



TWENTY-SIXTH REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

Luanda, Angola, 3-7 May 2010

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

3-4 May 2010

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

- 1. Opening of the Technical Committee**
- 2. Election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Appointment of the Rapporteur**
- 3. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable**

II. DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. FAO Support to the Accelerated implementation of CAADP

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) is the NEPAD programme for agriculture. It promotes interventions that best respond to the widely recognized crisis situation of African agriculture. The Programme has been prepared at the request of the NEPAD Steering Committee by the NEPAD Secretariat in close cooperation with FAO. It focuses on investments in four mutually reinforcing “pillars” that can make the earliest difference to Africa.

The four pillars are briefly summarised below:

- (i) **Extending the area under sustainable land management and reliable water control systems**

This pillar recognises the importance of water and its managed use in raising the productivity of agriculture and ensuring sustainable and predictable production growth. Major efforts would be undertaken to build up fertility and the moisture holding capacity of agricultural soils and to rapidly increase the area equipped with irrigation, especially small scale water control.

- (ii) **Improving rural infrastructure and trade-related capacities for improved market access**

Africa's rural infrastructure is inadequate and its road network is particularly under developed. Under this pillar, a major focus is put on complementary investments in rural infrastructure, particularly rural roads, storage, processing and marketing facilities that will be required to support the needed growth in agricultural production and productivity and improve the competitiveness of the agricultural sector.

(iii) **Increasing food supply and reducing hunger**

Hunger remains widespread in Africa. A twin-track approach is needed to fight hunger and make an immediate impact on farmers' livelihoods: (a) provision of targeted safety nets; and (b) food security through local production and productivity enhancement.

(iv) **Agricultural research, technology dissemination and adoption**

In Africa, as elsewhere in the world, agriculture will need a scientific and technological underpinning to maintain sustained productivity gains which are necessary to remain competitive. Several lines of action will be necessary, including: (a) increasing investments in research and technology development; (b) increasing the share of private sector funding of agricultural research; and (c) institutional and financial reforms for greater research sustainability.

5. Climate change implications for food security and natural resources management in Africa

Since the publication of the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) (IPCC, 2007), the appreciation and acceptance of climate change as a real phenomenon by governments around the world has increased. According to the IPCC Report, agriculture is one of the most vulnerable sectors to climate change because of its seasonality, the narrow range of weather conditions over which crop and livestock production can occur, the presence of major non-climatic stressors that influence sensitivity to changes in climatic conditions, and the endemic poverty often associated with food production in the developing world. Estimates have suggested that in the tropics and subtropics, crop yields could fall by 10 to 20% by the year 2050 because of climate change, with places where yield losses may be much more severe (IPCC, 2007).

Climate change jeopardizes the progress achieved by Africa to date due to the substantial diversion of resources required to fund adaptation initiatives. Estimates predict that, as a result of climate change, economic losses could be up to 14% of GDP if appropriate adaptation measures fail to be implemented. If this were to be the case, investments would need to be diverted away from key rural development projects to responses to short-term emergencies, in particular undermining the achievement of MDG1 and core CAADP pillars.

Africa contributes the least to climate change but is likely to suffer the most, as increasing climate variability is already affecting water sources, land, forest, biodiversity. Agricultural yields will continue to decline with rising temperature, while in developed countries production of some crops will rather increase.

FAO (1994) defines food security as the situation when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. The four pillars of food security are availability, stability of supply, access and utilization.

The major thrust of the drive towards food security is to bring about a significant increase in agricultural production in a sustainable way and to achieve a substantial improvement in people's entitlement to nutritionally sound and adequate food as well as culturally appropriate food supplies.

Africa is the only region in the world in which the average per capita food production has been consistently falling for the last 40 years, with as consequences high levels of hunger and poverty particularly in rural areas. In the coming decades Africa will have to feed a population that is expected to increase from one billion people currently to two billion in 2050 (FAO, 2009). Africa will need increased food supplies for the chronically undernourished 27 percent of its population (271 million people according to SOFI 2009) and also the additional growth in population.

This paper discusses the impact of climate change on agricultural productivity and natural resources management in the Africa region.

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

6. High food prices and food security – threats, opportunities and budgetary implications for sustainable agriculture

In Africa, soaring food prices have had a devastating impact on the rural poor. As hunger rises, rural communities across the continent struggle to afford basic food commodities. Access to highly priced inputs has also affected production.

Recent declines in prices on the world market have not been felt in local African markets, where prices on average are still higher than in previous years. Regional prices for crops such as maize, rice and sorghum have increased by over 100% in some countries. Rising food insecurity linked to the lack of access to food, is heightened by growing pressure on national food stocks and dependence on food imports. All these have budgetary implications for sustainable agriculture.

This information paper reviews the threats, opportunities and budgetary implications of high food prices in the region.

7. Challenges and opportunities for bio-fuel production in the African countries

With Africa's population growing fast, the demand for food and energy is set to intensify. Despite best efforts, agricultural practices are still compromising the natural resource base that is relied upon for food production. As in the past, science and technology offer some solutions to the world's agricultural problems. However, without significant policy changes and initiatives relating to agriculture, new ideas and technology can only have a limited impact.

The future of agricultural policy is complicated by the emerging potential for large scale bio-energy production. In some developed economies, one path to energy dependence lies in the development of renewable energy technologies and policy, such as those that promote the expansion of bio-fuel production. How policy is formulated will have a significant impact on how bio-fuel production develops.

This paper informs on the challenges and opportunities for bio-fuel production in African countries, providing useful information for decision-makers.

8. Summary report of the recommendations of the FAO regional bodies

The FAO regional Office for Africa (RAF) serves as secretariat for some Africa regional bodies set up by FAO for member countries within and outside the region. These statutory bodies deal with agricultural statistics, plant protection, forestry and fisheries. The sessions and intersessional activities provide fora for members to discuss emerging and prevailing issues of significance.

The item informs of the summaries of recommendations and conclusions of the regional bodies as agreed at the respective sessions prior to the conference.

IV. OTHER MATTERS

9. Any Other Business

V. CONCLUDING ITEMS

10. Adoption of the Report of the Technical Committee

11. List of Topics to be considered for the 27th ARC

12. Closure of the Technical Committee Meeting

PLENARY SESSION

6–7 May 2010

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1. **Inaugural Ceremony**
2. **Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Appointment of the Rapporteur**
3. **Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable**

II. STANDING ITEMS

4. **Statement by the Director-General**
5. **Statement by the Independent Chairman of the FAO Council**
6. **Matters arising from the World Summit on Food Security and the 36th Session of FAO Conference, notably Implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA), including the Decentralized Offices Network**

This item examines the reform of the Organization resulting from the deliberations of the 36th Session of the FAO Conference (Rome, 18-23 November 2009) and its implications for the Africa region. It also examines the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) for FAO Renewal, including the Decentralized Offices Network with a medium to a long-term vision for the structure and functioning of the DO network. The item also presents the results of the World Summit of Heads of State and Government on Food Security, held in Rome on 16, 17 and 18 November 2009.

7. **Reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)**

Wide-ranging reforms were agreed to unanimously by Members of the CFS in October 2009, and approved in November 2009 by the FAO Conference. They were also endorsed by the Heads of State and Governments in November at the World Summit on Food Security who committed to “*fully implement the reform of the CFS*” as one of the four strategic goals of the Summit. This item presents these reforms, which aim to make the CFS the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform dealing with food security and nutrition, and provides an opportunity to discuss how the renewed CFS could be linked to national structures to be effectively operational.

8. **Report on FAO Activities in the region (2008-2009) and actions taken on the main recommendations of the 25th FAO Regional Conference for Africa**

This item presents the principal measures and actions taken to implement the recommendations of the 25th FAO Regional Conference for Africa, held in Kenya from 16 to 20 June 2008.

9. **Implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11 and Areas for Priority Actions for the African Region in the following biennium**

Under this item, implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11 will be examined and a summary of the priority areas for the Region and the concept of the Medium Term Priority Framework will be presented.

10. Establishment of One Global Shared Services Centre

This item examines the initiative of establishing one global Shared Services Centre by consolidating the Bangkok and Santiago hubs into the Budapest hub for efficiency and saving measures.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

11. Report of the Technical Committee, including outcomes of the Discussion Items:

- FAO Support to the accelerated implementation of CAADP
- Climate change implications for food security and natural resources management in Africa.

IV. OTHER MATTERS

12. Any Other Business

13. List of Topics to be considered for the 27th session of ARC

14. Date and Place of the 27th session of ARC

V. CONCLUDING ITEMS

15. Adoption of the Report (including the Technical Committee Report)

16. Closure of the Conference