

REPORT

Hanoi
Viet Nam
12-16 March
2012

Thirty-first FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific



FAO Member Nations in the Asia Region

Afghanistan	Japan	Philippines
Bangladesh	Kazakhstan	Russian Federation
Bhutan	Republic of Korea	Sri Lanka
Cambodia	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Thailand
China	Malaysia	Timor-Leste
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Maldives	Uzbekistan
India	Mongolia	Viet Nam
Indonesia	Myanmar	
Iran, Islamic Republic of	Nepal	
	Pakistan	

FAO Member Nations in the Southwest Pacific Region

Australia	Nauru	Tuvalu
Cook Islands	New Zealand	United States of America
Fiji	Niue	Vanuatu
France	Palau	
Kiribati	Papua New Guinea	
Marshall Islands	Samoa	
Micronesia (Federated States of)	Solomon Island	
	Tonga	

Date and place of FAO Regional Conferences for Asia and the Pacific

First	- Bangalore, India, 27 July – 5 August 1953
Second	- Kandy, Ceylon, 20-25 June 1955
Third	- Bandung, Indonesia, 8-18 October 1956
Fourth	- Tokyo, Japan, 6-16 October 1958
Fifth	- Saigon, Republic of Viet Nam, 21-30 November 1960
Sixth	- Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 15-29 September 1962
Seventh	- Manila, Philippines, 7-21 November 1964
Eighth	- Seoul, Republic of Korea, 15-24 September 1966
Ninth	- Bangkok, Thailand, 4-15 November 1968
Tenth	- Canberra, Australia, 27 August – 8 September 1970
Eleventh	- New Delhi, India, 17-27 October 1972
Twelfth	- Tokyo, Japan, 17-27 September 1974
Thirteenth	- Manila, Philippines, 5-13 August 1976
Fourteenth	- Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 25 July – 3 August 1978
Fifteenth	- New Delhi, India, 5-13 March 1980
Sixteenth	- Jakarta, Indonesia, 1-11 June 1982
Seventeenth	- Islamabad, Pakistan, 24 April – 3 May 1984
Eighteenth	- Rome, Italy, 8-17 July 1986
Nineteenth	- Bangkok, Thailand, 11-15 July 1988
Twentieth	- Beijing, China, 23-27 April 1990
Twenty-first	- New Delhi, India, 10-14 February 1992
Twenty-second	- Manila, Philippines, 3-7 October 1994
Twenty-third	- Apia, Western Samoa, 14-18 May 1996
Twenty-fourth	- Yangon, Myanmar, 20-24 April 1998
Twenty-fifth	- Yokohama, Japan, 28 August-1 September 2000
Twenty-sixth	- Kathmandu, Nepal, 13-15 May 2002
Twenty-seventh	- Beijing, China, 17-21 May 2004
Twenty-eighth	- Jakarta, Indonesia, 15-19 May 2006
Twenty-ninth	- Bangkok, Thailand, 26-31 March 2009
Thirtieth	- Gyeongju, Republic of Korea, 27 September-1 October 2010
Thirty-first	- Hanoi, Viet Nam, 12-16 March 2012

REPORT

Hanoi
Viet Nam
12-16 March
2012

Thirty-first FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific

Food and Agriculture Organization of the
United Nations

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by FAO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.

All rights reserved. FAO encourages reproduction and dissemination of material in this publication. Non-commercial uses will be authorized free of charge. Reproduction for resale or other commercial purposes, including educational purposes, may incur fees. Applications for permission to reproduce or disseminate FAO copyright materials and all other queries on rights and licences, should be addressed by e-mail to copyright@fao.org or to the Chief, Publishing Policy and Support Branch, Office of Knowledge Exchange, Research and Extension, FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy.

© FAO 2012

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Pages
SUMMARY OF MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS		i-ii
		Paragraphs
I.	Introductory Items	
	Organization of the Conference.....	1-2
	Inaugural Ceremonies.....	3-4
	Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteur.....	5-7
	Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable.....	8
	Statement by the Chairperson of the 30th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific.....	9
	Statement by the Director-General.....	10
	Statement by the Chairperson of the CFS on the Outcomes of the 37th Session of the Committee on World Food Security and Update of the CFS Reform.....	12
II.	Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Issues	
	A. State of Food and Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific Region, including Future Prospects and Emerging Issues.....	13-14
	B. Report and Consultation on the Outcomes of the 37th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and Follow-up Actions at Regional and Country Levels.....	15-20
	C. Sustainable Intensification and Diversification of Crops and Agriculture towards Food and Nutrition Security.....	21-24
	D. Value Chain Development and Post-Harvest Loss Reduction for Smallholder Farmers.....	25-31
	E. Round Table on Policies to Address Food Price Volatility.....	32
III.	Programme and Budget Matters	
	A. Report on FAO Activities in Asia and the Pacific Region in the Biennium 2010-11 (Including the Implementation of Priorities and Recommendations of the Five Regional Technical Commissions) and Actions Taken on the Main Recommendations of the 30th APRC.....	33-36
	B. Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13 and Areas of Priority Actions for Asia and the Pacific Region for the Following Biennium 2014-15.....	37-47
	C. Decentralization Issues.....	48-52
	D. Prioritization of Country and Regional Needs.....	53-58
IV.	Other Matters	
	A. Multi-year Programme of Work 2012-15 for the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific.....	59-60

B. Concluding Items.....	
Date and Place of the Thirty-second FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific.....	61
Adoption of the Report.....	62
Closure of the Conference.....	63-64

Appendices	Pages
A. Agenda.....	9
B. List of Documents.....	10

SUMMARY OF MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

MATTERS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

The Thirty-first FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific:

- reconfirmed the relevance of the Regional Priority Framework for Asia and the Pacific and the current focus of FAO's work in the region;
- supported the Strategic Thinking Process initiated by the Director-General;
- emphasized the importance of focusing the work of FAO on key challenges aligned with the Organization's comparative advantages and requested FAO to focus on knowledge services through technical assistance, information sharing, policy advice, standards setting, investment planning, capacity development, and facilitation of South-South cooperation;
- highlighted new and emerging challenges related to the adverse effects of climate change and the frequent devastating natural disasters occurring in the region and requested FAO support in meeting these challenges;
- emphasized region-specific needs related to increasing agricultural production and productivity (including of rice as the main staple of the region), promoting agricultural knowledge sharing and technology transfer, making small-scale farmers more competitive, harmonizing policies for food security and bioenergy development, managing trans-boundary pests and diseases, and facilitating efficient markets for food;
- agreed that the recommendations of the five Regional Technical Commissions (RTCs) can be considered the regional priorities for the sub-sectors they address and encouraged FAO to forge stronger links between the RTCs and their "parent" global Committees, and with other related regional and global bodies;
- supported proposals for a more decentralized office network in FAO, with strong country leadership and greater empowerment of Regional and Country Representatives, including suggestions for an integrated approach to programme delivery related to emergency projects and operations;
- requested additional dialogue and information as the decentralization process unfolds;
- reiterated the need for FAO to allocate an increased share of financial resources to the Asia and Pacific region commensurate with the magnitude of the challenges of achieving food security for the nearly two-thirds of the world's hungry who live in the region;
- proposed to hold its next session in Mongolia in 2014.

MATTERS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF THE CONFERENCE

The Thirty-first FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific:

- endorsed the recommendation to develop a Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF) and recommended that regional perspectives be fully reflected in further drafts of the GSF;
- requested FAO to facilitate the development of systems for mapping food security and nutrition actions to enhance coordination and alignment of the policies and programmes of government agencies and development partners;
- stressed the need for FAO and member countries to address the key challenges of increasing agricultural productivity, managing natural resources sustainably, and promoting effective responses to food price volatility;
- requested FAO to assist member countries in developing, strengthening and enhancing programmes and activities related to: agricultural research and extension; gender-disaggregated statistics; market information services; governance and regulation of the livestock sector; animal health and food-safety standards; sustainable management of forests, fisheries and water resources; transparent, open and efficient trade of food; cost-effective safety nets for the most vulnerable; and climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- recognized the need for increased attention in member countries to support sustainable agricultural intensification and diversification of crops, including the special needs of small island developing states, and requested FAO to assist member countries through participatory development of strategic analyses, facilitation of knowledge generation, capacity development, transfer of technology and genetic materials, and facilitation of global and regional cooperation;
- acknowledged the importance of post-harvest loss reduction and value chain development, urged member countries to implement policy reforms that facilitate the ease of doing business, and requested FAO to provide assistance in value chain development and post-harvest loss reduction, including documentation of successful models.

I. Introductory Items

Organization of the Conference

1. The thirty-first FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific was held in Hanoi, Viet Nam, from 12 to 16 March 2012. The Conference was organized in two parts: a Senior Officers Meeting from 12 to 14 March and a Ministerial-level Meeting from 15 to 16 March.
2. Representatives from 39 member countries participated in the Conference. Observers from 2 United Nations member states, 18 international non-governmental organizations and 6 intergovernmental organizations were in attendance. Representatives of 10 other United Nations organizations also participated.

Inaugural Ceremonies

3. The Senior Officers Meeting was opened with addresses by Mr Hiroyuki Konuma, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative of FAO, and His Excellency, Cao Duc Phat, Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. Mr Konuma thanked the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam for excellent support in hosting the meeting, outlined key challenges facing the region in efforts to reduce poverty and food insecurity and updated delegates on the organization of the Conference. His Excellency, Cao Duc Phat, welcomed delegates and participants to Hanoi and formally opened the Senior Officers Meeting.
4. The Inaugural Ceremony of the Ministerial Meeting was held on 15 March. His Excellency Nguyen Tan Dung, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, delivered the inaugural address. His Excellency highlighted the remarkable achievements of Viet Nam in transforming itself from a food-deficit country to a food-surplus country and major exporter of agriculture, forestry and fisheries products. His Excellency highlighted the importance of collaboration and partnership to enhance food security throughout the region.

Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur

5. Delegates elected Mr Luong The Phiet, Director-General, Ministry for Agriculture and Rural Development, Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, as Chairperson of the Senior Officers Meeting.
6. His Excellency, Cao Duc Phat, Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, was elected Chairperson of the Ministerial Meeting.
7. Delegates also elected Mongolia to serve as Vice-Chair of the Conference, and Fiji to serve as Rapporteur.

Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

8. The Conference adopted the agenda which is given in *Appendix A*. Documents submitted to the Conference are listed in *Appendix B*.

Statement by the Chairperson of the 30th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific

9. His Excellency, Kyu-Yong Suh, Chairperson of the thirtieth session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, reminded the Conference of the recommendations of the previous session, and briefed delegates on subsequent activities to bring these recommendations to the attention of the FAO Council and Conference.

Statement by the Director-General

10. Mr Jose Graziano da Silva, Director-General of FAO, addressed the Regional Conference, outlining five critical areas for FAO's attention, notably: eradication of hunger; sustainable food production; fairness in the international system of food production; institutional reform and decentralization; and South-South cooperation.

Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council

11. His Excellency, Luc Guyau, Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council, addressed the Conference, reporting on the conduct of the mandate entrusted to him; implementation of the reform of FAO; and the outlook for the 2012-13 biennium.

Statement by the Chairperson of the CFS on the Outcomes of the 37th Session of the Committee on World Food Security and Update of the CFS Reform

12. Mr Yaya Olaniran reported on the progress made by the reformed CFS over the past two years and the relevance of this to the work of the FAO Regional Conference.

II. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Issues

A. State of Food and Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific Region, including Future Prospects and Emerging Issues

13. The Conference appreciated the progress made in the region in reducing undernourishment, but noted that the region was still home to 62 percent of the world's undernourished, and that agricultural production would need to increase globally by 60 percent by 2050 to meet demands due to income and population growth.¹

14. The Conference requested FAO support in addressing the key challenges of increasing agricultural productivity, managing natural resources and promoting effective responses to food price volatility, by assisting member countries in:

- strengthening agricultural research and better linking of it to extension by promoting partnerships among research institutions, extension agencies and other key stakeholders, and increasing the number of female extension workers;
- developing better gender-disaggregated agricultural, fisheries and forestry statistics;
- strengthening agricultural market information systems, including stronger links between the systems developed by regional organizations and the global interagency Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), based in Rome;
- improving governance and regulation of the livestock sector in a manner that makes rapid growth possible in a sustainable and environmentally sound manner and does not threaten human health;
- enhancing capacity for participation in the design of animal health and food-safety standards facilitating greater access to markets;
- developing forests and forestry as a means of sustaining livelihoods, generating income, reducing poverty, preserving cultural heritage and maintaining environmental and biodiversity values;
- improving water management and enhancing dry land agricultural productivity;
- developing an ecosystems approach framework through which fisheries and aquaculture activities can be implemented in a sustainable manner;
- developing sound policies to facilitate transparent, open and efficient trade of food;
- designing cost-effective safety nets for the most vulnerable; and
- adapting to and mitigating climate change through the creation of improved early warning systems and the development and dissemination of improved technologies and risk management tools.

B. Report and Consultation on the Outcomes of the 37th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and Follow-up Actions at Regional and Country Levels

15. The Conference reviewed recent developments and deliberations of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and considered appropriate follow-up actions in Asia and the Pacific.² A side

¹ APRC/12/2

² APRC/12/INF/12, APRC/12/INF/13, APRC/12/INF/14 and CFS : 2011/7

event was organized on 13 March to demonstrate tools for country-level mapping of food security and nutrition actions.

16. The Conference welcomed the successful conclusion of the consultations on the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security and urged their adoption by the special session of CFS in May 2012. The Conference also pointed out the importance of starting a process of consultations on Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investments that Enhance Food Security and Nutrition.

17. The Conference endorsed the recommendation of the 37th session of CFS to develop a Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF). Delegates appreciated the ongoing multi-stakeholder preparation process in the development of the GSF and recognized its potential for improving coordination and guiding synchronized action in support of global, regional and country-led actions to prevent future food crises, eliminate hunger and ensure food security and nutrition for all.

18. Delegates noted the valuable comments and contributions to the first draft of the GSF provided by a broad range of stakeholders and made further recommendations for improving the process and enhancing the document. The Conference recommended that regional perspectives be fully reflected in further drafts of the GSF and urged stakeholders to provide additional inputs through all available mechanisms.

19. The Conference requested FAO to work with appropriate stakeholders to facilitate the development of systems for mapping food security and nutrition actions to enhance coordination and alignment of the policies and programmes of government agencies and development partners. The Conference stressed the importance of monitoring progress in implementing key decisions concerning food and nutrition security, and relevant challenges and successes.

20. The Conference encouraged regional coordination and support for country-level mapping of food security and nutrition actions, based on existing mechanisms and institutions, including the FAO Regional Office.

C. Sustainable Intensification and Diversification of Crops and Agriculture towards Food and Nutrition Security

21. Delegates considered the implications of growing demand for food and the related increased pressure on the region's natural resource base and recognized the urgent need for sustainable intensification and diversification.³

22. Delegates recognized the need for increased attention in member countries to support sustainable agricultural intensification and diversification of crops. The Conference requested FAO to assist member countries through participatory development of strategic analyses and investment guidelines; facilitation of knowledge generation, dialogue and dissemination; capacity development; promotion of technology generation; transfer of technology and genetic materials; and facilitation of global and regional cooperation to strengthen awareness raising, policy dialogue, and research-extension linkages, such as through the Global Agenda of Action for Sustainable Livestock Sector Development.

23. The Conference recognized the special needs of small island developing countries in addressing food and nutrition security issues in the context of frequent natural disasters, emerging impacts of climate change; fragility of land and marine ecosystems; threats from invasive species; limited fresh water supplies; and high costs of transportation. The importance of coconuts in small island developing countries was particularly emphasized.

24. The Conference cautioned on the challenges associated with efforts to achieve sustainable intensification, including the need for supporting legislation and safeguards with respect to land ownership and use to ensure small-scale farmers remain key partners and beneficiaries in this process.

³ APRC/12/3

D. Value Chain Development and Post-Harvest Loss Reduction for Smallholder Farmers

25. The Conference reviewed the current status of value chain development and post-harvest losses as these issues relate to smallholder farmers in the region.⁴
26. The Conference noted that, within the region, modern value chains operate in parallel with traditional supply chains. While modern value chains link smallholders to premium markets, such as supermarkets, the food service sector and export markets, traditional supply chains predominate and are largely responsible for supplying the food needs of mass markets.
27. The Conference acknowledged that the issue of post-harvest loss reduction is a critical one for smallholders in the region, and highlighted the need for FAO's assistance and support to address these issues in the context of traditional supply chains.
28. Members recognized the importance of value chain development for contributing to food security and poverty alleviation and the need for improved organization and coordination among smallholders, through the formation of alliances in order to benefit from market linkages.
29. The Conference urged member countries to implement policy reforms that facilitate the ease of doing business.
30. The Conference requested FAO to provide assistance in value chain development, specifically: in developing strategies and programmes, including support in the area of food processing; harmonizing food safety and quality standards; strengthening legal and institutional frameworks that govern food safety and quality; and in developing the technical and organizational capacities of smallholder farmers.
31. The Conference requested FAO to collect, analyze, document and disseminate information on factors that contribute to successful value chain development and post-harvest loss reduction for smallholders, in order to learn lessons from successful models.

E. Round Table on Policies to Address Food Price Volatility

32. An informal Ministerial Round Table on Policies to Address Food Price Volatility was convened on 16 March.⁵

III. Programme and Budget Matters

A. Report on FAO Activities in Asia and the Pacific Region in the Biennium 2010-11 (Including the Implementation of Priorities and Recommendations of the Five Regional Technical Commissions) and Actions Taken on the Main Recommendations of the 30th APRC

33. Mr Hiroyuki Konuma, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, reported on the major FAO activities in the region in the past biennium.⁶ He also underscored the roles and activities of the Regional Technical Commissions in contributing to the work of FAO in the region.
34. Delegates appreciated the work of FAO in the region, highlighting the importance of the following:
- integrated pest management;
 - Farmer Field Schools;
 - strengthening of agricultural statistics and reporting;
 - increasing agricultural productivity;
 - sustainable livestock development; and
 - support for smallholder farmers and farmer organizations.

⁴ APRC/12/4

⁵ APRC/12/9

⁶ APRC/12/5

35. The Conference recognized that the five Regional Technical Commissions (RTCs) provide effective mechanisms for addressing specific sub-sectoral technical matters and agreed that the recommendations of the RTCs can be considered the regional priorities for the sub-sectors they address. The Conference encouraged FAO to forge stronger linkages between the RTCs and their “parent” global Committees, and with other related regional and global bodies.

36. The Conference requested FAO, in future reporting to the APRC, to link activities and outputs to outcomes and impacts.

B. Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13 and Areas of Priority Actions for Asia and the Pacific Region for the Following Biennium 2014-15

37. The Conference considered areas of priority action for FAO in the Asia and Pacific region for the current and future biennia in the context of global trends and future challenges for the work of the Organization.⁷

38. The Conference reconfirmed the relevance of the Regional Priority Framework for Asia and the Pacific that was endorsed by the thirtieth Regional Conference and the current focus of FAO’s work in the region.

39. The Conference welcomed the broad and inclusive strategic thinking process launched by the Director-General in January 2012 to determine the future strategic direction and priorities of the Organization. The Conference emphasized the importance of focusing the work of FAO on key challenges faced by countries so as to achieve measurable progress through the effective and efficient use of available resources on a limited number of activities, aligned with FAO’s comparative advantage.

40. In this regard, the Conference reiterated the need for FAO to allocate an increased share of financial resources to the Asia and Pacific region commensurate with the magnitude of the challenges of achieving food security for the nearly two-thirds of the world’s hungry who live in the region.

41. The Conference noted the regional trends relating to the slowing of crop productivity growth, food price increases and volatility, increasing pressure on land and water, population growth and rapid urbanization, and climate change and frequent occurrence of natural disasters. It requested that these trends be taken into account in reviewing the FAO Strategic Framework.

42. The Conference noted that the identified emerging main global challenges for food and agriculture were consistent with conditions in the region, and emphasized the following region-specific needs:

- increasing agricultural production and productivity, while addressing natural resource constraints (water, land, genetic resources, climate change) and higher energy prices;
- promoting increased rice production and productivity, as the region’s most important staple food;
- promoting agricultural knowledge sharing and technology transfer;
- making small-scale farmers more competitive;
- promoting food security and nutrition;
- harmonizing policies for food security and bioenergy development;
- managing trans-boundary plant pests and animal diseases; and
- facilitating markets, particularly through commodity information and standard setting.

43. Delegates welcomed the ongoing review of FAO’s comparative advantages and core functions as a means to focus the strategic objectives and prioritize the programme of work of FAO. The Conference requested FAO to focus its action in the region on knowledge services through technical assistance, information sharing, policy advice, standards setting, investment planning, capacity development and facilitation of South-South cooperation.

⁷ APRC/12/6 and APRC/12/INF/10

44. The Conference suggested that FAO coordinate the development of a regional rice strategy and review the technical skills mix in the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, with a view towards ensuring adequate rice expertise.
45. The Conference stressed the importance of completing the formulation of Country Programming Frameworks and having a clear line of sight between strategic directions, regional and country priorities, and results achieved at country level.
46. The Conference encouraged the FAO Regional Office to further strengthen partnerships with other development partners and regional organizations to identify areas of synergy and to increase efficiency in delivery of programmes in the region.
47. The Conference noted concerns by civil society of the difficulties they face in participating fully in some FAO programmes and processes, especially at the country level.

C. Decentralization Issues

48. The Conference welcomed efforts to enhance FAO's effectiveness and efficiency, recognizing that further efforts were still to be made, particularly at country level.⁸ Delegates highlighted the need to make the best use of financial and human resources to address identified priorities and contribute to country-level results. The Conference welcomed the proposals on decentralization, which were consistent with a more flexible and innovative decentralized office network. It stressed that priority should be given to implementing decentralization reforms, which were an important part of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal.
49. The Conference supported the overall proposals for a more flexible decentralized office network with strong country office leadership and greater empowerment of Regional and Country Representatives. It emphasized that this decentralization should not be implemented at the expense of weakening the capacity of FAO's technical programmes and the provision of its global public goods, while noting that there is considerable room for improved prioritization and efficiency within these programmes. It recognized that additional funding requirements should be met through cost savings and efficiencies and the de-emphasis of other work.
50. The Conference concurred with the specific proposals for the Asia and Pacific region, which include:
- retaining the existing 13 country offices; strengthening country offices where possible, such as for Mongolia, Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea; and modifying the terms of reference of country offices in large and middle income economies, where appropriate and mutually agreed;
 - enhancing resource mobilization and allocation to field projects in recipient countries;
 - locating technical staff where appropriate and where their expertise is particularly critical;
 - placing greater emphasis on South-South cooperation and partnerships with other institutions, the private sector and civil society; and
 - giving due consideration to the use of local expertise, where available and appropriate.
51. The Conference requested additional dialogue and information as the decentralization process unfolds regarding:
- the applicability of the technical hubs concept in the Asia and Pacific region;
 - the placement of sub-national offices;
 - the cost implications of the decentralization process; and
 - the oversight and accountability framework that will be put in place.
52. The Conference agreed with suggestions for an integrated approach to programme delivery in the region, and endorsed proposals that include:
- a phased transfer of responsibility for emergency operations at country level to FAO Representatives, and for regional or subregional emergency projects to the ADG/Regional Representative and Subregional Coordinator SAP, respectively;

⁸ APRC/12/7 and APRC/12/INF/11

- transfer of the overall authority for the emergency programme in the region to the ADG/Regional Representative; and
- further delegation of authority to decentralized offices, accompanied by appropriate training and oversight mechanisms.

D. Prioritization of Country and Regional Needs

53. The Ministerial-level session of the Conference, convened 15 to 16 March, involved the full delegations of all participating countries and organizations, including 19 Ministers and 8 Vice-Ministers responsible for agriculture. Ministers and other high-level delegates highlighted the many challenges countries faced in achieving food and nutrition security for all people of the region and underscored the recommendations of the Senior Officers Meeting as elaborated in the respective sections of this report.

54. The Ministers and delegates particularly highlighted the new and emerging challenges related to the adverse effects of climate change and the frequent devastating natural disasters occurring in the region. The Conference requested FAO support in meeting these challenges.

55. The Ministers and delegates stressed the need to increase agricultural production and productivity, and to facilitate transparent, open and efficient trade of food to accelerate progress towards food security in the region.

56. The Ministers and delegates supported the strategic thinking process initiated by the Director-General and ongoing efforts to implement further decentralization reforms, while emphasizing the importance of focusing the work of FAO on key challenges faced by countries so as to achieve measurable progress through the effective and efficient use of available resources in line with FAO's comparative advantages.

57. Ministers and delegates highlighted the importance of strengthening collaboration with partner organizations at global, regional and national levels, including with research institutions, multilateral development institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector, and other international and regional development and knowledge organizations. The value of increased South-South cooperation was particularly highlighted.

58. While recognizing many common challenges and needs in the region, the Conference stressed that countries in the region faced a range of challenges and had varying needs. In this respect, the Conference emphasized the importance of developing sound and focused Country Programming Frameworks, through participatory consultative processes, to effectively identify priority needs and corresponding assistance required.

IV. Other Matters

A. Multi-year Programme of Work 2012-15 for the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific

59. The Conference reviewed the draft Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2012-15 for the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific.⁹

60. The Conference appreciated the efforts to develop the first MYPOW for framing the work of the Regional Conference and encouraged further refinement and elaboration with respect to its purpose and functions, specific work tasks of the Regional Conference related to the reference period, and inclusion of measurable indicators.

B. Concluding Items

Date and place of the thirty-second FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific

61. The Conference recommended the acceptance of the gracious offer of the Government of Mongolia to host the thirty-second Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, in 2014.

⁹ APRC/12/8

Adoption of the Report

62. The Conference unanimously adopted the report as presented by the Rapporteur.

Closure of the Conference

63. On behalf of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, His Excellency Cao Duc Phat thanked the participants for their positive contributions, which had led to the Conference's success. In closing the Conference, he called for increased efforts and collaboration in addressing the challenges of combating hunger and ensuring sustainable rural development in the region.

64. Participants expressed their heartfelt appreciation to the people and Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements in hosting the Conference, and to FAO for the efficient preparation and organization.

APPENDIX A**AGENDA****I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS**

1. Election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Appointment of Rapporteur
2. Adoption of Agenda and Timetable
3. Statement by the Director-General
4. Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council
5. Statement by the Chairperson of the 30th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific
6. Statement by the Chairperson of the CFS on the outcomes of the 37th Session of the Committee on World Food Security and update of the CFS reform

II. REGIONAL AND GLOBAL POLICY ISSUES

7. State of food and agriculture in Asia and the Pacific region, including future prospects and emerging issues
8. Report and consultation on the outcomes of the 37th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and follow-up actions at regional and country levels
9. Sustainable intensification and diversification of crops and agriculture towards food and nutrition security
10. Value chain development and post-harvest loss reduction for smallholder farmers

III. PROGRAMME AND BUDGET MATTERS

11. FAO activities in the Region in 2010-11 (including the implementation of priorities and recommendations of the five Regional Technical Commissions), and the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13 and Areas of Priority Actions for the Asia and the Pacific Region for the Following Biennium 2014-15
12. Decentralization Issues
13. Prioritization of country and regional needs

IV. OTHER MATTERS

14. Multi-year Programme of Work 2012-15 for the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific
15. Date and place of the 32nd Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific
16. Any other matters

Round table on policies to address food price volatility

APPENDIX B**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

APRC/12/1	Provisional Annotated Agenda
APRC/12/2	State of food and agriculture in Asia and the Pacific region, including future prospects and emerging issues
APRC/12/3	Sustainable intensification and diversification of crops and agriculture towards food and nutrition security
APRC/12/4	Value chain development and post-harvest loss reduction for smallholder farmers
APRC/12/5	Report on FAO activities in Asia and the Pacific region in the biennium 2010-11 (including the implementation of priorities and recommendations of the five Regional Technical Commissions) and actions taken on the main recommendations of the 30th APRC
APRC/12/6	Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13 and areas of priority actions for Asia and the Pacific region for the following biennium 2014-15
APRC/12/7	Decentralization issues
APRC/12/8	Multi-year Programme of Work 2012-15 for the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific
APRC/12/9	Round table on policies to address food price volatility

INF SERIES

APRC/12/INF/1	Provisional timetable
APRC/12/INF/2	Provisional list of documents
APRC/12/INF/3	Information note
APRC/12/INF/4	Statement by the Director-General
APRC/12/INF/5	Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council
APRC/12/INF/6	Statement by the Chairperson of the 30th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific
APRC/12/INF/7	Regional implementation plan for the global strategy to improve agricultural and rural statistics
APRC/12/INF/8	Summary of the recommendations of the Regional Technical Commissions (RTCs): Relevance of the RTCs to the work of the APRC and their function as regional, subsectoral priority setting mechanisms
APRC/12/INF/9	Bioenergy development and food security policy
APRC/12/INF/10	Global trends and future challenges for the work of the Organization
APRC/12/INF/11	FAO Renewal – Transition to a More Dynamic Approach in 2012
APRC/12/INF/12	Committee on World Food Security: CFS in the 2012 FAO Regional Conferences – Guidelines
APRC/12/INF/13	Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition Draft One
APRC/12/INF/14	Update on the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)
CFS:2011/7	Mapping Food Security and Nutrition Actions at Country Level

OD SERIES

APRC/12/OD/1	Order of the Day
APRC/12/OD/2	Order of the Day
APRC/12/OD/3	Order of the Day
APRC/12/OD/4	Order of the Day
APRC/12/OD/5	Order of the Day

WEB DOCUMENTS

List of Participants and Observers

Inaugural Statement by H.E. Mr. Nguyen Tan Dung, Prime Minister of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

Statement by the Chairperson of the 30th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific

Statement by the Director-General

Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the Council

Statement by CFS Chair to Thirty-first Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific

Round table on policies to address food price volatility

CSO Statement to the 31st FAO APRC