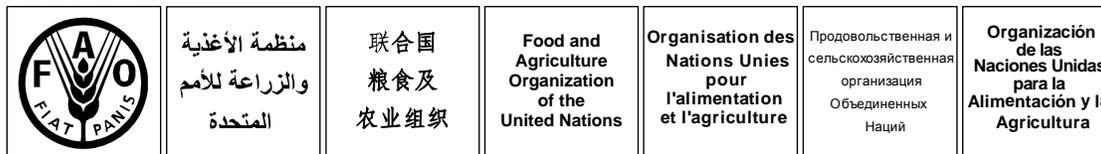


March 2012



FAO Regional Conference for Africa

TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Brazzaville, Congo, 23-27 April 2012

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

SENIOR OFFICERS MEETING

23-25 April 2012

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

- 1) Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons, and appointment of Rapporteur
- 2) Adoption of Agenda and Timetable

II. REGIONAL AND GLOBAL POLICY AND REGULATORY ISSUES

8) The CAADP Implementation Challenge: Strengthening capacity to effectively link compacts and investment plans to policy and budget processes, innovative financing mechanisms and assistance

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) is an Africa-led initiative managed by the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), a technical body of the African Union (AU), that is working to assist African countries reach a higher path of economic growth through increased investment and sustained agricultural productivity growth.

The CAADP Programme is built on four pillars (sustainable land and water management, market access, food supply and hunger, and agricultural research), each overseeing various programmes and actions to contribute to CAADP's goals.

This item reports on the progress made in FAO's support to CAADP implementation and discusses critical issues related to sustained investment and systematic implementation of priority, gender-sensitive actions to increase productivity and employment in the livestock, forestry, and fisheries sectors, which account for approximately one third of Africa's agricultural Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In the absence of widespread technological change and weak productivity growth over the past decades, these sectors have bore witness to the effects of rapid population growth leading to the expansion of cultivated area through the conversion of large areas of forests, wetlands, river valley bottoms, and grassland savannah to cropland. The item will centre on lessons learnt and potential policy and programmatic recommendations to improve the situation.

Another important issue in the framework of CAADP that needs to be addressed are lessons learnt from the crisis in the Horn of Africa. The crisis was mostly driven by the on-going prolonged drought as a result of failed rains in 2010 and 2011. It is widely acknowledged that beyond drought, the root cause of the repeated food crises in the region, has been vulnerability during drought in the arid and semi-arid lands. As a result, long-term strategies and priority investment options for strengthening resilience to the threats of droughts, floods, diseases, pests, conflict and economic shocks already exist in countries' agricultural development policies and plans, including those developed under the CAADP framework in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda. In line with IGAD and AU directions, countries are transforming their current disaster response approaches to a broader disaster risk management strategy, including climate change adaptation.

The immediate challenges facing the countries in the GHA require decisive and coordinated action. Prioritization and planning of long-term development interventions need to make better use of existing systems, evidence, and best practices and existing knowledge. Strengthened collaboration between diverse public and private actors and development partners increases opportunities for mobilizing the political will and financial resources required to intervene at the desired scale needed to achieve results. Options need to be reviewed for strengthening coordination mechanisms at national and regional levels and roles and responsibilities should be clarified for effective implementation of coordinated approaches.

9) Public/private partnership in initiating agricultural programmes to sustain livelihoods and create wealth

Innovative partnerships that bring together business, government, and civil society actors are increasingly being used to improve productivity and drive growth in the agriculture and food sectors in sub-Saharan Africa. These initiatives seek to take advantage in a coherent and complementary manner of the different skills and resources of diverse actors. Recent experiences have achieved encouraging results by harnessing the innovation and resources of private actors complemented by the coordinated provision of priority public goods. Examples of successful partnerships underscore the importance of several factors: clear definition of the roles of each partner; development of a shared understanding that partnership offers clear, mutual benefits; and, commitment to a flexible, iterative approach that builds trust and achieves sustainable outcomes.

This session provides an opportunity to learn about and discuss these new innovative partnerships to improve agri-food system performance and subsequently contribute to sustainable livelihoods and improved welfare of rural and urban populations in sub-Saharan Africa.

10) Multi-stakeholder dialogue on the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition including Regional perspectives

The purpose of this session is to engage a wide range of regional stakeholders in consultation on the first draft of the Global Strategic Framework (GSF) to ensure that it includes appropriate regional perspectives. Comments made during the consultation will be taken into account in the preparation of a First Version of the GSF, which will be presented to the CFS Plenary in October 2012. Participants invited to discuss the First Draft of the GSP will include member countries, international organizations, grassroots and civil society organizations and private sector representatives, all of whom are encouraged to hold preparatory discussions in advance of the regional conferences. The session will feature brief presentations on the GSF by the Secretariat and constituency representatives and an open floor discussion to which non-governmental participants are encouraged to contribute. This will not be a decision-making session, but the comments will inform the drafting of the GSF and a summary of the discussions will be integrated into the Committee on World Food Security Chair's intervention during the Ministerial Meeting.

III. PROGRAMME AND BUDGET MATTERS

11) FAO Activities in the Region in 2010-2011, Programme of Work and Budget 2012-2013 and Areas of Priority Actions for the Africa Region for the Following Biennium 2014-2015, including Summary report of recommendations of FAO regional bodies

This item provides for review and recommendation: a summary of major achievements by FAO in the region in 2010-2011 and the principal measures and actions taken to implement the recommendations of the 26th Regional Conference for Africa; the programme of work and budget for the 2012-2013 biennium and the areas of priority action for the Africa region for the following Biennium 2014-2015; and, the proposed global trends and future challenges for the work of the Organization.

12) Decentralization Issues - FAO Renewal - Transition to a more dynamic approach

Under this item FAO's country coverage in the Region will be reviewed, with a view to enhancing the Organization's effectiveness and efficiency at country level and making recommendations to the Council in 2012 on the most suitable structure and skills mix of the decentralized offices network in the Africa region. The report - "FAO Renewal – Transition to a More Dynamic Approach in 2012", describes the new direction for FAO renewal, focusing on realization of benefits, acceleration of IPA actions in 2012, and a mainstreaming of the renewal into the work programme of the Organization. Regional Conferences are invited to provide observations on issues specific to each region. These are an essential feedback for successful completion of the renewal process, and will be used to inform management decisions on the way forward.

IV. OTHER MATTERS

13) Multi-year Programme of Work 2012-15 for the Africa Regional Conference

The Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal (IPA) and the reform measures to improve the effectiveness and governance of FAO envisages the preparation of the Multi Year Programme of Work for the Regional Conferences. The multiyear programme of work (MYPOW) is a mechanism for enhancing the role of the Regional Conferences in the governance and decision-making process of FAO, focusing on procedures, activities, working methods, indicators and targets as a governing body.

14) Proposed List of Topics to be considered for the 28th Regional Conference for Africa

15) Date and Place of the 28th Regional Conference for Africa

16) Any other matters

Preparation, discussion and approval of a draft report of the Regional Conference for consideration and adoption by the Plenary session.

INFORMATION DOCUMENTS¹

a) Summary report of recommendations of FAO regional bodies

The FAO Regional Office for Africa (RAF) serves as secretariat for regional statutory bodies in the areas of agricultural statistics, plant protection, forestry, and fisheries. The periodic statutory meetings and intersession activities provide forums for members to discuss prevailing and emerging thematic issues of significance to these bodies. Summaries of recommendations and conclusions of the regional bodies as agreed at their respective sessions prior to the conference will be presented in this information document.

b) Update on the Africa Agribusiness and Agro-Industries Development Initiative

The Africa Agribusiness and Agro-Industries Development Initiative (3ADI) is an African initiative supported and coordinated by African governments, regional bodies, UN and other agencies. It builds on the political commitment on the continent to enhance the role of the agricultural sector by spurring the development of competitive, sustainable and inclusive agro-industries as a pathway to increased economic growth and food security. 3ADI capitalizes on the growing potential of domestic and regional agri-food markets on the continent, fuelled by rapid urbanization and income growth. Its goal is to create an agricultural sector which by 2020 is made up of productive and profitable value chains that link small and medium agricultural producers to higher value food, feed and fuel markets.

The main areas of support under the initiative are:

- Guidance on implementation of enabling policies and provision of public goods
- Building capacity in skills and technologies needed for the post-production elements of agricultural value chains
- Design of innovative institutions and services
- Development of reinforced financing and risk mitigation mechanisms

Currently, the 3ADI is being piloted at national level in eleven countries.

c) Implementing the “Save and Grow” Model of Sustainable Crop Production Intensification in Africa

In the wake of the spiralling food prices crises of 2007-8 and 2010, the world finds itself with almost a billion hungry people and a population set to expand by almost 40 percent in the coming four decades. There is a need to increase food production by 70 percent world-wide and by 100 percent in developing countries. Some 80 percent of this increase in production will need to come from land that is already under production. In further increasing food production farmers face a complex set of challenges including the decreasing availability and competition for land and water, resource degradation (e.g. poor soil fertility), energy scarcity (resulting in higher costs for inputs, production and transport), urbanization, as well as climate change and higher and more volatile food prices.

There is a need for a change paradigm to encourage increased adoption of sustainable ecological agriculture and for a shift from current farming practices to sustainable agricultural systems capable of providing productivity increases while protecting and enhancing natural resources.

FAO's publication, “Save and Grow”- A policy makers guide to the sustainable intensification of smallholder crop production (FAO, Rome, June 2011) provides the basis for a comprehensive approach to help smallholder farmers produce more food sustainably while strengthening their

¹ *If they so wish, delegates may comment on information documents under "Any other matters".*

resilience to external shocks. It is a compilation of proven management practices and technologies that demonstrate how the ecosystem approach to crop production can be implemented based on the three principles of enhancing productivity and profitability, increased resource use efficiency and ecological sustainability.

d) FAO Africa Results Task Force: Managing for Results and the Pilot Initiative in RAF

In early 2011, the FAO Africa Region embarked on the Africa Results Task Force Initiative, in order to achieve better results. It involves the Regional Office for Africa (RAF), the four Sub-regional Offices (SFW/SFC/SFE/SFS), selected Country Offices and relevant Headquarters' Departments and Divisions.

The method introduces new results-based work planning systems in the "way of doing business". By executing coordinated and integrated activities implemented by multidisciplinary teams across the Organization, it aims at effectively establishing a results-based culture in the Africa Region, not only within FAO, but also with FAO Partners (i.e. Regional Institutions and Governments) by 2014.

The ultimate goal is to "see" the impact of FAO's work by giving a human face to results, and better responding to Member countries' needs. It also aims to create enabling economic environments aimed at maximizing productivity to increase significantly the contribution of agriculture to national economies in the Africa Region.

The Initiative is meant to give a greater focus to the four regional priorities endorsed by the 26th Africa Regional Conference, namely: (i) Increase agricultural productivity and diversification; (ii) Promote sustainable natural resources management; (iii) Support market access and sanitary measures for better trade; and (iv) Knowledge management, information and advocacy in Africa.

Within the framework of the PWB 2012-2013, the Pilot programme will concentrate on the first two priority areas according to a value chain approach that contributes to FAO's corporate Organizational Results (ORs) and Strategic Objectives (SOs). Two commodities have been selected according to FAO's comparative advantages in specific areas for four countries : Ghana and DR Congo for cassava; Angola and Uganda for maize. The exercise is driven by a results-oriented performance.

e) RAF Climate change framework

Climate change presents a major challenge to agriculture development and natural resources conservation in Africa. The increasingly unpredictable and erratic nature of weather systems on the continent places increasing pressure on rural livelihoods to provide households with the resources to meet their food security needs. Increased frequency of agro-climatic shocks and flooding and more intensive droughts in different parts of the continent underline the link between climate variability and production systems. Without extensive adaptation to the effects of climate change on agriculture is expected to exacerbate Africa's deepening food crisis. Being able to transform agriculture to feed a growing population in the face of a changing climate without hindering the natural resource base, on which most rural communities in Africa depend for their livelihoods, will not only achieve food security goals but also help mitigate the negative effects of climate change. More productive and resilient agriculture will need better management of natural resources, such as land, water, soil and genetic resources through practices, such as conservation agriculture, integrated pest management, agro-forestry and sustainable diets.

The transformation of agriculture is being promoted by FAO along with other partners under the term "Climate-smart agriculture", an agriculture that sustainably increases productivity, resilience (adaptation), reduces/removes greenhouse gases while enhancing the achievement of national food security and development goals. All these are reflected in the draft strategy being developed by FAO Regional Office for Africa, in consultation with its sub regional offices.

f) Status of the implementation of the Africa Action plan to improve statistics for food security, sustainable agriculture and rural development

The Global strategy to improve agricultural and rural statistics has been approved and endorsed by several stakeholders at global and regional level and received strong support by the FAO Conference at its 37th session. FAO has developed a Global action plan and in collaboration with AfDB, UNECA and the AUC, the Africa Action Plan to implement the Global Strategy to improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics has been developed and endorsed by the four organizations. The information note contains the key proposals of the Action Plan, including the governance and funding mechanisms and information related to resource mobilization initiatives and partnership arrangements established with regional organisations to develop Regional Plans. The Africa Action will cover the period 2011-2015.

g) Global trends and future challenges for the work of the Organization

Global trends and future challenges impacting the work of FAO are considered in order to establish the way forward for the organization.

h) FAO Renewal - Transition to a More Dynamic Approach in 2012

FAO's transition to a more dynamic approach in 2012 is presented with a description of the new direction for FAO renewal. These are essential feedback for successful completion of the renewal process, and will be used to inform management decisions on the way forward.

i) Guidance Notes for CFS at the FAO Regional Conferences in 2012

The Guidance Notes provides a compilation of information to facilitate discussions on CFS at the FAO Regional conferences and on Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition. Also included is guidance on Mapping Food Security and Nutrition Actions at country level, as well as information on GSF on-line consultations.

j) Side events and subregional consultations

The document provides a brief summary of issues to be discussed during the side events of 25 and 27 April respectively, the sub-regional consultations of 25 April, the ministerial roundtables on commitment and response to the food and nutrition insecurity in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel of 25 April and on CAADP implementation of the 27 April.

k) Statement by the Independent Chairman of the Council

The document contains a summary report on the mandate given to the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council.

PLENARY SESSION

26–27 April 2012

3) Statement by the Director-General

4) Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council

5) Statement by the Chairperson of the 26th Africa Regional Conference

The statement of the Chairperson of the 26th Africa Regional Conference will provide a brief on the outcome of the deliberations of the 37th Session of the FAO Conference (Rome, 25 June-02 July 2011) and the 140th FAO Council (29 November-03 December 2011) on matters related to the Africa Region. The Chairperson will also provide an update on the Implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA).

6) Statement by the Chairperson of the CFS on the outcome of the 37th Session of the Committee on World Food Security and Update on the CFS reform

The Chairperson will brief the session on the outcomes of the 37th session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and update on the CFS reform. It will cover updates on global and regional initiatives and linkages with CFS, and also include global coordination and support for national processes such as mapping food security and nutrition activities at the country level. A consultation on these subjects will be held at the Senior Officers Meeting under agenda item 10.

7) Prioritization of needs of countries and subregions

Statements by the delegates and subregional group representatives summarizing results from the subregional consultations held on Wednesday 25 April 2012.

Review and endorsement of the Report of the Conference

The draft Report of the Regional Conference, prepared, discussed and approved by the Senior Officers Meeting, will be reviewed and endorsed. The discussion will cover:

- i) Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Issues;
- ii) Programme and Budget Matters;
- iii) Other Matters.

The Report will be introduced by the Rapporteur.