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Продовольственная и
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Organización
de las
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Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

TWENTY-SIXTH REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

Luanda, Angola 3-7 May 2010

REPORT ON FAO ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION 2008-2009

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The number of undernourished people in the world remains persistently high almost 14 years after the global commitment to halving the level of hunger and under-nutrition in the world by 2015 was made by the countries that met at the World Food Summit of 1996. The Millennium Summit of 2000 echoed this goal. FAO estimates that attaining these goals in developing countries by 2015 will require a reduction of 31 million undernourished people per year. Africa, with 265 million undernourished people, needs to boost efforts to accelerate development and poverty reduction, and promote agricultural growth. The 25th FAO Regional Conference for Africa (ARC), held in Nairobi, Kenya in June 2008 identified critical needs to contribute to the enhancement of agricultural productivity and reduction of poverty in the region. These include scaling up agricultural water management and assisting countries address trade difficulties and increase investment to enhance agricultural production and productivity in Africa.

2. The present document provides an overview of major activities undertaken by FAO for the benefit of the African region during the 2008-2009 biennium, focusing first on those in direct response to the recommendations of the 25th FAO Regional Conference for Africa.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TWENTY FIFTH REGIONAL CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS

3. The 25th FAO Regional Conference for Africa recommended the following for the attention of FAO:

- adoption of a holistic approach to water management,
- assist countries address trade difficulties and increase investment to enhance agricultural production and productivity in Africa,
- more information exchange on the production and post-harvest activities in the different sub-regions to ensure more effective use of surpluses through regional trade;
- resolutions and recommendations of the Conference be condensed into a statement to be presented to the African Union and the G8 by the Chairman of the Conference with support from FAO and Member Countries.

The actions taken in response to these recommendations are summarized below:

Scaling Up Agricultural Water Management

4. FAO being the chair of “UN-Water”, and in close collaboration with the African Union (AU), the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), a ‘*Ministerial Conference on Water for Agriculture and Energy in Africa: the Challenges of Climate Change*’ was organized in December 2008 in Sirte, Libya. This conference focused on the inter-linkages between water for agriculture and energy production,

underlining the need to boost investment in the two sectors. One of the objectives of the Conference was to promote investment programmes in water for agriculture and energy in Africa. These should be based on concrete actions and the assessment of their financial cost, feasibility, and implementation through a comprehensive review of existing and pipeline projects in all African countries coupled with estimates of the investment needs by country, sub-regions, and for the whole continent. One major output has been the formulation of a detailed investment portfolio, estimated at USD 64 billion, for water resources management and development for agriculture and energy in Africa.

5. In addition, *five regional workshops* were held in collaboration with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in Africa (SADC, IGAD, ECCAS, ECOWAS, UEMOA) to define investment priorities for water in the agricultural and energy sectors at country and regional levels. Following the Conference, country-based actions have been initiated to elaborate National Investment Strategy Papers (Zambia, Kenya and Egypt).

6. FAO has also jointly produced with IFAD the “Water and the rural poor: interventions for improving livelihoods in SSA” document, which will help decision-makers make informed choices on where and how to invest in support of rural livelihoods in sub-Sahara Africa. The publication was launched at the 16th Session of the CSD in New York (May 2008).

Adopt a holistic approach to water management

7. FAO assisted the Nile Basin Initiative, the Lake Chad Basin Commission and the Okavango River Basin to promote a holistic approach to water management. This assistance related in particular to:

- a. the *Production of Information for Decisions on Water Policy and Water Resources Management in the Nile Basin* to strengthen the ability of the governments of the ten Nile countries to take informed decisions with regard to water resources policy and management;
- b. the completion of a basin wide Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and the development of Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for the *Environmental Protection and Sustainable Management of the Okavango River Basin*; and
- c. the launching of an international campaign ‘*To Save Lake Chad*’ through the organization of a Round Table on Lake Chad with the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) during the Ministerial Conference on Water for Agriculture and Energy in Africa, a Seminar at the World Water Week (2009) in Stockholm and a Special Event during the World Food Day (2009).

Assist countries address trade difficulties and increase investment to enhance agricultural production and productivity in Africa

8. FAO is providing effective early warnings of food shortages and emergencies through its Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS). Relevant information on future trends in agricultural development and underlying issues and also statistical databases, economic analyses and projections are available and regularly updated with special focus on African countries.

9. FAO provided technical assistance to several countries and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in Africa during 2008 in the identification of sensitive agricultural goods within the framework of the Economic Partnership Agreement. Trade capacity building support was provided to Kenya during May and August 2009 following the restructuring of the Ministry of Agriculture. Studies were undertaken on non-tariff barriers to trade for the East African Community (EAC), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Economic Community of Central African States (CEMAC).

10. In collaboration with national institutions, FAO is implementing a project on *Articulating and Mainstreaming Appropriate Agricultural Trade Policies* to contribute innovative approaches to articulate appropriate trade policies and determine best ways to mainstream these policies and measures into national development programmes. Activities are ongoing in Kenya, Tanzania and Ghana.

11. FAO provided technical assistance during 2008 and 2009 on *Policies for good economic management of sustained price increases* in Kenya, Malawi, Uganda and Zambia.

12. FAO is providing technical supervision to several ongoing projects funded by the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC):

- The Establishment of a Diversification Programme for Vegetable Export Development and the export of organic bananas in Ethiopia and Sudan
- West African Sorghum Value Chain Development in Sierra Leone and Ghana
- Strengthening the productive and competitiveness of the smallholder dairy sector in Lesotho and Zambia
- Cassava value chain development by supporting processing and value addition by small and medium scale enterprises in Benin, Nigeria and Sierra Leone
- Wealth Creation through Integrated Development of the Potato Production and Marketing Sector in Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia
- Improving the competitiveness of rice in Central Africa.

More information exchange on the production and post-harvest activities in the different sub-regions to ensure more effective use of surpluses through regional trade

13. Enhancement of, and support to food security information systems in the region has continued to be a major priority. This included: improving the quality of crop production estimates and market price data; sharing essential food security information in a more systematic and timely manner among all stakeholders; creating awareness on emerging and critical food security issues, and the adoption of the CountryStat platform as an innovative tool for dissemination of census results.

Resolutions and recommendations of the Conference be condensed into a statement to be presented to the African Union and the G8 by the Chairman of the Conference with support from FAO and Member Countries

14. The summarized recommendations and resolutions were presented at the AU Summit in Sharm el Sheikh in June 2008. The ultimate key issues identified became part of

the AU Commission commitment for the continent, which was subsequently presented as a bigger picture to the G8 Summit attended by the AU Chairman.

III. SUMMARY OF OTHER ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED IN 2008-2009

15. In addition to the actions taken, as reported above, in response to the recommendations of the 25th Africa Regional Conference, a summary of other activities benefiting the region is provided below by main substantive areas.

a. Natural Resources Management and Environment

16. A regional workshop on '*Informal irrigation: importance and perspective*' was held to raise awareness about the importance and prospects of informal irrigation. The proceedings of the workshop have been jointly published with the Regional Association for Irrigation and Drainage in West and Central Africa (RAID).

17. Strategies were formulated for minimizing health risks from wastewater use by poor farmers in urban environments. These strategies were presented at the All Africa Horticulture Congress held in Nairobi in September 2009.

18. Training was conducted on a Crop Model, 'AquaCrop', to strengthen capacity in Member Countries on simulating attainable yield in response to water. Sub-regional workshops on '*AquaCrop*' were carried out in West Africa (Burkina Faso, July 09), North Africa (Egypt, Oct 09) and Southern Africa (South Africa, March 2010).

19. FAO continued to support the formulation of Country Strategic Investment Frameworks (CSIF) for SLM under TerrAfrica partnership in East and West Africa. The CSIF aimed at providing programmatic and policy perspectives in mobilizing resources to boost investments in land management based on clear priority orientations.

16. Support to the CAADP process covered the formulation of Land and Sustainable Water Management Framework for increased investments under Pillar 1, in close collaboration with NEPAD and CILSS.

20. Technical and policy support was provided to the African Union in the framework of the Consortium with the African Development Bank and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) for the Land Policy Initiative, which was adopted by the Heads of State and Government Summit in Sirte (Libya).

21. The 15th FAO Eastern and Southern Sub-Committee on Harmonization and Dissemination of Soil Knowledge for sustainable Land Management held a meeting in Wad Madani (Sudan) from 21st to 25th November 2009.

22. Policy advise and technical support was given to the African Soil Science Society (ASSS) in the organization of its 5th International Conference on "*Soils and the new challenges of sustainable development in Africa*" from 22-28 November, 2009, in Yaoundé, Cameroon. In addition, advice was provided to countries in areas related to land use, land and water management in agriculture.

23. FAO assisted with the development of a Regional Agricultural Policy for SADC to improve policy environment and related capacity for sustainable food and agricultural production.

24. Reviews were made of the state of land tenure in some countries within Central Africa.

25. Technical support was provided for the implementation of climate change adaptation strategies through sustainable land management.

b. Food Security, Knowledge Exchange and Communication

26. In collaboration with Regional Economic Communities, FAO conducted a study on the impact of trade policy measures implemented in 2008 on market performance, prices and supply response, and their implications for food security.

27. A regional study was initiated in West Africa in collaboration with CILSS to assess the effects of trade bans and other measures implemented by several countries in 2008 on prices and market performance, production incentives and their implications for food security in the sub-region.

28. A regional workshop on “Rethinking Regional Food Security Policies and Strategies in the post 2008 world” was organized for participants from AUC, SADC, ECOWAS, and other partners. At the workshop priority topics were identified for further analytical studies on food security in West, East and Southern Africa sub-regions during 2010-2011.

29. FAO cooperated with FARA on strategies for making agricultural research information publicly available and accessible to all. Support was also provided to national agricultural information networks in Ghana, Zambia and Kenya, and training was conducted in seven countries in the region on the initiative: Access to Global Online Research in Africa.

c. Plant production and protection

30. Countries in Eastern and Southern Africa were assisted with preparedness and mitigation measures. FAO focused particularly on coordinating surveillance and monitoring efforts. It is estimated that 598,000 ha of food crops were protected due to this effort in Tanzania alone.

31. As host to the technical unit for the ASP (Africa Stockpile Programme) FAO provided programmatic support to countries. Projects were formulated for Eastern and Southern Africa. Work continued on new technical guidelines, including the four volumes of the Environmental Management Tool Kit (EMTK), inventory of pesticides, prevention of pesticide accumulation and pesticide container management.

32. A programme on reducing the threat of cassava-related disease was implemented in 5 countries in collaboration with the EU, alongside the Gates Foundation-funded Great Lakes Cassava Initiative. FAO also implements 3 cassava related TCP projects, and Trust Fund projects for enhanced food security in cassava-based production systems in Malawi, Zambia and Mozambique.

33. The International Plant Protection Convention Secretariat dealt in particular with: training in pest risk analysis, information exchange, capacity building for regional experts, technical backstopping to ongoing projects and support to information exchange Networks. In the context of the African region becoming a prime focus for the delivery of technical assistance and capacity building under the Rotterdam Convention, 5 sub-regional and 3 national workshops and consultations were organized.

34. Support has been given to AU- IAPSC - to build its capacity for the development of Draft standards for Africa and for hosting annual consultations on draft ISPMs. Crop protection interventions in the region will be further informed by a strategic reference document: "Situational Analysis".

35. The harmonization of seed laws and regulations was completed successfully for the ECOWAS region with FAO's assistance and endorsed by the 15 member countries. This is a significant policy achievement as it paves the way for regional institutional arrangements for seed trade and strengthening technical capacities for development of regional seed industry.

36. FAO developed a national seed sector development strategy for CEMAC in central Africa and the seed legislation harmonization is underway.

37. A large portfolio of national seed policy and production projects were formulated and delivered in Africa (Ethiopia, Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Benin, Burkina Faso, Tunisia, Angola, Lesotho etc.). One of the lessons learnt was the need to shift focus from seeds as inputs to holistic development of the seed system that better address local needs and preparedness.

38. Several national capacity building projects were completed with success in biosafety, community seed production, plant breeding and national strategy for PGRFA management. One of the highlights was in North Cameroon, where some hundred community seed enterprises are now firmly established by the farmers to produce seeds for those varieties that can cope with their changing climatic conditions.

d. Food and Nutrition

39. The implementation The African Task Force on Food and Nutrition Development (ATFFND) was re-established by the African Union in 2008. The ATFFND is the sole inter-agency coordination mechanism on issues of nutrition development in Africa and it has as its main objective the provision of assistance to countries to implement the African Regional Nutrition Strategy (2005-2015) and to sensitize Africa's policy-makers on the

role of food and nutrition security as a basic input for Africa's socio-economic development. The second meeting of the Task Force identified key food and nutrition security policies, strategies, programmes and initiatives for harmonization and called for a High-Level Conference of Heads of State on Nutrition to be held in 2011 which would have as a key message that nutrition be placed higher on the global development agenda.

40. The implementation of the African Regional Nutrition Strategy included training for increasing national capacity to reduce hunger and malnutrition, and on improving knowledge of food operators and professionals about food safety and nutritional values of food.

41. An African Regional Network of Food Inspectors (ARNFI) was established.

42. Inter agency consultations were strengthened to improve data collection, preparation of food composition tables, food and nutrition analysis; and in relation to the publication of a Journal of Food and Nutrition in West Africa.

43. AFROFOODS training courses on food composition and biodiversity were held.

44. The "Call for Action for a Food Renaissance in Africa" was issued, linking nutrition, biodiversity and sustainable diets.

45. A Codex website was developed for the region (www.codexafrica.org) with links to all portals for food safety (FAO, WHO and CODEX).

46. Regional Strategies were formulated for food fortification in partnership with WHO, GAIN, UNICEF and the private sector.

47. Harmonization of food and nutrition legislation was supported within UEMOA countries.

48. FAO responded to many requests for direct technical assistance and programme support in nutrition policy and programme development and implementation. Major support to nutrition was given to NEPAD and in the following countries: Burundi, Cape Verde, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Madagascar, Mauritius, Malawi, Rwanda, South Africa and Uganda where support was also provided for their holding the first National Ugandan Nutrition Congress.

49. Direct assistance is provided to many countries in the region to enhance food safety through the strengthening of institutional frameworks, building capacity in Codex, food safety risk analysis, and improving hygienic practices among food business operators. Target countries include Benin, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cape Verde, Mali, Morocco, Niger and Tanzania.

e. Fisheries and Aquaculture

50. Organization of statutory meetings: 19th Session of the CECAF; 6th session of the Scientific Sub-Committee of CECAF and its three working groups; the 15th session of the Committee for the Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Africa (CIFAA); the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) and its Scientific Committee sessions.

51. Countries were assisted to implement the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and promote sustainable fisheries management, including the:

- Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF), through sub-regional and regional fishery bodies (SRFC, FCWC, COREP, SWIOFC, CECAF) and RECs (AUC, ECOWAS, UEMOA, SADC, ECCAS). This has included an extensive programme of surveys of fish distribution and abundance in the large marine ecosystems (LMEs) of Africa using the RV Dr Fridjof Nansen.

- Initiatives of subregional and regional institutions on combating illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing were supported.

52. FAO supported the development of regional guides on marine resources of the Eastern Central Atlantic.

53. Collaboration took place as technical partner with the AUC on a strategic partnership for a sustainable fisheries investment fund in Sub-Saharan Africa.

54. Technical assistance was provided on aquaculture development through the Special Programme for Aquaculture Development in Africa (SPADA).

55. Support to six countries sharing the Volta Basin addressed the development of a programme to supply and monitor improved culture organisms;

56. FAO sought to respond to many requests on elaboration of aquaculture development strategies, fisheries sector assessment, policies and action plans;

57. FAO supported the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO) and other stakeholders in the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity.

58. Fisheries governance reviews were conducted in the West Africa subregion and the activities included identification of technical assistance needs in fisheries and aquaculture.

59. In close collaboration with NEPAD and other African fisheries institutions, FAO has developed a “Programme in Support of the implementation of the FAO Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa”. Donor support for the programme is underway.

f. Forestry

60. A TCP project was approved to assist the African Union Commission enhance capacities of 5 countries in the Sahel and Sahara zones to prepare national strategic and

action plans to implement the Great Green Wall for the Sahel and Sahara Initiative;

61. Countries were assisted to prepare their national Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) report 2010 as the latter report will be released in 2010.

62. The 16th African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC) session was held in Khartoum, Sudan in February 2008 (while the 17th Session of the Commission was held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo in February 2010).

63. In partnership with CIRAD, IUCN WWF, IGF and CAMPFIRE, FAO developed a toolkit on human wildlife conflict mitigation to be used for awareness raising and training at local, district and national levels. A specific package regarding elephants, composed of bilingual technical manual, farmers' manual and video, was produced and disseminated in the region, particularly in West Africa.

64. Forestry aspects of climate change mitigation and adaptation were addressed, particularly Central Africa (e.g. in the context of REDD)

65. Several capacity building activities were undertaken on forestry and wildlife management to promote sustainable management.

66. By the end of 2009, 35 Sub-Saharan African countries have become partners in FAO's National Forestry Programme Facility (nfp-Facility).

67. A guideline for sustainable management of forests in the dry lands is being made available to countries as reference material.

68. FAO provided further guidance and technical support to the implementation of the ECOWAS Forest Policy (developed with FAO assistance). English and French versions were widely disseminated in West Africa. The ongoing "Forest Dialogue for West Africa process" contributed to forest policy and legal harmonization in the sub-region and to the adoption of common approaches to the management of transboundary protected areas and forest and wildlife resources. A review of the "Decentralized management of forest resources in West Africa" was done to promote exchange of information on success stories.

69. The 'Nature & Faune' publication continued to disseminate scientific and technical information and promote the exchange of experiences on wildlife, protected area management and the sustainable use and conservation of natural resources in Africa.

g. Initiative on Soaring Food Prices

70. As part of the overall FAO Initiative on Soaring Food Prices, support was provided to alleviate the impact of soaring food prices on the most affected and vulnerable populations in selected countries. TCP projects on emergency agricultural input supply valued at US\$ 15.7 million were implemented in 35 African countries, in addition to four regional ISFP TCPs valued at US\$ 1.4 million, designed to support the input supply project

implementation and monitoring. At the request of the FAO Governing Bodies, standardized impact assessments of these projects are being implemented to gauge the satisfaction of beneficiaries and perceived impacts of the projects.

71 In addition, 11 CERF-funded emergency projects totaling US\$ 12.1 million and five OSRO/bilateral assistance financed projects valued at US\$13.3 million were also launched in Africa under the ISFP.

72. A series of full-fledged inter-agency assessments were implemented in 15 African countries to prepare action plans for sustainable medium to long term agricultural development and food security. FAO also implemented rapid appraisals in 22 African countries in the framework of the European Commission Food Facility (ECFF). This led to the ECFF approval of 16 projects for Africa under FAO implementation with a total value of US\$ 166.3 million, of which US\$ 49 million (29%) had been disbursed by end February 2010. One additional ECFF project for Niger remains under negotiation.

73. The ISFP worked with national governments to provide targeted support to small holder farmers and rural households affected by skyrocketing prices that sent not only the cost of food soaring but also that of feeds, fertilizers and other essential inputs. 35 African countries are part of the initiative involving large scale distribution of seeds, fertilizer and animal feed.

74. In the context of the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative (AFSI), the ISFP launched exploratory missions in three countries (Gambia, Mauritania and Lesotho) to develop concept notes that identify "quick win" investment proposals for the possible mobilization of funding from the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP).

h. Animal Production and Health

75. FAO provided the methodology, practical guidance and common analysis of the livestock sector study in Central Africa. The formulation of a project document relating to zoo-sanitary legislation in the sub-region was also undertaken.

76. Livestock sector reviews, with emphasis on smallholder dairy, livestock and meat and poultry, was conducted in the 15 Member States of ECOWAS. These country reviews provided information on status and trends of the livestock sector prior to the formulation of a regional strategy and investment plan in West Africa in the context of ECOWAS.

77. Technical assistance was provided through a TCP project for seven countries; Cameroun, Central African Republic, Chad, Djibouti, Kenya, Nigeria, Niger, to help them complete their information dossiers required by the OIE (World Animal Health Organization) to obtain rinderpest infection free status. The assistance also included developing a surveillance strategy for rinderpest and building the capacity of laboratories for rinderpest diagnosis.

78. Livestock-related support was provided to SADC countries through the SADC Secretariat and to COMESA. In addition, contributions concerning the livestock sector

were made to the SADC Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) through the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) Directorate.

79. ECTAD units in the region assisted countries in strengthening the capacities of veterinary diagnostic laboratories and improving national and regional epidemio-surveillance systems for transboundary animal diseases (TADs). Technical backstopping was also provided on epidemiology, socio-economics and coordination of HPAI and other TADs. Countries were supported to implement short and medium-term actions to strengthen their capacities to rapidly detect the introduction of HPAI into the region and to minimize its spread in case of occurrence. In implementing these activities both at country and regional levels, the ECTAD unit worked in collaboration with AU-IBAR, WHO, the RECs, ILRI, UNICEF, UN-OCHA, Universities and NGOs'.

80. Through commissioned studies, workshops and/or other consultative forums, the ECTAD unit assisted in poultry sector analysis and the harmonization of legislation for the improvement of poultry production.

i. Gender and Development

81. Building on past and ongoing FAO assistance, more and more countries are collecting and presenting agricultural statistical data at sub-household level, illustrating socio-economic relations between male and female farmers operating semi-independently within the same agricultural holding. The resulting data are used in preparing, implementing and evaluating gender responsive agricultural development programmes that contribute to achieving national food security and sustainable agricultural development as envisaged in CAADP.

82. A 'lessons learned' statistical toolkit that facilitates the collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated data has been developed to support implementation of the 2010 round of the World Census of Agriculture (2006 – 2015). Following this, FAO's gender-related statistics work in Africa will focus more on promoting the effective use of sex-disaggregated data for which pilot activities have already started in Mali and Senegal.

j. Support to CAADP Implementation

83. FAO continued to provide technical support to the NEPAD Secretariat through the secondment of two agricultural advisers to enhance the NEPAD Secretariat's capacity in providing leadership and coordination in CAADP implementation, and mobilizing political and financial resources. This will continue in the coming three years under Italian, EU and Spanish funded projects.

84. FAO has assisted Sierra Leone, in collaboration with IFPRI and other development partners, in the preparation of the background documents and organization of the roundtable meeting that led to the signing of a Compact. FAO is currently supporting Central African Republic, Mauritania and Tanzania their efforts towards the development of CAADP Compacts.

85. FAO, in collaboration with International Financial Institutions, is assisting the Governments of Rwanda and Togo in elaborating their Compacts into investment programmes for implementation. Similar assistance is scheduled to other eleven African countries.

86. FAO supported, under a TCP facility, the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the AU Commission in updating its Strategic Action Plan.

k. Agribusiness Development

87. A workshop was organized on *Contract Farming in Africa*, in Pretoria, South Africa in May 2009.

88. A workshop was organized in October 2009 on *the role of NGOs in linking farmers to markets in Southern Africa* with participation from NGOs from Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique and South Africa.

89. Projects are being undertaken, within the framework of Italian Special Contribution to the Global Trust Fund for Food Security and Food Safety, to enhance food security through commercialization of agriculture in: Malawi; Zambia; Guinea Bissau; Guinea; Gambia; Uganda, Burundi; Rwanda; Senegal; Mali; Sierra Leone; Liberia.

90. Support is being provided within the EU-funded *All-ACP Support Programme on Agricultural Commodities* to Cameroon, Benin, Mali, Gabon, Senegal, Malawi, Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, with the objective to strengthen the capacity of commodity stakeholders in the development and implementation of strategies that improve productivity and rural livelihoods and reduce income vulnerability.

91. A regional project GCP/RAF/410/ITA is being implemented in collaboration with ROPPA (Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et des Producteurs Agricoles de l'Afrique de l'Ouest) to strengthen the capacity of small farmers and improve their incomes as a means to reduce poverty and promote food security.

92. Technical support through TCP, UTF, GCP and UNJP projects in numerous African countries and at sub-regional and regional level, targeting: development of policies and strategies to improve agribusiness competitiveness; value chain development; contract farming; rural finance; farm agri-business linkages; capacity building of small farmers and value chain actors in technical, managerial and business issues; conservation agriculture; agricultural tools, implements and equipment.

l. Agro-Industries Development

93. FAO collaborated with UNIDO, AfDB, AUC, UNECA and IFAD to develop the African Agribusiness and Agro-industries Initiative (3ADI), through consultations with African experts and organizations. The 3ADI comprises a programme framework and associated financial modalities for promoting the development of agribusiness and agro-industries in Africa.

94. A needs assessment was carried out in 14 African countries regarding post-harvest losses reduction interventions; a programme framework was developed for the AfDB targeting the reduction of post-harvest losses in Africa, while technical support was provided to AfDB to screen its agricultural portfolio in order to identify opportunities to integrate post-harvest reduction and related value addition and marketing activities.

95. In June 2009, FAO, UNIDO and the Centre for Agricultural Mechanization and Rural Technology (CAMARTEC) of Tanzania conducted a roundtable meeting to provide guidance on the key strategies and good practices for maximizing the benefits and sustainability of investments in agricultural mechanization in Africa.

96. Technical support, through TCP, UTF, GCP and UNJP projects in numerous African countries and at the sub-regional and regional levels, targeting: development of policies and strategies for agro-industries development, post-harvest management; agro-food processing; quality and safety; mechanization strategy development; development of agro-industrial parks; and agro-industries investment promotion.

m. Rural Infrastructure

97. A roundtable was organized in June 2009 in Kampala, Uganda to develop a programme framework and identify action areas and concrete steps to increase investment in market-oriented agricultural infrastructure in Africa.

98. Technical support, through TCP, UTF, GCP and UNJP projects in many African countries and at the sub-regional and regional levels, targeting: planning and designing markets; market infrastructure; abattoir development and operation; rural transport; packing houses; cold chains; and public-private partnerships for infrastructure development.