, should promote a scholarship plan for the training of agricultural and livestock marketing experts. It further pointed out that courses of an international nature would do much to help solve the problem of the shortage of specialized personnel.

220. The Conference recognized that pilot training plants or demonstration units could be an effective medium in the task of education at the level of the producer or of the co-operative manager whose activities involved management, sorting, packing and other aspects of marketing of agricultural and livestock products.

221. Lastly, the Conference stated with great emphasis that agricultural marketing was a crucial aspect of agricultural and livestock development, and recommended countries to give it all the attention it deserved since inefficiency in marketing services would seriously hamper development.

222. The following recommendations were approved:

Recommendation 13/66

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

that livestock production is a very important basic factor in the economies of many Latin American countries;

that it is necessary properly to promote that production in order to meet the increasing internal consumption and the demand abroad;

that it is essential to base all livestock development programs upon efficient marketing systems as an essential prerequisite for ensuring their lasting success;

that livestock and meat marketing presents serious deficiencies as regards organization and effectiveness in many Latin American countries, owing to the lack of a realistic promotion and development policy; lack or shortage of essential marketing services; the scarcity of competent personnel; limited availability of finance, and institutional and legislative obstacles;

Recommends

Governments of the region

to devote priority attention to the development of livestock and meat marketing organization programs as an indispensable complement to all livestock promotion and expansion plans;

to consider the possibility of increasing and steering credit allocations towards modern slaughter-houses and refrigerating plants, and towards adequate transport facilities;

to encourage the training of personnel experienced in livestock and meat marketing at all levels by establishing teaching and training centres and providing scholarships at specialized institutes;

to consider the possibility of adapting current legislation on slaughter-houses and on livestock and meat transport to standards which ensure an over-all raising of marketing efficiency.

The Director-General of FAO:

to intensify technical assistance in all aspects of livestock and meat marketing;

to offer countries FAO collaboration in the carrying out of feasibility studies concerning the establishment of slaughter-houses, refrigeration plants and other services;

to encourage and assist governments in their efforts to strengthen the existing teaching institutes in the field; to program, in collaboration with international financing agencies, a major scheme of specialization scholarships and to organize international courses for the same purpose;

to consider the possibility of setting up in the region demonstration and training units, in the form of pilot plants, designed to popularize up-to-date methods and systems of handling, sorting, cutting, etc.

Recommendation 13A/66

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

the complementary and interdependent nature of production and marketing;

the influence exerted by adequate and effective marketing on agricultural and livestock production and plans for the development thereof;

the need for intensive action to rationalize this activity essential to the agricultural-economic development of the Latin American countries;

Recommends Governments of the region

to give priority to the planning of policies to develop the marketing of agricultural commodities, with special promotion of measures to support and protect the weakest agricultural sectors;

to participate actively in the framing of policies of stable and remunerative prices, specially designed to protect the small farmer;

to apply to FAO, whenever deemed useful to do so, for technical advice on the adequate formulation of policies and programs to rationalize marketing, thus taking advantage of FAO's ability and regional experience in the matter;

Recommendation 14/66

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

that the losses of agricultural products owing to handling and storage deficiencies are largely responsible for the precarious nature of the rural economy and of the rural environment in general;

that the efforts made by FAO and other international organizations to develop human resources and improve institutions and services are largely offset by losses amounting to about 30 percent of agricultural production in some countries, which affects adversely the aims of the Freedom from Hunger Campaign;

Recommends to the Director-General of FAO

that in its activities within the Freedom from Hunger Campaign FAO should include those relating to the marketing, preservation and storage of food supplies, so as to contribute to the preservation thereof and to increase the availability of grain and other perishable consumer goods;

to assist in the preparation and financing of projects having that aim, within the framework of the Campaign.

Recommendation 15/66 ^{*/}

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

that marketing represents a fundamental sector in agricultural and livestock development programs;

that staff training and research work in this subject are indispensable for ensuring the success of those programs;

that ILMA, a body under the joint aegis of FAO and the Colombian Government, has been doing important work in the training of technical staff at different levels, and that through those efforts it has gained considerable experience in agricultural marketing;

that ILMA was conceived from its inception as a regional body at the service of all countries within the area;

that the Latin American Seminar on "Governmental Marketing Policies", recently held in Bogota under FAO sponsorship, recommended the effective regionalizing of ILMA so that its services might be made readily available to all countries in the region and that it might contribute more effectively to the reinforcement and co-ordination of demonstration programs at such national marketing centres as may be set up with the complementary aims of training and research in marketing matters;

Recommends the Director-General of FAO

to promote a steady and consistent campaign to persuade countries within the region to join ILMA and to contribute their resources to its operation so as to widen its scope and increase its activities to the benefit of all Latin American countries;

to proceed with negotiations with the Special Fund of the United Nations Development Program to extend the duration of the project assisting in the financing of ILMA, so that the Fund may continue to lend its support to the Institute while other countries are joining it;

on the basis of the agreements signed with IDB, to take the necessary steps to persuade IDB to finance fellowships and organize courses and other services in interested countries;

to expand, in close co-ordination with ILMA, permanent FAO technical assistance services to countries in the marketing field, and, within the methods of working on this subject, to pay adequate attention to the establishment of marketing-demonstration projects with the co-operation of the Special Fund of the United Nations Development Program;

^{*/} Approved with the abstention of the Cuban delegation.

To Governments of the region

to consider the possible advantages of a Latin American body similar to ILMA, and to start the necessary official negotiations to join that body and to take on in due time responsibility for its operation.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES

223. In discussing document LARC/66/9, the Conference noted the interdependence between agricultural production and industrial development based on agricultural products. Industrial development could not be considered an isolated activity, but had to be viewed as part of a broader process of modernization in which a structural transformation had to take place, whereby an increasing proportion of the economically active population participated or was engaged in industry. There was therefore no clear dividing line between agricultural production as such and the handling, storage, processing, marketing and distribution of agricultural products, but rather an unbroken chain of operations until the end product reached the consumer.

224. The Conference recognized the effect of industrial development as an incentive to higher production and to appropriate diversification in both the food and non-food industrial sectors. Since processing added to the value of the raw material and could thus improve the balance of payments position, the Conference urged countries to take steps to process existing raw materials to a much greater extent.

225. The Conference also recognized the need to give careful attention to the progressive integration of agricultural and industrial development, and the fact that the organization of farmers to cultivate crops for industry, although often encountering difficulties in large-scale operations, was a prerequisite for commercial operations of an agro-industrial nature. The Conference stressed the need to promote small and medium-sized industrial undertakings as a first step towards large-scale industrial development, and urged that much greater use be made of experimental processing-plant equipment and machinery, now available in various degrees of sophistication and often extremely suitable for operation in rural areas. This would help to retard exaggerated urban growth and bring about a considerable improvement in the social and economic conditions of the farming population which still forms the majority in all countries of the region. Such experimental plant was especially suitable for the introduction and practical demonstration of modern techniques and technology for assessing the nature and potential of indigenous raw materials, for gaining practical experience in storage, processing, packaging and market development operations and, above all, for in-plant training of various grades of technical and managerial personnel. Experimental plants therefore provided an investment in the technical skills so badly needed to establish larger units. Commercially-oriented experimental plants could, moreover, readily establish an effective working relationship with the primary producer, thus leading the way to a larger integrated program for industrial development at minimal risk.

226. With regard to the financing of such commercially-oriented units as a stage in the establishment of large-scale undertakings, the Conference recognized that the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Program was giving high priority to such development plans and that FAO was already operating a number of such units under a variety of programs. As to possible investments in such plant or in larger-scale establishments, the attention of the Conference was drawn to the FAO/Industry, FAO/IBRD and FAO/IDB Co-operative Programs, the Freedom from Hunger Campaign and other resources that might eventually become available.

227. The Conference further recognized the need to make much greater use of a variety of tropical vegetable products at present not finding a suitable market, and urged that research programs for such tropical products be established. The Conference suggested

that plants be established to experiment in the processing of new food products from various sources. Particular emphasis was laid on the further development of more protein-rich foods, the development of which often required acceptability promotion and a campaign to point out its nutritional and economic advantages, i.e. consumer education.

228. The Conference recognized that such a development would ultimately lead to the establishment of a vertically-integrated system comparable in several respects to the supermarket system now gaining increasing popularity in the industrialized countries. The development of such a food chain would require a considerable volume of investment, notably in the establishment of processing industries, storage, marketing and distribution facilities, including refrigerated transport and cold storage services. The potential returns from such investment would, however, be substantial since existing losses and waste would be greatly reduced and by-products more fully utilized.

229. The Conference said it was extremely important that FAO should continue to guide developments in that sector and that a greater number of regional training, education and demonstration programs should be undertaken as an integrated activity covering aspects of production, processing, packaging, marketing, and market development.

230. The following recommendations were approved:

Recommendation 16/66

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Taking into account

the activities undertaken by FAO to promote and develop industries for the processing of protein-rich food based on a variety of raw materials, and particularly the development work on bread made from non-cereal flours as a carrier for protein-rich material;

In view of

the great interest in this activity, and noting that some of the bread-making experiments utilizing a mixture of cassava flour and groundnut or soybean flour have recently been successfully completed by the Institute for Cereals, Flour and Bread (TNO) at Wageningen (Netherlands), with the support of the Freedom from Hunger Campaign (FFHC) and the Netherlands Government;

Considering

that the implementation of this bread-making process on an industrial scale might greatly activate further development of the cassava processing industry and of the groundnut and soybean milling and extracting industries and that this would be of special importance for those countries of the region which are heavily dependent on imported wheat;

Recognizing,

however, that in many instances existing industries need further improvement in order to become suppliers of high-quality raw materials for the bakery and related industries;

Recommends the Director-General of FAO

to give maximum priority to the development of commercially-oriented pilot plants using cassava, groundnut or soybean flour as a raw material;

to prepare specific programs and to seek further guidance from the Netherlands Institute;

to provide guidance for a continuing program of research leading to the preparation of new food products and to invite Latin American research institutes to participate in that program;

Thanks

Brazil and Colombia for their offer to participate in the promotion of that research and in the operation of commercially-oriented plants.

Recommendation 17/66 */

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

that tropical regions have very favourable conditions of heat, humidity and light for the production of plants of high nutritive value to alleviate the food demand of the region and of other regions of the world;

that many of these plants and vegetable products are neither sufficiently known in the world nor have they the large markets required for their large-scale exploitation;

that there has been insufficient research into the technological processes required for the processing, preparation and better packaging of those products for preservation and marketing;

that many of those products could substitute advantageously from the nutritional and economic points of view many of the food products which at present have to be imported into the region at great sacrifice of foreign currency;

Recommends

the Director-General of FAO

to contribute, either directly or in pursuance of FAO agreements with UNDP, IDB and other organizations of the United Nations and Inter-American systems, to the establishment of programs of research into the technological processes required for the better use of vegetable products from the tropic zones;

*/ The Cuban delegation reserved its position (see paragraph 311).

to co-operate with countries interested in the formulation of specific projects leading to the organization and financing of the aforesaid programs which should preferably be carried out through existing national institutions having similar aims;

to continue, in consultation with other international bodies already concerned with marketing problems, to use existing FAO commodity study groups further to expand the consumption and promotion of natural and processed products of tropical origin;

to Governments of the region

that those programs, having the assistance of the aforesaid agencies, should be pursued with the establishment of pilot plants of the industrial type, where joint research may be undertaken covering production and the necessary technological, managerial and marketing aspects;

that on the basis of those programs and of the aforementioned pilot plants training programs should be organized on the installation and operation of industries deriving from agricultural products of tropical zones, and that the said courses should include teaching on technological, managerial and financial aspects related to this type of industry.

Recommendation 18/66

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Recognizing

that the recent advances in food science and technology are not within reach of most Latin American countries owing to their underdevelopment;

Considering

that the training of technical cadres is one of the most urgent needs in the development of industries for processing agricultural products;

that the developing countries must develop a technology in order to process their own agricultural raw material, since that of the developed countries is not entirely applicable for climatic reasons;

Noting

that one of the most urgent steps to be taken in that direction is the application of the most recent scientific and technological advances in the preservation of fruit and vegetables of the region;

Recommends the Director-General of FAO

to proceed to organize a regional course on the technology of fruit and vegetable preservation as applied to industry.

UTILIZATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF FERTILIZERS

231. Introducing the topic of utilization and distribution of fertilizers in Latin America, the FAO Secretariat pointed out that, besides document LARC/66/10, two information documents had been circulated, one on the progress of the Fertilizer Program under the World Freedom from Hunger Campaign (LARC/66/CONF/5) and the other on the use of fertilizers in Latin America (LARC/66/CONF/19), the latter drafted by the Joint FAO/ECLA Agricultural Division in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank.

232. The Conference noted with satisfaction the interesting conclusions of the FAO/ECLA/IDB study, which indicated that fertilizer consumption in the region, while still rather low, had in some countries increased at an accelerating pace over the last few years. This was explained by the fact that the levels of fertilizer use prevalent in most countries, in relation to both tilled area and rural population, were extremely low. Among the factors adversely affecting fertilizer consumption, mention was made of high fertilizer cost resulting from inadequate marketing, high profit margins, high production and transport costs, tariff charges and taxes, the lack of adequate or timely credit, especially to the smaller farmer, and insufficient research and extension services.

233. The Conference noted that future prospects for fertilizer consumption in the region might become encouraging if policy measures aimed at removing the aforesaid obstacles were implemented. NPK consumption in the region as a whole would probably quadruple by 1975. If a more pronounced increase in crop yields were to be attained, however, fertilizer consumption would probably have to rise by 600 percent to exceed 6 million tons of NPK per annum; only thus would it be possible to achieve optimum results in productivity and output.

234. With regard to fertilizer supplies, it was pointed out that there would be a considerable increase in regional production of nitrogen and a lesser one in that of phosphate fertilizers.

235. During the progress report on the Fertilizer Program of the World Freedom from Hunger Campaign, the Conference's attention was drawn to the very favourable effect the program had had on fertilizer consumption in the countries in which it was being carried out (Central America, Panama, Colombia and Ecuador) and on raising the average yield per hectare. The Program was having a direct impact on agricultural workers, mobilizing all governmental resources in the field of extension and popularization, helping to train agricultural extension personnel, improving co-operation between research and extension bodies and facilitating the introduction of other improved practices in agriculture.

236. The Conference noted that in its second stage the Fertilizer Program had organized pilot credit projects in several countries, under which fertilizers, improved seeds and other input contributions were being made; by means of a revolving fund, these were being supplied in limited quantities to agricultural workers already trained through the demonstration activities of the Program. In view of the highly favourable results obtained, the Conference thought it desirable to strengthen and expand the Program to cover other countries of the region; additional financial resources would therefore be needed. The Conference expressed agreement with the arrangements which FAO was making to that end with the Inter-American Committee of the Alliance for Progress and with the United Nations Development Program, and noted that there were good prospects that in 1967 the Program would be able significantly to expand its activities.

237. Several delegations reported on the work being done in this field in their respective countries, and indicated some of the problems still to be overcome to increase fertilizer consumption and the steps being taken to overcome them.

238. The Conference noted that steps had been taken in several countries to improve the distribution of fertilizers by granting special loans to farmers - loans sometimes based on international financial contributions - and in a few countries by instituting subsidies to lower the price of such inputs to the farmer, and by developing an efficient national industry capable of delivering fertilizers at low cost and in adequate quantities.

239. In relation to the last-mentioned point, it was recognized that the development of an efficient fertilizer industry, with well-situated plants of economic capacity, might effectively help to lower the price of fertilizers; delegates were warned, however, that Latin America would have to go through several stages before building large plants, especially plants for nitrogen production. The Conference also agreed on the need to proceed as quickly as possible to the abolition of tariffs and other taxes and restrictions affecting the fertilizer and fertilizer raw-material trade, so as to bring about an effective decrease in prices.

240. Another aspect which claimed the Conference's careful attention was that of research work in fertilizers and in the field of agricultural extension, and various delegations stressed the important role played by such research in increasing the use of fertilizers. In that respect it was pointed out that although research in many countries had attained positive results and knowledge of the use of and need for fertilizers had in many instances increased rapidly, the information acquired was still confined to a few agricultural areas and to a few crops and was not sufficiently publicized among the great mass of farmers. There was a special need to improve co-operation between State agricultural research and extension bodies through joint programs of action in the field. Such joint research and extension programs should be broadly based and should try not only to increase and improve the use of fertilizers but also to include the use of improved seeds, insecticides and other inputs, the rational utilization of water and the establishment of a rational rotation system.

241. The Conference pointed out that, besides promoting research on fertilizers at a national level, there was an urgent need for better co-ordination of all research work at a regional level and to intensify exchanges of information between Latin American countries.

242. The Conference indicated that prospects for fertilizers and for fertilizer raw-material production and availability within the region were very favourable owing to a considerable increase in nitrogen production - to the extent that some countries would become net exporters of nitrogen in a few years' time - and to the discovery of new phosphate and potassium deposits, although the region would continue to be deficient in the latter nutrient. It was acknowledged that the development of a regional fertilizer production and supply system should receive preferential attention from Governments of the region as a means of encouraging the massive use of fertilizers in Latin American agriculture.

243. The Conference reasserted that all action taken to develop the use of fertilizers should be integrated with credit and marketing.

244. The Venezuelan delegation drew attention to the fact that document LARC/66/10 did not include the production of fertilizers in Venezuela. Under current expansion plans, the capacity of the plants planned in Venezuela would enable the whole of Latin America's present fertilizer production to be doubled.

245. The Conference approved the following recommendation:

Recommendation 19/66 ^{*/}

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

the importance of the use of fertilizers in the mechanization of agriculture, the improvement of yields and in increasing production;

that in general, the use of fertilizers is being hampered inter alia by high prices and by the lack of research, large-scale demonstrations and agricultural credits;

that it is therefore essential to promote the implementation of major fertilizer research and demonstration programs and the adoption of production, marketing credit and foreign trade measures which will help to diminish costs and prices of fertilizers and encourage the exchange of raw materials and manufactured products among Latin American countries;

Taking into account

the results of the FAO/ECLA/IDB studies on fertilizer demand in Latin America, of the Fertilizer Program of the FAO Freedom from Hunger Campaign and of the national soil fertility programs;

Recommends the Director-General of FAO

to endeavour to secure the resources necessary for strengthening and widening the Fertilizer Program to enable it to cover all or as many of the Latin American countries as possible;

to seek for that purpose the co-operation of other international organizations such as UNDP and CIAP, as well as that of private industry;

to intensify efforts to bring about regional integration of the plans that Latin American countries are implementing in relation to the production and use of fertilizers.

LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

246. Following the opening statement made by the Secretariat, queries were raised concerning the accuracy of several figures contained in the background document to the discussion. It was noted that meat consumption in Argentina averaged 88 kg. per annum and that Paraguay exported 36 percent of its total beef production.

247. All countries were most anxious to increase the rate of expansion of livestock production and several of them outlined their livestock development plans. FAO was urged to work closely with the financing organizations to facilitate such development. The identification and preparation of projects for the development of livestock programs, the training of local technicians in that work, and the need for a better understanding by national organizations of bank loan policies were matters stressed by the Conference.

^{*/} The Cuban delegation reserved its position (see paragraph 311).

248. The importance of disease control was a matter of general concern. The Conference reported favourably on farmer support for national disease control programs and on the importance being attached to regional co-ordination of control programs.

249. The Conference discussed how animal nutrition could be improved by improving pastures, fencing and rational grazing of natural pastures and stratifying livestock according to ecological zones. It agreed upon the importance of those techniques for the region. The link between better nutrition and a lowered incidence of disease was also noted, as was the observation that only when nutrition improved and disease diminished did genetic improvement become practical.

250. Because of the complexities of animal production and the need to train specialists in that field of work, FAO was urged to increase training facilities in animal production. IICA could also play a part in such training. The need for training to be given at both the medium technical level and at the professional level was also put forward by the Conference.

251. The role of research in development plans was discussed at some length. It was suggested that most countries had a sufficient body of research data to enable livestock development projects to be implemented immediately. Such projects should not be held up by the apparent need for further studies. Further research studies could be made more efficiently and with greater justification once a development plan was under way, thereby providing a stimulus as well as a focus for research studies. Delegates stressed the need for pre-investment studies to explore alternative development techniques so as to produce optimal investment plans, and the need to continue research once a project had been started. The purpose of such research should be to ensure that new or alternative development possibilities were kept under continuous review and to provide solutions to development problems arising while the project was in progress.

252. The Conference considered that international financing institutions could provide a most useful additional service to the region by financing national livestock research centres. Such financing should take the form of long-term credits at low interest. The Conference asked FAO to discuss the matter with the said institutions and to invite them to formulate a clear policy statement on the manner in which they were prepared to support research work at all levels.

253. The World Bank had done useful work in granting loans to Uruguay for livestock development. In the course of the discussion it was pointed out that external financing could provide only a small part of any country's needs, but that by its demonstration effect it could mobilize local capital in a snowballing growth process.

254. Livestock development loans granted by international financing institutions necessarily produced benefits only in the long term; they therefore offered the additional advantage of freeing local resources for other agricultural and livestock investment that produced a more rapid return.

255. The Conference stressed that marketing problems, inappropriate tax policies and faulty institutional structures were limiting investment in livestock development. It recommended that greater research be made to determine which factors were making such investment unattractive, bearing in mind the general aspects mentioned.

256. The following recommendations were approved:

Recommendation 20/66

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

that an effective fight against animal diseases and in particular against foot-and-mouth disease will effectively contribute to the greater development of Latin American livestock production;

that sanitary programs, especially those for the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease, have special epizootic characteristics which necessitate for their correction a massive mobilization of manpower and material resources which sometimes cannot be achieved under national institutional requirements;

that the fight against animal disease and especially against foot-and-mouth disease will bring beneficial multi-national results, thereby enabling present sanitary restrictions to be lifted and leading to a greater increase in international livestock and livestock by-products trade;

that the international credit organizations concerned have shown interest in livestock development and particularly in fighting animal diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease;

Recommends the Director-General of FAO

to ask international credit organizations to give priority treatment to and speed the processing of applications submitted by countries for loans to finance Animal Health campaigns, especially applications for the multinational purpose of fighting foot-and-mouth disease, and to be sufficiently flexible in their approach to enable such financing to cover the cost of beef production laboratories, equipment, operational expenses including local technical staff remuneration and epizootic research, besides the other costs already stipulated;

acting in conjunction with international financing bodies, to give countries technical and financial assistance for the study and formulation of programs for fighting and controlling other animal diseases.

Recommendation 21/66

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

the pressing need for countries continually and increasingly to boost the training of technical personnel;

that most countries are hampered in conducting epizootic surveys by difficulties which substantially limit and jeopardize the programing, development and evaluation of health campaigns;

that proper epizootic studies are an important factor in the exchange of zoo-sanitary information because they facilitate the measures to be taken in the development of health campaigns, and that they also constitute a useful spur to international trade in livestock and animal by-products;

the serious and incalculable harm which exotic diseases - which are disseminated with increasing ease - may cause to the livestock economy of the Americas;

the inadequate system of quarantine and of port and airport control in most countries;

Recommends the Director-General of FAO

to promote the establishment of a centre to train and qualify veterinary specialists in bio-statistics, in epizootic information and in controlling imports and exports of livestock and animal by-products.

Recommendation 22/66

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

the growing lack of protein in the diet of most peoples;

that ecological conditions in most Latin American countries are favourable for the development of livestock production;

that the development of livestock production requires large-scale investment, especially for the improvement of pastures, water supplies and livestock handling plant;

that Latin American countries find great difficulty in mobilizing internal resources for long-term investment;

Requests the Director-General of FAO

to recommend to international financial institutions that in loans for financing producers in the primary sector priority should be given to credit operations for the development of livestock production.

Recommendation 23/66

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

that livestock production is insufficiently developed in Latin America;

that there are problems of ever-increasing importance which constitute a real challenge to the countries, to FAO and to the organizations with which FAO co-operates, problems which are preventing:

- (a) a stepping-up of studies and research into the basic problems limiting investment in livestock development;
- (b) the intensification of training of technical staff to formulate and establish livestock development projects;

that as several international organizations are lending assistance to livestock development, it would be useful to consider the possibility of formulating an integrated program for Latin America so as to secure maximum co-ordination and effectiveness of such action;

Recommends the Director-General of FAO

to try to bring about, in collaboration with such international organizations as he may consider appropriate, a broad integrated approach to technical assistance in order to promote livestock development in Latin America, and to place special emphasis on the following points:

- (a) intensification of applied research so as to secure rapid increases in livestock production and productivity;
- (b) training of local technicians in the preparation, evaluation and implementation of projects;
- (c) advice in the preparation of livestock development programs and projects.

Recommendation 24/66

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Recognizing

that the conditions of livestock production in the countries of the region demand the introduction of intensive development practices in order to offset growing food needs;

difficulties as regards the availability of knowledge, technical staff, etc., which in most countries of the region are insufficient to allow efficient development plans to be undertaken;

Recommends to the Director-General of FAO

that FAO should direct its efforts to promoting in the region the study and extension of advanced techniques of animal nutrition, artificial insemination and health control;

that FAO should strengthen in the countries of the region the preparation of technical livestock cadres of high and medium qualifications, and at the same time develop technical qualification programs among workers engaged direct in livestock production.

Recommendation 24A/66

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Recognizing

the transcendental importance of livestock development to the economic development and to the solution of food problems in the countries of the region;

Considering

the need to create in the agricultural and livestock sector incentives for the establishment of intensive production techniques;

the stagnation of the livestock situation in most countries of the region and the decline in per capita meat consumption;

Recommends Governments of the region

to face up to the structural changes or agrarian reforms needed for the establishment of a production sector interested in the application of intensive techniques designed to develop livestock and expand the consumer market;

to pay greater attention to the livestock sector by according greater priority to internal and external finance invested in it but preferably by utilizing available internal resources for such investment.

Recommendation 25/66

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

that in several Latin American countries FAO has given technical assistance in the fields of dairy production and industrialization, and that UNICEF has given incalculable financial aid to various dairy projects;

that although several livestock development programs have recently been set up with the financial help of IBRD, IDB and the Special Fund of the United Nations Development Program, insufficient allowance was made for the following points:

- (a) the parallel development of dairy production;
- (b) the need to set up or change the structure of industrial plants which could guarantee a constant absorption of the ever-increasing amounts of milk produced, and the need for technical assistance in the fields of milk production, industrialization and marketing;

that present technical assistance budgets are becoming increasingly inadequate and that it is becoming increasingly difficult to recruit sufficient numbers of well-trained, high-level consultants owing to the complexity of the problems affecting the industry, such as organization, technology, engineering, administration, etc.,

Recommends Governments of the region

to find a new modus operandi whereby it is considered of vital importance to include in all livestock development projects the development of dairy production and the need to establish or change the structure of the dairy industry;

Recommends the Director-General of FAO

to consider hiring a highly-specialized group of advisory experts at the regional level to permit on a stable basis assistance to be given in various countries in

projects concerning all aspects of dairy production, regardless of the fact that the countries may and should have less-experienced experts working at the national level on each project.

FORESTRY AND FOREST INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT

257. The report by the Secretariat and statements made by the delegates of eleven countries of the region established the framework within which the discussions on this item of the agenda took place, as outlined below:

258. The Conference examined the current forestry situation in Latin America and noted with concern a certain degree of deterioration in the trade balance of forest products of the region. The trend was a disturbing one in view of the huge forestry resources of Latin America and the great potential for increasing forest areas by means of expanded afforestation offering extremely high yields. This potentiality was in striking contrast to the current picture of accelerated destruction of forestry resources typical of the region.

259. The Conference therefore acknowledged the need for an active and dynamic forestry policy which would allow forestry to make a more effective contribution to the socio-economic development of the region. In that connection, the Conference paid special attention to the rewarding prospects for Latin American industrial forest products, held out by current world market trends. This state of affairs had been emphasized in the study on world timber production and trade, presented by FAO at the Sixth World Forestry Congress recently held in Madrid.

260. The Conference recognized the need to increase, as much as possible, investment in the forestry sector. In that respect, it agreed that the following points should be given first priority:

- (a) setting up of the infrastructure required for expanding the forest industry. Particular importance should be attached to improving logging techniques and means and to the development of transport systems to serve not only forestry requirements but overall economic development as well;
- (b) establishment of man-made forest areas with the parallel installation of wood processing industries. In that connection, the Conference agreed on the need to facilitate seed supplies for afforestation programs, and noted the efforts currently being made by the Forestry and Forest Products Division of FAO to promote the harvesting of seeds and channel them from producing countries to those in which they were required for the implementation of programs. The Conference hoped that the Forestry Division would find the necessary financial means to expand its activities in that field;
- (c) accelerating the regeneration of forest areas at present in use, making hitherto unexploited forest areas economically accessible and placing them under technical control;
- (d) protecting and controlling forest resources, since they constitute the indispensable basis for the preservation of both wildlife and natural scenic beauty within the framework of national parks and equivalent reserve areas.

261. The Conference noted that an investment of 1,500 million dollars would be needed in the region for forest development and another 2,000 million dollars for the development of forest industries during the next ten years. Consequently, consideration was given to the need for foreign resources for that purpose, so as to avoid extreme stresses and strains on the internal economies of the various countries.

262. The Conference appealed to international banking organizations, including the IDB and the IBRD, to grant loans to the forestry sector on the basis of economically feasible projects for industry-integrated plantations, as well as for exploiting existing natural resources on economically sound foundations. In that respect the Conference also commented on the usefulness of reaching co-operation agreements with industrial firms from other regions, not only to secure the joint financing of new enterprises and obtain technical advice and patent rights but also to take advantage of services such as commercial distribution, the placing of products and market information, which those foreign firms could and should offer to the new Latin American enterprises. In that connection, and within the framework of measures designed fully to integrate the Latin American markets, comments were made concerning the advisability of promoting the establishment of multi-national Latin American industries so as to secure the advantages deriving from large-scale savings.

263. The Conference recognized that the expansion of forest industries in Latin America was heavily dependent on large-scale savings, which should be regarded as a propelling force towards regional economic integration rather than as a negative factor. The Conference nevertheless urged FAO to encourage institutes and research centres to study and develop new techniques to make smaller production units economically feasible.

264. The Conference also considered the need to improve systems and regulations for the sale of wood from public or State-owned forests.

265. The Conference acknowledged that in order properly to guide forest investments towards the more productive sectors and to maximize their socio-economic benefits, the following measures were highly recommendable:

- (a) strengthening of forestry institutions and, in particular, the establishment of State-owned or semi-public, financially autonomous forest development agencies, responsible for the efficient management of forest resources along commercial lines and for engaging in forestry extension work, marketing information and the promotion of industries;
- (b) in view of the very close relationship between forest industries and forest resources, to establish more efficient administrative machinery to ensure permanent co-ordination between industrial forest development and the technical management of the forest resources;
- (c) to give preferential attention, in view of the foregoing considerations, to the training of specialized staff at different levels to serve as the technical cadres of the sector.

266. In accordance with the need to increase the exchange of knowledge and reinforce technical co-operation at the inter-regional level, the Brazilian delegate pointed out the usefulness of holding a seminar of experts from Brazil and Uruguay on the subject of windbreaks, and the desirability of applying in the Brazilian frontier zone the highly interesting studies at present being made by FAO in Misiones (Argentina); he further suggested that FAO might sponsor a seminar on salicaceous and coniferous species suitable for humid regions.

267. The Conference attached full importance to the tremendous contribution forestry and forest industries could and should make to agricultural development and agrarian reform programs, and advocated the more active participation of forest management institutions in the programing and implementation of agricultural development and agrarian reform plans.

268. FAO was requested to consider in its next biennial program, the possibility of creating a post of permanent forestry adviser for the Sub-Regional Office of the

Eastern Zone of South America, owing to the increasing development of forest programs in the region.

269. The Regional Conference approved the following recommendation:

Recommendation 26/66

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

the huge forestry potential of the region, consisting of abundant forests and treeless forestry land of high production capacity;

that, despite such potential, the region has a heavy deficit in its foreign trading of forestry products, with an alarming downward trend in exports and the accelerated destruction of forest resources;

that such resources play a paramount role in soil protection, the regulation of the water pattern and the protection of wildlife, and that their destruction constitutes a serious threat to those resources and to general welfare;

that the ever-growing consumption of forestry products in overseas areas offers an excellent opportunity to promote the industrialization and export of forestry products made in Latin America, on the basis of the rational utilization of the resources of the region;

that the expansion of internal consumption will likewise require a higher production of raw materials and forestry products produced within the region;

that governments should assume a decisive role in the protection and development of the forestry resources of the country;

that forest management services, either as a part of national administrations or as autonomous semi-public agencies (national forestry bureaus, institutes of forestry development, etc.), are essential for ensuring that the forestry sector makes its full contribution to the economic and social development of the region;

that agricultural development and agrarian reform programs may be greatly invigorated if they include forestry resources as well as agricultural and livestock resources;

Recommends

to Governments of the region

(1) the establishment and strengthening of existing forest management agencies closely related to the national organizations responsible for planning industrial development, inasmuch as forest resources and derived industries should be inseparably united;

(2) the intensive implementation of protection measures to guarantee the conservation of forest resources;

(3) the cataloguing of forest resources and the planning of their utilization on the basis of their preservation and development, giving due importance to the planting of fast-growing trees, particularly of the long-fibre species;

(4) the preparation of comprehensive forestry development plans duly co-ordinated with plans for the development of the remaining economic sectors;

(5) the development of forestry industrialization, taking into account its complementary possibilities within the economic integration programs of Latin American countries and giving priority attention:

(a) to industries having a guaranteed availability of raw materials;

(b) to industries engaged in the regional or multinational production of newsprint, mainly on the basis of short-fibre raw materials (wood and bagasse);

(c) to industries concerned with exports to other regions, with adequately sized facilities and costs, to guarantee their proper marketing;

(6) the inclusion of the development of forest resources in agricultural development and agrarian reform programs, as a means of putting a stop to indiscriminate forest destruction;

(7) to promote the creation and fix the boundaries of national parks, in view of their geographic, historic and tourist interest and in order to conserve local flora and fauna;

the Director-General of FAO

(1) to continue to extend FAO forestry assistance to the countries of the region;

(2) to continue FAO support for projects financed by the Special Fund of the United Nations Development Program and aimed at making inventories of forests, with special emphasis on the development of forestry teaching and the strengthening of forestry services and institutes of applied forestry research, and to extend their utilization in experimental afforestation and demonstration forest management plans;

(3) to strengthen, through the FAO Regional Advisory Group, technical assistance for the expansion of forest industries and to sponsor technico-economic advisory meetings specially aimed at identifying priority investments for the development of forest industries. In this connection, particular attention should be given to the need for advisory meetings on cellulose and paper and on the mechanical processing of wood;

(4) to ensure by means of FAO agreements with international credit organizations, bearing in mind the magnitude of the financing required, that foreign financial aid is channeled in sufficient quantities for the development of forest resources and derived industries, including artificial afforestation. In this respect, special importance should be accorded to forestry programs having marked social characteristics.

FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT

270. The Conference considered document LARC/66/13, drafted by FAO, and the presentation report in which emphasis was laid on the importance of adequate financing facilities and government support for the development of the various sectors of the fisheries industry. Both documents also laid special stress on the need for expanding the traditional home markets as an effective means of stimulating the fisheries industry

and thus partly making good the shortage of animal protein in the diet of the American peoples.

271. The Conference further considered the action taken and progress made by the Regional Fisheries Advisory Commission for the South Western Atlantic in the field of fisheries statistics (catches and biological sampling), as listed in FAO Fisheries Report No. 34. It was agreed to request FAO to consider extending the measures adopted by the Commission to other Latin American fisheries areas, either through the establishment of other commissions similar to CARPAS (currently under consideration for the South Pacific), or through the co-ordination of fisheries development programs set up with financial aid from the Special Fund of the United Nations Development Program and now operating in countries exploiting resources of common interest. The exchange of information and statistical data under such projects had proved of particular importance in the rational exploitation of fisheries.

272. The Conference noted the information supplied by the Secretariat concerning progress achieved since the last Regional Conference in the evaluation of marine resources. It expressed particular interest in the work of CARPAS in that field and in the results obtained at the Centre for Training in Marine Resources, recently held at Viña del Mar, Chile, under FAO sponsorship.

273. The Conference noted with satisfaction the elevation of the former Fisheries Division to the rank of a FAO Department and the establishment of the Fisheries Committee. It expressed confidence that the progressive expansion of the Department's resources and activities, as envisaged in the change, would enable it to meet the increasing demand for technical assistance on the part of Latin American countries, as regards both the Regular Program and the United Nations Development Program.

274. The Conference also expressed its satisfaction regarding the Convention achieved for the Conservation of the Atlantic Ocean Tuna Fish Resources, at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in early May, under FAO sponsorship. The Conference was confident that the application of the Convention in dealings between the contracting parties would prove highly beneficial as regards the conservation and rational exploitation of a resource so important to present and future human diets. Some delegations said FAO should give special attention to the problem of the exclusive or preferential rights to be recognized to coastal countries in the areas adjoining their territorial waters, under international fisheries conventions. 1/

275. The Conference considered the proposal to establish in Latin America a Permanent Centre of Training in all branches of fisheries and at various levels, having agreed to recommend FAO, in consultation with the governments of the region, to study the possibility of implementing the proposal and to formulate appropriate plans for its consideration.

276. The Conference noted the growing importance of the development of freshwater fisheries and recommended the Director-General and the countries concerned to take various measures. Attention was also given to the development of co-operative movements among fishermen and to the need for countries to train staff for that purpose with the technical assistance of FAO.

277. The Conference approved the following recommendations:

1/ The Cuban delegation recorded its disagreement with this sentence.

Recommendation 27/66 ^{*/}

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

the alarming situation as regards world food supplies, wherein the animal protein deficit in Latin America alone is estimated at one and a half million tons per annum notwithstanding the efforts being made by the various governments to overcome this disquieting state of affairs;

the favourable prospects offered by the sector of the fisheries industry concerned with the landing and processing of sea products for the internal and external markets to help make good that dietary deficiency;

that the most serious obstacle to the achievement of this goal is the lack of infrastructure services, industrial facilities, means of transport and up-to-date distribution networks, capable of delivering fish to the consumer under optimum conditions of quality, presentation and price, to replace the archaic marketing systems prevalent in most Latin American countries;

that the development of this sector of the fisheries industry will not be fully achieved so long as present marketing methods persist and until the necessary structural modifications are undertaken in a manner similar to that adopted in other countries and regions having a greater fisheries tradition and having achieved greater progress therein;

the opportunities offered for overcoming this situation by FAO co-operation agreements with IDB and IBRD insofar as the facilities they afford for the drafting of specific development plans and their subsequent financing;

Recommends to the Director-General of FAO

that the benefits derived from FAO co-operation agreements with IDB and IBRD be extended to these sectors of the fisheries industry, so far as technical assistance for the drafting of fisheries development projects is concerned and with a view to their subsequent financing by these international credit agencies;

to communicate to the said banks this aspiration on the part of the countries of the region.

Recommendation 27A/66 ^{**/}

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

the importance of a proper evaluation of fishery resources, the diversity of species and production potentialities of which are still unknown in many of the fishing banks surrounding the American continent;

*/ The Cuban delegation reserved its position (see paragraph 311).

**/ The Cuban delegation voted for this recommendation, pointing out that all Member States so desiring should have unconditional access to the said Centre.

the need to train a greater number of experts in the techniques of evaluating these resources, in order to enlarge the research programs which will in future have to serve as a guide to the fisheries development projects of the region;

the valuable results obtained at the Centre for Training in Fishery Resources, recently held under FAO sponsorship at Viña del Mar, Chile, and attended by thirty-four experts working in this field in fourteen Latin American countries;

the need to continue on a larger scale the training of these experts, as recommended in the conclusions reached at the close of the Training Centre at Viña del Mar;

Recommends Governments of the region

to study, with the support of the United Nations Development Program and FAO, the possibility of organizing on the southern Atlantic coast a Training Centre similar to the one organized by FAO at Viña del Mar in 1966 so as to continue the training of experts in that field from all Latin American countries;

Thanks

the Brazilian Government for its offer to allow the city of Santos, or any other Brazilian city considered more suitable, to serve as the seat of that new Centre for Training in the Evaluation of Fishery Resources for Latin America.

Recommendation 27B/66

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

that an enormous proportion of the human population living in areas which do not benefit from sea fishing is deprived of those products which are nonetheless to be found in lakes, lagoons and rivers of the region offering highly favourable conditions as a source of fish products, the exploitation of which would decrease the protein deficiency from which those populations suffer;

that neither the species nor the productive potentialities of lakes, lagoons and rivers is known and that the personnel responsible for investigating these matters also lacks experience;

Recommends

the Director-General of FAO

to co-operate in the organization of a group to study and catalogue the species in the lakes and rivers of the countries of the region;

to increase technical assistance specifically designed to train and qualify personnel concerned with the landing and marketing of freshwater fishery products;

Governments of the region

to promote the establishment of fish hatcheries for the breeding of species most suited to the main rivers, lakes and lagoons of the region.

Recommendation 28/66

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

that the exploitation of a resource of common property is a basic characteristic of most fisheries;

that there are two ways of increasing the contribution of fisheries to the total supply of animal protein, namely, by landing greater quantities of fish, thereby raising the overall availability of the product, and by the better utilization of fish already available;

that both FAO and the governments concerned have an inescapable responsibility to increase animal protein supplies;

that individual fishermen possess neither the resources nor the means for raising the landings of fish or for improving utilization levels of fish already available;

that the co-operative grouping of fishermen will help considerably to improve the general status of individual fishermen, thus laying the basis for better overall economic development;

Recommends

Governments of the region

to pay particular attention to the development of Fishery co-operatives, making full use of the latent potentialities of Latin American fishermen;

to provide adequate training for the officials responsible for the implementation of a co-operative development plan;

to avail themselves for that purpose of the experience of other countries where fishermen are already associated in Fishery co-operatives;

The Director-General of FAO

to facilitate for that purpose the necessary technical assistance through experts and advisers.

WORLD FOOD PROGRAM

278. The discussion of this item centred on a statement by the representative of the World Food Program who called attention to the following documents:

- a) WFP Background Information on the Program (LARC/66/14);
- b) Tables providing information on WFP Emergency Operations in Latin America and the Caribbean region (LARC/66/CONF/26).

279. The Conference noted that food aid had hitherto been requested for relatively few projects relating to agriculture and animal husbandry, except in the land settlement sector. Projects concerned with feeding at vocational and professional training centres were predominant. Only ten countries in the region had contributed to the present phase of the Program and the main food exporters were not yet on the list.

280. Several delegates expressed the interest of their countries in co-operating with WFP, both in carrying out projects of importance to their economic and social development and in contributing to WFP resources, and stressed the great humanitarian objectives of the Program. The latter had become a powerful instrument in the fight FAO was waging against hunger and a realistic and pragmatic means of tackling the problem of utilizing food in projects designed to employ unskilled labour on an intensive scale and to improve the feeding of children and young people trained in sectors crucial to agricultural and industrial development.

281. Some prominent donor countries praised WFP accomplishments, emphasized their continuing interest in supporting the Program and urged the developing countries of the region to help by their contributions, to make it a truly universal effort to combat hunger and malnutrition.

282. The Conference considered that although some of the developing countries shared the humanitarian concern implied in WFP objectives, they were relying on further increases in food aid, through the establishment of a World Food Fund, for instance, having larger monetary resources than the present Program, to enable it to buy agricultural surpluses from the developing countries and distribute them to the needy areas.

283. In that respect, attention was called to the United Nations General Assembly resolution, as initially approved by UNCTAD, requesting the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of FAO to make a special study of future multi-lateral food aid requirements and to recommend appropriate action.

284. The Conference noted that the Director-General of FAO was fully aware of the importance of the study which offered most interesting possibilities for the further expansion of multilateral aid. The aim of FAO policy was to ensure that hunger and malnutrition were eradicated by raising the agricultural productivity of the developing countries and eliminating food imports, wherever possible through increased production in those countries themselves.

285. WFP had been established jointly by the United Nations and FAO to help realize those major objectives, and its policy had been closely harmonized with the efforts being made by both organizations to close the food gap by the increased efforts of the developing countries themselves, supported by international technical assistance measures and other forms of multilateral aid. Aid in the form of food had proved to be a valuable component of such measures.

286. The Conference called upon Member countries to participate more fully in and contribute more to WFP; it also called for more imaginative use of WFP food aid which allowed for the intensive employment of labour in rural and urban areas and for the better planning of projects jointly with other international aid bodies.

287. The Conference approved the following recommendation :

Recommendation 28A/66

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

the activities and resources of the World Food Program;

that the substandard nutritional conditions of the millions of people who go to make up the rural population and of the further millions crowded in the suburbs of most of the larger cities of the region, call for imaginative use of WFP aid in rural and urban co-operative schemes in which unskilled labour can be used in an intensive manner either as voluntary labour compensated by food incentives or as labour partly recompensed with food supplied by WFP;

Recommends to Governments of the region

that those countries in the region which have not yet offered any contribution to WFP for the current period, should do so in the near future and that those which already support the Program should increase their contributions so as to help it reach the target of 275 million dollars for the period 1966-1968 as established by the United Nations and FAO;

that in requesting WFP aid due attention should be paid to the criteria established by the Inter-Governmental Committee of WFP and that projects in such fields as land settlement, agrarian reform, afforestation, livestock production, land improvement and management, and feeding in schools and vocational training institutes should be planned by FAO jointly with UNDP (United Nations Development Program), the Inter-American Development Bank, UNICEF and other international organizations in order to ensure that such aid has a greater impact on the economic and social development of the countries in the region.

INDICATIVE WORLD PLAN FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

288. The Conference heard with interest a progress report on the Indicative World Plan (IWP). Substantial progress had been made in the twelve months since the proposal by the Director-General to formulate such a plan had been approved. The Commodity Projections which formed the world commodity framework for the sub-regional studies had been completed in provisional form. Two sub-regional studies had been completed and work on several others, including those relating to Western Latin America, was already well advanced. Advance work had also started on the world consistency model.

289. The Conference expressed its satisfaction with the policy of FAO to secure the greatest possible degree of co-operation from countries and appropriate international organizations in the furtherance of the project. It was important that countries should be closely associated with the work and FAO should ensure that adequate preparations were made prior to country visits by sub-regional teams.

290. The Conference considered that in drawing up the Plan attention should be given to the optimum siting of agricultural production on the basis of comparative costs and other factors, both within zones and between zones, so as to facilitate future regional economic integration movements.

291. The Conference approved the following recommendation :

Recommendation 29/66 */

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

that to attain the degree of development sought by the developing countries one of the basic measures is to take full advantage of production elements through the integration of their economies;

that a prerequisite for achieving that aim is to carry out studies on the possibility of regionalization on the establishment of zones at the sub-continental level in respect of the main crops and/or livestock exploitations;

that to achieve this in the agricultural sector there must exist a large assured market;

Recommends to the Director-General of FAO

that in the carrying out of the studies and research programs now being effected in relation to the formulation of a World Indicative Plan for agricultural development, special attention should be paid to the long-term merits of a regionalization or zoning of the main crops and/or livestock exploitations of Latin America, bearing in mind the comparative advantages and ecological conditions of each area and each country so as to obtain the greatest possible common economic benefits. These zoning studies will give countries the necessary information to orient eventual agreements and arrangements that might facilitate the process of integration of agriculture and of the national economies in accordance with the spirit of economic co-operation which has been positively started through the LAFTA and Central-American Economic Integration Treaties.

FUTURE ORIENTATION OF FAO'S WORK IN THE REGION

292. In presenting this item, the Assistant Director-General in charge of Latin American Affairs pointed out that there should be a close link between the work FAO would in future be called upon to do in Latin America and the regional and general structure thereof. Referring to the changes that had taken place in the work of the Organization in the last few years, he said that FAO had evolved from an almost exclusively technical institution into one which was taking an active part in the formulation of agricultural development policies; in other words, in a field where a relentless battle had to be waged to avoid losing the race between population increase and food production.

293. The Director-General and the FAO Conference were fully conscious of that change and it had therefore been agreed to study the best way of adapting FAO, including its regional structure, to the requirements of the next decade. To that end, an ad hoc Committee had been set up consisting of seven government representatives, one from each

*/ The Cuban delegation recorded its reservation with regard to the part of this recommendation concerning LAFTA, a body to which Cuba does not belong and on whose achievements it had already commented during the course of the Conference.

of the regions in which FAO was working, and a committee of experts consisting of five members selected according to their merits and experience.

294. Summarizing the activities carried out by the Regional Office in the last few years, particularly since the strengthening of the Inter-American system through the creation of the IDB and the Alliance for Progress, the Assistant Director-General stated that the present participation of FAO in practically everything relating to agriculture in Latin America would not have been possible without the intervention of the Regional Office which had undergone a process of strengthening especially for that purpose. Thus, while maintaining its traditional character and responsibilities, FAO had acquired new properties enabling it to become an active participant in the work of IDB through the signing of a Co-operation Agreement which gave rise to a joint program; furthermore, FAO had been able to promote through ICAD - in whose creation it had taken part - a series of important basic studies on key problems affecting the agriculture of the region. FAO had strengthened its links with and contribution to the work of IICA with which it had also signed a new agreement which would allow for greater and more effective co-operation; under a similar agreement with CIAP, FAO would participate on the same footing as other international agencies in advising that body on agricultural matters and particularly on country studies for development programs and foreign aid requirements. Lastly, FAO had been able to present at the meetings of various Inter-American institutions, particularly CIES, its point of view regarding the future guidance to be given to agricultural policies in the countries of the region.

295. Moreover, the Regional Office had also played a decisive role in the identification and guidance of Special Fund projects and of many missions carried out under the FAO agreement with the World Bank. FAO had pursued its traditional tasks of direct assistance and analysis in many fields, through the group of regional officers supported by the technical divisions of the Central Office.

296. This host of tasks, which would no doubt increase in future as the effects of new agreements and the momentum of national programs were felt, called for diverse utilization of the manpower resources that FAO had in the region. The Assistant Director-General expressed the opinion that those tasks could be efficiently carried out only if, on the one hand, personnel could be made to work coherently as a team having an integrated approach and, on the other, if they had the technical and administrative flexibility needed to answer requests from countries with the greatest speed and adaptability. Consideration had therefore been given to the possibility of converting the regional officers assigned to the Regional Offices and their sub-offices into task forces whose composition could be adjusted to the requirements of each task and whose members might form a nucleus for the experts - numbering almost one thousand - employed by FAO in Latin America, thus bringing the support of the technical divisions at FAO Headquarters to bear on those tasks.

297. Most delegations agreed with the opinions voiced by the Assistant Director-General and pointed out that it was extremely important to discuss the question fully in view of the advisory role that Regional Conferences should play in relation to the Director-General and to world conferences. Although some countries thought it might be advisable to wait for the conclusions of the ad hoc committee and of the group of experts responsible for reviewing the structure of FAO, most delegates considered that it would be better for those groups, as well as the Director-General, the Program Committee, the Council and the Conference, to have on hand the opinions of the Latin American countries on the matter.

298. Most delegates expressed special interest in the idea of converting the regional experts into integrated task forces. In more general terms, the Conference emphatically stressed its view that regional offices were an essential part of the FAO structure and that every effort should be made to build up and improve the services they lent to countries. Such strengthening should include a higher degree of technical and administrative independence and greater operational flexibility.

299. The Conference considered the way in which future regional conferences might be made more effective. The present system had certain shortcomings which should be remedied by greater compression of the topics to be discussed and by better advance technical preparation of those topics at a special sitting immediately preceding the Conference, so that decisions might be taken at the policy level.

300. The Conference also discussed the advisability of either maintaining the present two-year span between regional conferences or of increasing the interval to four years. Regional conferences were the most important forum in Latin America for the discussion of policies in agricultural matters; their functions included giving advice to the Director-General on the tasks to be included in the two-year program and budget, and changes were occurring so rapidly that fairly frequent discussions were necessary. It therefore recommended that the present two-year interval between regional conferences be maintained.

301. The Conference agreed to recommend the Director-General of FAO to study the possibility of setting up a sub-regional office for the Caribbean area.

302. Turning to another topic, namely the employment of Latin American experts in FAO technical assistance programs in the region, the Conference recommended the Director-General to endeavour to extend to the greatest possible degree the employment of experts from countries of the region to work in the technical assistance field.

303. The Conference noted the offer extended by the Venezuelan delegation to the effect that the headquarters of the Permanent General Secretariat of the Pan-American Seed Seminars might be established in the town of Maracay. It agreed to request the Director-General to appoint a regional seed expert to advise governments and collaborate in the aforesaid seminars.

304. The Conference approved the following recommendations :

Recommendation 30/66 */

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

that the ever-growing operational work of FAO arising from its having grown from a purely technical organization into a body which helps countries in the formulation and implementation of their agricultural development policies, in both their technical and their social and economic aspects, calls for an ever-increasing knowledge of those countries and permanent contact with governments and other sectors;

that, on the other hand, better planning is enabling the developing countries to approach the development of the agricultural sector in a comprehensive and balanced manner, which also requires that FAO technical assistance be offered in a comprehensive manner through groups of experts in the various branches acting as task forces;

that the regional offices rank highly in importance among the instruments which FAO can use to perform its tasks in a really effective manner and should therefore be strengthened as suggested by the Director-General to the FAO governing bodies;

that in the case of the Latin American region this need is becoming even more evident owing to the great demand largely sparked off for services by the programs of the Alliance for Progress and of the Banks operating in the region, and by the existence of a development policy for the region, agreed to by the different countries at important continental meetings of both the United Nations and the Inter-American systems;

*/ This recommendation was approved by 14 votes to one, with 4 abstentions.

Agrees

to express its satisfaction with the Director-General's move to review the structure of FAO, particularly as regards the responsibilities and duties of the regional offices which it hopes will be strengthened as a result of that review;

Recommends

to the Director-General of FAO

(1) that in his Program of Work and Budget to be proposed to the Fourteenth Session of the FAO Conference he should consider a reorientation of the work of the group of regional officers, if necessary including the funds needed to enable the Regional Office for Latin America to lend countries within the region effective assistance in the form of task forces to help in their integrated programs of agricultural development;

(2) that he should take steps to ensure that the Regional Office for Latin America can act with maximum flexibility and speed in lending assistance to governments, and if necessary to endow it with greater technical and administrative autonomy;

(3) to ensure that in the work of the regional task forces the highest priority is accorded to assistance to countries for the identification, formulation and implementation of financial programs, whether for public or private internal financing or supplied by banks having co-operation programs with FAO, and that those task forces also take part in the formulation of Special Fund projects to ensure close links between them and the preparation of financing projects;

to Governments of the region

to give the support necessary to ensure that the measures referred to in the preceding paragraphs are put into effect.

Recommendation 31/66 */

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

the wishes of interested delegations with regard to the need to increase the effectiveness of FAO technical services to the countries of the region; and the usefulness of grouping together countries having similar ecological and economic problems;

Recommends to the Director-General of FAO

that in reviewing the structure and jurisdiction of the sub-regional offices in Latin America he should consult the countries concerned on ways of facilitating the closest possible contact with the various geographical areas having related problems, common interests and complementary economies, and of filling some of the gaps existing in areas such as the Caribbean;

that for the purpose of determining the headquarters of an eventual sub-region, consideration should be given to the wishes of Colombia, Dominican Republic, Venezuela

*/ 1. This recommendation was approved by 11 votes to one, with 9 abstentions.

2. The Cuban delegation stated that it approved the section relating to the strengthening of regional offices but was opposed to the creation of a new sub-regional office.

and Panama to the effect that the said office be established in Caracas, Venezuela, without, however, affecting the offices already set up in countries in the area that are working to improve the development of the Caribbean area.

Recommendation 32/66

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

that the debates at FAO Regional Conferences for Latin America would be more effective if their operational system allowed for the organization of work at both the technical and policy levels, so as to permit fuller discussion of the agenda and to enable those responsible for national policies to take part in the discussions;

Recommends to the Director-General of FAO

to submit for the consideration of the Fourteenth FAO Conference a proposal designed to modify the structure of regional conferences so that they may begin by a discussion of the agenda at the technical level. This discussion, which would be of a preparatory nature, would be followed by a debate at the level of political decisions concerning specific problems of major interest to the region.

Recommendation 33/66

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

that improved seeds constitute one of the fundamental factors in food production and one of the most effective and economical methods of raising agricultural yields in the short term;

the need to improve seed research centres and to accelerate the training of specialists in that field;

the recommendations of the FAO World Conference on Seeds held in Rome in 1962; and that the Pan-American Seed Seminars held in Brazil (1963) and in Venezuela (1966) have repeatedly requested that the Permanent Secretariat of the Pan-American Seed Seminars should receive assistance from FAO;

the need for adequate legislation in all countries, and for the establishment of appropriate standards of certification;

the usefulness of establishing closer and more permanent links with the specialized international organizations;

Recommends

to the Director-General of FAO

to appoint a seed expert for the Latin American region who shall advise Governments on all matters relating to the development of national seed programs and co-operate in the seminars held periodically in that field of production;

to note the offer of the delegation of Venezuela, which has expressed the readiness of its Government to site the Permanent Secretariat of the Pan-American Seed Seminars in the town of Maracay, Venezuela; bearing in mind that the Centre of Agricultural Research of the Ministry of Agriculture of Venezuela owns modern laboratories, seed classification equipment and other facilities necessary for the efficient operation of the above-mentioned Secretariat;

to inform the international financing bodies of the wishes of the countries of the region to the effect that aid programs for agricultural and livestock development should allow for the financing required for the installation of seed processing plants;

to Governments of the region

to take appropriate measures to ensure that each country has legal provisions guaranteeing the functioning of an effective system of production, distribution and use of high-quality seeds.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE TENTH FAO REGIONAL
CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

305. The Panamanian delegation invited FAO to hold its Tenth Regional Conference for Latin America in Panama City. The Assistant Director-General in charge of Latin American Affairs expressed his gratitude for a kind invitation which, he said, would be duly taken into consideration when the time came to prepare the said Conference. In accordance with established practice, the Conference would take place in 1968, on a date agreed upon in due course.

306. The United States delegation suggested that at the Tenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America : a) use should be made of information on progress made by Member States and Associated States, as supplied in pursuance of Article 11 of the FAO Constitution, and b), that the following two topics should be included in the agenda:

- i) field programs carried out by FAO in the region;
- ii) the activities of the Joint FAO/ECLA Division.

Closing session

307. The first to speak at the closing ceremony was the Assistant Director-General in charge of Latin American Affairs who presented a summary of the debates which was unanimously approved by the delegations. He also stated, inter alia, that in planning future activities in Latin America the Director-General of FAO and the Secretariat would bear fully in mind the recommendations made by the Ninth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America.

308. The Conference then went on to approve its report, after making a few slight amendments suggested by various delegations. Only the draft Spanish version of the report was approved, the Secretariat having undertaken to make the appropriate adjustments to the English version.

309. The French delegation stated that its views concerning the recommendations, expressed by courtesy of the interpretation service, had been expressed with reserve since it had no official documents in French. Consequently, the French delegation could approve neither the conclusions of the meetings nor the text of the final report since it had not the material means to ratify their content. The French delegation had, however, noted with satisfaction the undertaking given by the Assistant Director-General in charge of Latin American Affairs to communicate to the French Government as quickly as possible the French version of the Report of the Regional Conference for whatever comment it may wish to make.

310. The United Kingdom delegation stated the following by way of general information:

The Conference has pronounced itself in favour of various recommendations which imply a rise in costs. In many instances the United Kingdom delegation supports with other delegations the principles underlying those recommendations. When the implementation of a recommendation to the Director-General of FAO implies an increase in FAO's budget, however, the United Kingdom delegation understands that such increases will be subject to such proposals as the Director-General may make when presenting his Program of Work and Budget to the FAO Conference in 1967 and to whatever the said Conference may decide. It therefore wishes to reserve its right to speak on that occasion in the debate on the budgetary implications of such recommendations, if it so deems convenient.

311. The Cuban delegation stated its reservations concerning all recommendations made by the Conference in which mention was made of the Inter-American system or of the Alliance for Progress, in that it considered:

- a) that the Inter-American system was no longer representative since it had excluded the Republic of Cuba;
- b) that the Alliance for Progress was totally ineffectual and politically as well as economically prejudicial to the interests of the Latin American countries, and that the Republic of Cuba neither belonged nor wished to belong to the bodies tied to the said Alliance for Progress.

312. The floor was then claimed by Dr. Wilson Ferreira Aldunate, Minister of Agriculture of Uruguay and Chairman of the Regional Conference, who spoke of his country's pleasure in having acted as host to such an important conference at which the most pressing agricultural and food problems of Latin America had been discussed. He was confident that upon their return to their respective countries the various delegations would implement in their agricultural and livestock development programs the main recommendations made during the course of the discussions.

313. Speaking on behalf of other delegations, the head of the Colombian delegation thanked the Uruguayan authorities for their kind hospitality, for the splendid arrangements that had been made for the Conference and for the friendly atmosphere in which it had taken place. He also spoke warmly of the manner in which the FAO Secretariat had so successfully organized the Regional Conference. The Chairman then declared the Ninth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America closed, at 11 p.m. on 16 December 1966.

APENDICE I
APPENDIX I
ANNEXE I

A. ESTADOS MIEMBROS
DE LA REGION

MEMBER NATIONS
OF THE REGION

ETATS MEMBRES
DE LA REGION

ARGENTINA - ARGENTINE

Delegado: Lorenzo A. RAGGIO
Secretario de Estado de Agricultura y Ganadería
Buenos Aires

Suplente: Norberto A.R. REICHART
Director General Asistente en Extensión y Fomento Agropecuario, INTA
Buenos Aires

Adjuntos: Luis PERAZZO
Interventor del Consejo Agrario Nacional
Buenos Aires

Rubén J. BATTIPEDE
Sub-Gerente de Política Crediticia del Banco de la Nación Argentina
Buenos Aires

Juan José MORENO
Director General de Producción y Fomento Ganadero
Buenos Aires

Esteban Arpad TAKACS
Administrador General de Bosques
Buenos Aires

Alberto AMIGO
Coordinador del Grupo Proyectos Especiales del CONADE
Buenos Aires

René Roberto THIERY
Asesor Técnico Consejo Agrario Nacional
Buenos Aires

Daniel RODRIGUEZ R.
Coordinador del Sector Cooperación Técnica y Financiera del Consejo
Agrario Nacional
Buenos Aires

Antonio A. SANCHEZ
Departamento Organismos Internacionales
Secretaría Industria y Comercio
Buenos Aires

Carlos Enrique FIRPO
Secretario Comité Nacional de la FAO
Buenos Aires

Emilio Ramón PARDO
Secretario de Embajada
Buenos Aires

Asesores: Jorge Antonio AJA ESPIL
Asesor a cargo Gerencia Jurídica del Consejo Agrario Nacional
Buenos Aires

Walter VILLEGAS
Asesor del Consejo Agrario Nacional
Buenos Aires

Raúl CORREA UJO
Informante Técnico
Buenos Aires

Miguel Antonio ERREA
Gerente Junta Nacional de Carnes
Buenos Aires

Antonio Alberto SANCHEZ
Departamento de Organismos Internacionales
Buenos Aires

BOLIVIA - BOLIVIE

Delegado: Lucio ARCE PEREYRA
Director General de Agricultura
Ministerio de Agricultura
La Paz

BRASIL - BRAZIL - BRESIL

Delegate: Severo FAGUNDES GOMES
Minister of Agriculture
Ministry of Agriculture
Rio de Janeiro

Eudes DE SOUZA LEO PINTO
President, National Institute of Agricultural Development
Rio de Janeiro

Paulo ASSIS RIBEIRO
President, Brazilian Institute of Agrarian Reform
Rio de Janeiro

Alternates: Ady Raul DA SILVA
Director General
Department of Agricultural and Livestock Research and Experimentation
Rio de Janeiro

Julian Alfonso CHACEL
Director, Brazilian Institute of Economy
Rio de Janeiro

Camilo CALASANS M.
Economist, Bank of Brazil
Ministry of Agriculture
Rio de Janeiro

Jose FREIRE DE FARIA
Director General
Department of Agricultural and Livestock Protection and Inspection
Ministry of Agriculture
Rio de Janeiro

Osmar FAVERO
Rio de Janeiro

COLOMBIA - COLOMBIE

Delegado: Enrique BLAIR-FABRIS
Director General de Agricultura
Ministerio de Agricultura
Bogotá

Suplente: José Elias DEL HIERRO
Gerente
Caja de Crédito Agrario
Bogotá

Adjuntos: Vicente HUERTAS
Consejero
Ministerio de Agricultura
Bogotá

Gustavo LOZANO CASTRO
Bogotá

COSTA RICA

Delegado: Ernesto ARIAS VENEGAS
Director de Servicios Agropecuarios
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería
San José

CUBA

Delegado: Carlos R. RODRIGUEZ
Ministro, Presidente de la Comisión de Colaboración Económica y
Científica Técnica
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
La Habana

Suplente: Horacio T. YORK
Vice Ministro de Desarrollo Industrial del Ministerio de la Industria
Alimenticia
La Habana

Adjuntos: José R. GONZALEZ C.
Director del Centro de Investigaciones Pesqueras
La Habana

Juan J. VALDES
Delegado Ejecutivo de la Presidencia del INRA
La Habana

Rafael NUÑEZ CUESTA
Jefe de la Sección de Productos Básicos de la Dirección de Organismos
Internacionales del Ministerio de Comercio Exterior
La Habana

Asesores: Filiberto LOPEZ
Comisión de Colaboración Económica y Científica-Técnica
La Habana

Luis CASO A.
Comisión de Colaboración Económica y Científica-Técnica
La Habana

José GARCIA R.
Comisión de Colaboración Económica y Científica-Técnica
La Habana

Umberto PEDROSO DRAGON
Asesor Técnico
Dirección General de Ganadería
La Habana

CHILE - CHILI

Delegado: Hugo TRIVELLI
Ministro de Agricultura
Ministerio de Agricultura
Santiago

Suplente: Francisco PINTO
Delegado Permanente ante la FAO - Roma,
Embajador de Chile en Italia
Roma

Adjuntos: Juan DEL CANTO
Jefe, Grupo Crédito Agrícola
Oficina de Planificación Agrícola
Santiago

José Luis TRONCOSO
Director, Estudios Empresa de Comercio Agrícola
Santiago

José OLIVARES
Jefe del Grupo de Precios
Oficina de Planificación Agrícola
Santiago

Jorge ECHENIQUE
Corporación Reforma Agraria
Santiago

EL SALVADOR

Delegado: René ESCALANTE OROZCO
Ministro de Agricultura
Ministerio de Agricultura
San Salvador

Suplentes: Oscar Eusebio ARGUETA
Presidente, Instituto Regulador de Abastecimientos
San Salvador

Jorge Ernesto AVERBACH
Presidente, Administración Bienestar Campesino
San Salvador

Hernán FENORIO LAGUARDIA
Director del Departamento de colaboración Técnica y Planificación
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería
San Salvador

Roberto AMAYA DIAZ
Director de Política Económica
Ministerio de Economía
San Salvador

ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

Delegate: Ralph W. PHILLIPS
Director, International Organizations Staff
Office of Assistant Secretary for International Affairs
US Department of Agriculture
Washington D.C.

Alternates: Charles R. DAVENPORT
Chief, Western Hemisphere Branch
Economic Research Service
US Department of Agriculture
Washington D.C.

Leighton VAN NORT
Officer in Charge, UN Economic Affairs
US Department of State
Washington D.C.

Advisers: Eilif V. MILLER
Rural Development Officer
USAID Mission
American Embassy
Montevideo, Uruguay

Henry L. BUCKARDT
Agricultural Attaché
American Embassy
Montevideo, Uruguay

FRANCIA - FRANCE

Délégué: Jean DE VAISSIERE
Inspecteur général de l'agriculture
Paris

Adjoints: Paul MARTINET
Ambassade de France à Montevideo, Uruguay

Claude CHAMPIGNEULLE
Ambassade de France à Montevideo, Uruguay

Georges Henri TAILLEUR
Ambassade de France à Montevideo, Uruguay

GUATEMALA

Delegado: Manuel José ARCE Y VALLADARES
Embajador de Guatemala en Montevideo, Uruguay

MEXICO - MEXIQUE

Delegado: Ricardo ACOSTA V.
Subsecretario de Agricultura
México D.F.

Suplente: Oscar VALDES
Director, Instituto de Investigaciones Pecuarias
México D.F.

Adjunto: Gabriel BALDOVINOS DE LA PEÑA
Asesor Técnico, SAG, Tacuba
México D.F.

NICARAGUA

Delegado: Alberto REYES RIGUERO
Ministro de Agricultura y Ganadería
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería
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Adjunto: Rodolfo MEJIA U.
Residente-Director del Instituto Agrario de Nicaragua
Managua

Sergio CALLEJA
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería
Managua

PANAMA

Delegado: Guillermo VILLEGAS FABREGA
Director General de Reforma Agraria
Panamá

PARAGUAY

Delegado: Ezequiel GONZALEZ A.
Ministro de Agricultura y Ganadería
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería
Asunción

Suplentes: Antonio SANCHEZ G.
Miembro del Directorio del Banco Nacional de Fomento
Asunción

Rogelio FERREYRA GUERRERDI
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería
Asunción

Parisio PINEDA A.
Programador Agropecuario de la Secretaría Técnica de Planificación
Asunción

Juan Manuel FRUTOS
Presidente del Instituto de Bienestar Rural
Asunción

PERU - PEROU

Delegado: Ricardo CHIGLINO
Oficina Sectorial de Planificación Agraria
Lima

Suplente: Jorge PAEZ C.
SIPA
Lima

REINO DE LOS PAISES BAJOS - KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS - ROYAUME DES PAYS-BAS

Delegate: Harry S. RADHAKISHUN
Minister of Agriculture
Ministry of Agriculture
Paramaribo, Surinam

Alternates: Anton G. Smit
Deputy Director of Agriculture in Surinam
Department of Agriculture
Paramaribo, Surinam

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Agricultural Attaché
Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
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REINO UNIDO - UNITED KINGDOM - ROYAUME-UNI

Delegate: Sir Keith UNWIN
Ambassador of the United Kingdom in Uruguay
British Embassy
Montevideo

Advisers: Charles W. WALLACE
First Secretary
British Embassy
Montevideo

Robert H. EWART
Veterinary Attaché
British Embassy
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Charles E. JOHNSON
Adviser in Tropical Agriculture and Leader of British Agricultural
Mission to Bolivia
British Embassy
La Paz, Bolivia

REPUBLICA DOMINICANA - DOMINICAN REPUBLIC - REPUBLIQUE DOMINICAINE

Delegado: Rogelio MAÑÓN R.
Embajador de la República Dominicana en Uruguay
Embajada de la República Dominicana
Montevideo

TRINIDAD Y TABAGO - TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO - TRINITE ET TOBAGO

Delegate: Frank BARSOTTI
Senior Economist
Ministry of Agriculture
Port-of-Spain

URUGUAY

Delegado: Wilson FERREIRA ALDUNATE
Ministro de Ganadería y Agricultura
Ministerio de Ganadería y Agricultura
Montevideo

Suplentes: Escribano DARDO ORTIZ
Ministro de Hacienda
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Guillermo GARCIA ACOSTA
Subsecretario de Ganadería y Agricultura
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Vicepresidente del Banco República
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Adjuntos: Enrique IGLESIAS
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Benito MEDERO
Presidente de la Comisión Honoraria del Plan de Desarrollo Agropecuario
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Julio E. de URTUBEY
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Santiago GENINAZZA
Director de Sanidad e Industria Animal
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Director, Centro de Investigaciones Veterinarias
"Dr. Miguel C. Rubino", Pando

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Plan Agropecuario
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VENEZUELA

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Ministerio de Agricultura y Cría
Caracas

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Caracas

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Jefe, Oficina de Programación y Presupuesto
Instituto Agrario Nacional
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Jefe, División Política Agrícola
Ministerio de Agricultura y Cría
Caracas

Humberto FAGUNDEZ BELLO
Administración
Ministerio de Agricultura y Cría
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Eustacio GUEVARA
Dirigente Agrario
Federación Campesina de Venezuela
Caracas

B. PAISES OBSERVADORES - OBSERVER NATIONS - NATIONS OBSERVATRICES

ALEMANIA, REP. FED. - GERMANY, FED. REP. - ALLEMAGNE, REP. FED

Holubek REINHARD
Second Secretary
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany
Montevideo

CANADA

Herbert E. RYAN
Second Secretary
Embassy of Canada
Buenos Aires

ESPAÑA - SPAIN - ESPAGNE

Juan Ignacio TENA
Primer Secretario
Embajada de España
Montevideo

ITALIA - ITALY - ITALIE

Giorgio REITANO
Primer Secretario (Comercial)
Embajada de Italia
Montevideo

OBSERVADOR PERMANENTE - PERMANENT OBSERVER - OBSERVATEUR PERMANENT

SANTA SEDE - THE HOLY SEE - SAINT-SIEGE

Miguel PAEZ VILARO
Montevideo

Padre Cándido VERA FERNANDEZ
Director, Escuela Agraria
Montevideo

C. REPRESENTANTES DE LAS	REPRESENTATIVES OF THE	REPRESENTANTS DES
NACIONES UNIDAS Y	UNITED NATIONS AND	NATIONS UNIES ET
ORGANISMOS ESPECIALIZADOS	SPECIALIZED AGENCIES	INSTITUTIONS SPECIALISEES

NACIONES UNIDAS - UNITED NATIONS - NATIONS UNIES

CEPAL - ECLA

José Antonio MAYOBRE
Secretario Ejecutivo
Santiago

Alejandro POWER ALIBERTI
Representante de la CEPAL ante ALALC
Montevideo

INSTITUTO LATINOAMERICANO DE PLANIFICACION ECONOMICA Y SOCIAL (ILPES)
LATIN AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PLANNING (ILPES)
INSTITUT LATINO-AMERICAIN DE PLANIFICATION ECONOMIQUE ET SOCIALE (ILPES)

Jorge ALCAZAR AMPUERO
Director, Unidad Agrícola
Instituto Latinoamericano de Planificación Económica y Social
Santiago

PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL DESARROLLO (PNUD)
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP)
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT (PNUD)

Thomas F. POWER, Jr.
Special Adviser to the Administrator
UNDP, UN
New York

Carlos SALAMANCA
Representante Residente del PNUD
Montevideo

FONDO DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA INFANCIA (UNICEF)
UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)
FONDS DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENFANCE (FISE)

Oscar VARGAS MENDEZ
Director Regional de UNICEF
Santiago

BANCO INTERNACIONAL DE RECONSTRUCCION Y FOMENTO (BIRF)
INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT (IBRD)
BANQUE INTERNATIONALE POUR LA RECONSTRUCTION ET LE DEVELOPPEMENT (BIRD)

Don STOOPS
Chief of Agricultural Credit and Livestock
IBRD Department
Washington

OFICINA INTERNACIONAL DEL TRABAJO (OIT)
INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO)
BUREAU INTERNATIONAL DU TRAVAIL (BIT)

Aimé FARDET
Experto Regional en Formación Rural
OIT
Montevideo

ORGANIZACION MUNDIAL DE LA SALUD (OMS)
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTE (OMS)

Fidel URRUTIA
Representante OSP/OMS en Uruguay
Montevideo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA EDUCACION, LA CIENCIA Y LA CULTURA (UNESCO)
UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)
ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'EDUCATION, LA SCIENCE ET LA CULTURE (UNESCO)

Antonio DE VECIANA
Deputy Director of the Latin American Science Corporation Office
Montevideo

D. OBSERVADORES DE
ORGANIZACIONES
INTERGUBERNAMENTALES

OBSERVERS FROM
INTERGOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS

OBSERVATEURS DES
ORGANISATIONS
INTERGOUVERNEMENTALES

BANCO INTERAMERICANO DE DESARROLLO (BID)
INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (IDB)
BANQUE INTERAMERICAINE DE DEVELOPPEMENT (BID)

Felipe HERRERA
Presidente
Washington, D.C.

Julio C. GUTIERREZ
Director Ejecutivo
Washington, D.C.

Francisco AQUINO
Gerente Técnico
Washington, D.C.

Julio ROCHAC
Consejero
Washington, D.C.

J. Irineu CABRAL
Jefe de la Sección de Agricultura
Washington, D.C.

Thomas F. CARROLL
Asesor en Economía Agrícola
Washington, D.C.

Ignacio BARRAZA
Especialista
Washington, D.C.

ORGANIZACION DE LOS
ESTADOS AMERICANOS

ORGANIZATION OF
AMERICAN STATES

ORGANISATIONS DES
ETATS AMERICAINS

COMITE INTERAMERICANO DE LA ALIANZA PARA EL PROGRESO (CIAP)
INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON THE ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS (CIAP)
COMITE INTERAMERICAIN DE L'ALLIANCE POUR LE PROGRES (CIAP)

Manuel TRUCCO
Asesor Especial del Presidente del CIAP, OEA
Washington, D.C.

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(véase página 2, párrafo 7)
(see page 2, paragraph 7)
(voir page 2, paragraphe 7)

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APPENDIX II

REPORT OF THE INFORMAL MEETING ON THE FREEDOM FROM HUNGER CAMPAIGN

Punta del Este, Uruguay, 12 December 1966

I. Participation

The meeting was held at the Cantegril Country Club, in Punta del Este, Uruguay, on 12 December 1966. The list of participants is to be found in Appendix I of the report.

The participants regretted that only eight Latin American countries were present at the meeting and that the number of governmental delegates was very small. The representatives feared that this was a sign of indifference on the part of many governments toward the Freedom from Hunger Campaign as well as the future of rural youth.

Approving unanimously the proposal made by the representative of the American Freedom from Hunger Foundation, the participants request the Chairman of the Ninth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America as well as FAO itself, to submit this report to the regional conference.

II. Committees

The participants unanimously agreed upon the need to set up national committees to co-ordinate the Freedom from Hunger Campaign. If governmental initiative is lacking, it was recommended that the groups - such as youth movements, catholic committees, etc. - which have recognized this need, establish committees and invite other institutions in the country to take part in the committee thus established.

A committee may be financed initially through the efforts of the founding members, but it was recommended that the Government participate at the initial stage by providing a secretariat and other facilities or by facilitating the committees' fund-raising efforts. The help of foreign FFHC Committees will also be sought through the partnership scheme, with the assistance of FAO. The participants requested that FAO give to the committees in process of formation, over a relatively extended period, the on-the-spot advice of FAO/FFHC officials who are experts in the organization and work of such committees' officials, for example, the assistant co-ordinator and the regional liaison officers. It is expected that the liaison officer for Latin America shall carry out the role of visiting periodically the countries of the region and transmitting to each of them information and initiatives supplied to his office by the other Latin American countries.

Special stress was laid upon the role played by the Committees in informing national public opinion, and through public opinion the possibility of convincing the respective Governments to participate more energetically in the FFHC.

The representatives of El Salvador, Cuba, the Colombian Committee of the FFHC, the American FFH Foundation, the Catholic Committees for the FFHC Argentina, WAY and MIJARC and of several other non-governmental organizations made brief statements about their respective activities.

III. Young World Appeal

The participants dealt with the need of implementing the Young World Manifesto so that a greater number of young people participate actively in youth organizations and also the need of making new and greater efforts through press, radio and schools in order to interest directly in the FFHC youth who do not participate in these organizations, offering to them adequate motivation and concrete objectives.

To speak of hunger is good; to combat its causes is better. This is the task of FAO and of Governments.

The meeting unanimously recommended that Governments pay greater attention to the youth movements and give them more efficient support in their organizations and activities.

It is also the duty of governments to take adequate measures so that youth find the possibility of remunerative work and fully enjoy their earnings.

The lack of leaders is considered to be the current limiting factor in the development of some youth organizations, and training for leadership is recommended, particularly in the self-propagation of existing organizations whose more outstanding members will be able to serve as leaders for new groups.

The Argentinian Catholic Committee offered to organize in July 1967 a "Seminar on youth and development in Latin America for national leaders of the youth volunteer programs". Participants welcomed this proposal and decided to study it in detail.

IV. Action Programs

Many delegates expressed their wish to receive assistance in the form of seeds, fertilizers and tools through the UNESCO/FAO coupon program, especially for school farms, etc., and for help to other youth groups in their practical work such as volunteer work.

The establishment of Rural Welfare Services receiving governmental support as well as that of non-governmental organizations was also recommended.

Several participants emphasized the fact that the action projects constitute the best source of educational information not only for the beneficiary country but also for the givers of the resources used in these projects.

The representatives unanimously decided to strengthen their fight against hunger because: "The continued existence of hunger in the world is morally unacceptable".

REPORT OF THE INFORMAL MEETING ON THE FREEDOM FROM HUNGER CAMPAIGN

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