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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Organisation des Nations
Unies pour l'alimentation
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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
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FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean

Thirty-fifth Session

Montego Bay, Jamaica, 5-8 March 2018

Report on FAO activities in the region 2016-2017

I. Introduction

This is an update on progress made during the 2016-2017 biennium on implementing the recommendations of the Thirty-fourth session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean. Accompanying each recommendation is a section describing key achievements in its implementation.

II. Programme and budget matters

Recommendation

Continue to support working groups on family farming and the advancement of women, as well as the 2025 Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (2025 CELAC FNS Plan).

Achievements

1. FAO provided technical assistance to the country senior officials who took over as Presidents Pro Tempore of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC): Ecuador in 2015, Dominican Republic in 2016 and El Salvador in 2017. This technical assistance focused on the establishment of discussion forums and consensus-building at regional and subregional levels, as well as on consolidating coordination mechanisms and preparing analytical papers to support technical

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discussions and decision-making on the regional priorities set by the previous session of the Regional Conference.

2. The biggest achievements of this support were: (i) a meeting on climate change, food security and family farming (Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic) in August 2016, which was supported by FAO, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) as partners in implementing the 2025 Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (2025 CELAC FNS Plan); (ii) adoption of the gender strategy of the 2025 CELAC FNS Plan, within the framework of the CELAC Working Group on the Advancement of Women (January 2017); (iii) adoption and implementation of the 2017 plan of action of the CELAC Working Group on Family Farming and Rural Development; (iv) adoption of the 2018 plan of action of the CELAC Working Group on Family Farming and Rural Development; (v) adoption of the regional strategy for disaster risk management in agriculture and food security.

Recommendation

Maintain and progress the work achieved in the area of South-South cooperation and resource mobilization, support of Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger, in food loss and waste, in regional network of public food marketing and in supply system platforms for policy dialogue on family farming.

Achievements

3. One of FAO's primary tasks in Latin America and the Caribbean continues to be to establish and support Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger. In the current biennium, the first ever fronts in the Caribbean were established: in St Vincent and the Grenadines and Haiti. The work of Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger led to the Latin American Parliament (PARLATINO) passing two model laws (on family farming and small-scale fisheries) and support was provided in drafting two further model laws, one on climate change and food security and the other on reduction of food loss and waste.

4. Over the period, FAO forged closer ties for its work on South-South and triangular cooperation, and technical cooperation was mobilized from 14 countries and at least 62 institutions. Mexico was the biggest provider of technical cooperation (with 18 participating institutions); Brazil (16), Chile (7); Argentina, Costa Rica and Cuba (3 each); Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Panama and Peru (2 each). Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Paraguay were also among the countries that provided technical cooperation. South-South cooperation has been facilitated by financial contributions from a number of countries through projects currently under implementation, including the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (1 project); Brazil (6); Colombia (2) and Mexico (2).

5. The regional network of public food supply and marketing systems (SPAA) was consolidated, with the participation of governments from 12 countries¹ in Latin America and the Caribbean. El Salvador has made notable progress, where the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, with FAO support, has developed and is implementing a public policy on a strategic reserve of basic grains.

6. With regard to food loss and waste, support was provided for: (i) drafting 24 bills on food loss and waste; (ii) preparing food loss and waste baselines in 12 countries;² (iii) drafting an international code of conduct for the prevention and reduction of food loss and waste.

¹ Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Plurinational State of Bolivia and St Vincent and the Grenadines.

² Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay.

7. On the issue of resource mobilization, a task force was set up at the Regional Office to promote resource mobilization in the region and a set of tools was developed to support efforts to increase voluntary contributions to further work in the region.

Recommendation

Closer collaboration between FAO, ECLAC and PAHO/WHO to strengthen the SDG monitoring process in the region.

Achievements

8. FAO has increased its collaboration and coordination with ECLAC, the Pan American Health Organization of the World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) and other agencies in order to increase support to countries in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to support countries with SDG monitoring. FAO stepped up its collaboration with ECLAC and other United Nations agencies in the region, and joint reports were submitted to the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (New York, July 2017). FAO submitted a report to the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development (Mexico City, April 2017) on SDG monitoring in the agricultural, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture sectors. FAO is coordinating work with ECLAC to provide countries with joint support for SDG monitoring.

9. The partnership with PAHO/WHO has strengthened in the area of healthy food thanks to joint efforts with Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger, a boost provided by policies for the transformation of nutrition-sensitive food systems and the main regional document on food security and nutrition. This Panorama of Food and Nutritional Security in Latin America and the Caribbean was published jointly by FAO and PAHO/WHO in 2017-2017 and is having considerable impact on public policymakers in various sectors and on public opinion in general. The report monitors the evolution of the different forms of malnutrition in the region and makes public policy recommendations. FAO and PAHO/WHO also produced a joint report with policy recommendations for reducing obesity.

Recommendations

Support the adjustments to the Regional Initiatives for the 2016-2017 biennium, in particular: (i) support for the Latin America and the Caribbean without Hunger Initiative; (ii) family farming and territorial development in rural areas and (iii) sustainable use of natural resources, disaster risk management and climate change adaptation.

Further implementation of Regional Initiatives such as: fisheries and aquaculture, forestry, agroecology and crop diversification.

Achievements

10. The Regional Initiatives provide a means to ensure the efficient delivery and impact of FAO's work in response to the priorities set by Member Nations in each region, contributing both to FAO Strategic Objectives and to the SDGs. Based on the adjustments incorporated by the last Regional Conference, the technical teams organized around the Strategic Objectives have provided their expertise to consolidate in-country work by promoting activities in such areas as fisheries and aquaculture, forestry, agroecology and crop diversification, while creating opportunities for discussion among the agricultural, livestock, forestry, fisheries and environmental sectors, with a focus on sustainability. These technical teams have analysed regional and global trends and identified the challenges that countries in the region will face in the coming years. Their analysis has highlighted emerging issues in such areas as migration, obesity, governance of agrifood systems, a multisector

approach to tackling the impact of climate change and resource mobilization on the issue (Green Climate Fund, Global Environment Facility). The identification of emerging issues has led to readjustments to the work programme of Regional Initiatives. Additional efforts will be made to further reflect the complex linkages between migration, food security and agricultural and rural development in planning, including in the light of the development, implementation and follow-up of the Global Compact for Migration.

Recommendation

Consider the exceptional challenges facing Haiti and recommend continuing to develop specific actions to address them.

Achievements

11. *FAO continued to develop specific actions in response to the exceptional challenges faced by Haiti. Among the communal, departmental and national actions Food and Nutrition Security Plans were developed, and an analysis was prepared of the institutional capacities on food and nutrition security of the decentralized offices of Ministry of Agriculture (MARNDR). Technical support and training was provided to the National Food Security Coordination (CNSA). The Ministry of National Education was supported in the development of a school feeding policy document. The Parliamentary Front against Hunger of Haiti (PFH) was officially launched in October 2017.*

12. *FAO provided technical assistance to develop a Seed Policy Document and helped prepare a law to regulate the seed sector. Training was provided to 153 seed producers groups that are producing approximately 800 tons of quality certified seeds per year.*

13. *Technical assistance was provided to 11 micro-dairies for the production of high-quality dairy products (yoghurt, cheese and sterilized milk). Manuals on good practices along the milk value chain were produced and seven veterinary service centres were established.*

14. *Thirty-five Farmer Field Schools (FFS) specializing in production, processing and marketing of peanuts and cassava were established and National Quality Standards for the peanut value chain were developed.*

15. *The Ministry of the Environment was supported in the preparation of ten Hazard and Disaster Reduction Plans and in its updating of the National Action Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change (PANA).*

Recommendation

Underline the need for continuity in the strategic direction of the Organization and support the strategic planning process underway.

Achievements

16. *To follow up on and reinforce the Organization's strategic planning process, the technical teams for the five strategic programmes under the three Regional Initiatives, coordinated by the Regional Programme Leader and headed by the Assistant Director-General and FAO Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean, stepped up their work with FAO Country Office teams to support and efficiently monitor the goals and priorities set by countries for the 2016-2017 biennium in line with the Organization's strategic planning process.*

17. For the four-year period 2018-2021, following the adoption by the FAO Conference at its Fortieth Session (July 2017) of the reviewed FAO Strategic Framework, Medium Term Plan 2018-2021 and Programme of Work and Budget 2018-2019, the Regional Office urged technical teams for the Strategic Programmes to carry out an extensive goal- and priority-setting exercise for each Country Office. This exercise involved the technical teams for the five Strategic Programmes based in the Subregional Offices, Regional Office and technical units at FAO headquarters, as well as experts on cross-cutting issues (statistics, nutrition, resource mobilization, South-South cooperation, gender and partnerships). Taking into account the Organization's reviewed Strategic Framework (which incorporates an analysis of sectoral and regional trends and challenges), the priorities set by the Regional Conference and the Country Programming Frameworks negotiated with institutional counterparts, goals were set and prioritized at regional and country levels, which make up the plan of work for 2018-2019.

Recommendation

Address the recommendations of the following subsectors: forestry, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture approved by the Regional Technical Commissions of the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC), the Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean (CLDLAC), the Commission for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture for Latin America and the Caribbean (COPESCAALC) and the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC).

Achievements

18. With regard to the recommendations of the Regional Commissions (LACFC,³ CLDLAC, COPESCAALC and WECAFC), the Organization has continued to work with the commissions, as well as with the Working Group on Agricultural and Livestock Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean. This joint work has allowed their decisions and timely recommendations to be taken into account when defining regional priorities, programmes and initiatives of interest to the region. Of note is the cross-sector (agriculture–environment) approach promoted by FAO in Regional Initiative 3 (Sustainable use of natural resources, climate change adaptation and disaster risk management), based on the Regional Commissions' recommendations.

Recommendations

Recognize the opportunity to update the coverage of FAO offices in the region, in order to adapt to current developments and requirements and achieve greater efficiency in the implementation of strategic objectives.

Broadly endorse the proposed principles and general criteria for reviewing the coverage of FAO offices in the region promoted by the Director-General.

In terms of FAO decentralization and decentralization offices network, examine changes recommended for Latin America and the Caribbean and suggest valid options to be considered by Member Nations, multiple accreditation offices or partnership and liaison offices.

Achievements

19. *Based on the Regional Conference recommendations, FAO has begun to update the deployment of its resources in the network of decentralized Country Offices. The aims are to increase*

³ See <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bt636s.pdf>.

the resources available for technical assistance work and to allocate the resources based on current needs and future trends.

20. *The first two manifestations of the updating of the network of decentralized Country Offices, were the establishment of a Multiple Accreditation Office in Costa Rica (January 2017) and a Partnership and Liaison Office in Mexico (October 2017), the first of its kind in Latin America and the Caribbean. These two instances exemplify how the type of FAO Country Office can be adjusted to the differential needs, expectations and priorities of the member countries. Conversations are underway with governments of other countries, and the aim is to finalize all the agreements to update the country presence in the region by the end of 2018. This important reform will free resources from their current administrative use, to invest in technical capacities (in keeping with the specific priorities and needs of each country). Finally, this updating of LACs country presence is in line with the reform of the UN Development System, led by the UN Secretary General.*

Recommendation

Support the importance of collaboration between the Rome-based United Nations Agencies, and promote monitoring and coordination mechanisms to facilitate coordination for joint work.

Achievements

21. *Regarding the RBA's, consistent with their goals, mandates, policies and rules, FAO, WFP and IFAD in LAC have committed to jointly improve their capacity to support LAC countries in which they work to achieve the SDGs (SDGs 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 15). The RBA's in Latin America and the Caribbean are eager to work collaboratively in the provision of analytical, policy dialogue, technical assistance and resource mobilization. For this purpose, FAO has signed regional MoU's with their respective IFAD and WFP counterparts. The MoU's will allow for the consolidation of multi-stakeholder working groups aimed at developing results-oriented work plan and resources. In October 9, 2017, the ADG/RR signed the regional MoU with IFAD during a regional IFAD event in Mendoza, Argentina. The regional directors of WFP and FAO RLC decided to sign remotely their MoU on October 23, 2017. When the MoU between WFP and IFAD for the region is signed, a tripartite statement will be communicated in order to promote the implementation of the trilateral agreement to enhance collaboration on work programs in Latin America and the Caribbean. The initial aim is to start collective actions in three priority countries: Haiti, Guatemala and Colombia and the respective representatives at country level have begun to discuss a way forward.*

III. Global and regional policy and regulatory matters

Recommendation

Ratify the importance of the 2030 Agenda, the Framework for Action of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), as well as regional undertakings, such as the Latin America and the Caribbean without Hunger 2025 initiative and the 2025 Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC FNS Plan), which provide a favourable framework for implementing FAO work programmes for 2016-17.

Achievements

22. *In September 2017, a regional symposium on sustainable food systems for healthy eating was held as part of the Framework for Action of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2). The symposium was organized jointly by FAO and PAHO/WHO, under the auspices of CELAC, and*

was attended by at least 17 countries in the region. During the symposium at least 14 national dialogues took place (involving over 600 policymakers, civil society and private sector representatives, members of parliament and others) and more than 70 food system experiences were gathered from various sectors.

23. See paragraphs 1 and 2 for information on the Latin America and the Caribbean without Hunger 2025 initiative and the 2025 CELAC FNS Plan.

Recommendation

Endorse FAO support with capacity-building in order to develop indicators and information systems on SDGs, and highlight the role of forests, fisheries and aquaculture in tackling food and nutrition insecurity.

Achievements

24. Through the United Nations Country Teams, FAO has: (a) helped to build national capacity in policy dialogue for SDG implementation in national policies, strategies and plans; and (b) together with ECLAC, established working relationships on statistics to support countries with data and information generation and analysis to facilitate the monitoring of indicators for which FAO has been designated as custodian or co-custodian agency.

25. In addition, FAO provided technical assistance for the national dialogue on the ownership and implementation of SDGs within its remit. It also helped to build national capacity for data and information generation and for monitoring the 21 indicators under FAO's responsibility and the remaining 6 where it shares custodianship with other agencies. These actions focused on the 11 countries in the region⁴ that report to the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and served to promote policy dialogue and the strengthening and consolidation of existing national structures and mechanisms for SDG ownership, implementation and information, as well as to enhance coordination with the United Nations Country Teams.

26. FAO assisted Latin American and Caribbean countries that had decided to submit voluntary reports by: holding cross-sector dialogues and national workshops with different actors for report preparation; systematizing practical experience of SDG implementation; and establishing regional and international forums for dialogue and exchanges on SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 5 and SDG 14.

27. Recognizing the important role of trade in achieving food and nutrition security, as reflected in SDG 2, FAO provided South American countries with technical assistance to prepare for the Eleventh Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (MC11), held in Buenos Aires (Argentina) in December 2017. The policy dialogues that took place among ministries of agriculture during this process served to consolidate the countries' positions in the agricultural trade negotiations, as set forth in a statement of expectations for MC11 by participating authorities.

28. In the area of statistics, FAO is implementing two subregional projects: one on capacity-building for SDG measurement and reporting in the countries of South America and the other on capacity-building for following up SDG 2 targets in the countries of Mesoamerica. It is also helping countries to design agricultural censuses, mainstreaming the gender and indigenous peoples' perspective in data generation and analysis.

⁴ Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Peru and Uruguay.

Recommendation

Ratify the importance of continued support for the development of inter-institutional coordination mechanisms and governance to facilitate the interaction of policies and dialogue between governments, civil society and the private sector to achieve social and economic transformation of the rural sector, while preserving country leadership and paying particular attention to women, youth and indigenous peoples.

Achievements

29. The Organization has continued to support the implementation of inter-agency coordination and governance mechanisms to facilitate policy coordination and dialogue between governments and civil society, the private sector and academia. To this end, actions have been taken to strengthen national and regional mechanisms. The main regional mechanisms include: (a) CELAC Working Group on the Advancement of Women; (b) CELAC Working Group on Family Farming and Rural Development; (c) MERCOSUR Specialized Meeting on Family Farming (REAF); (d) Central American and Dominican Republic Commission on Family Farming (CCAF); (e) Right to Food and Nutrition Watch.

Recommendation

Endorse South-South and triangular cooperation strategies to support the development of healthy and sustainable agrifood systems and to reduce rural poverty in the region.

Achievements

30. See paragraph 4 for information on South-South and triangular cooperation.

Recommendation

Stress the importance of furthering support for differentiated policies on fisheries and aquaculture, with particular emphasis on artisanal fisheries, as well as for the forestry sector and the most vulnerable communities whose livelihoods depend on forests.

Achievements

31. Countries were supported in implementing the voluntary guidelines on responsible governance of land ownership, fisheries and forests through new practices, institutional frameworks and policies that also promoted the inclusion of various actors (young people, women and indigenous peoples).

32. Countries also received support in terms of their institutional framework and policy instruments to promote access to lands (Colombia and Guatemala) to recognize the land rights of indigenous peoples (Colombia, El Salvador and Guatemala) and to strengthen capacity-building for strategic actors (Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama and Peru).

33. Through the global Forest and Farm Facility, it promoted: cross-sector coordination; the organization and training of local communities in Guatemala, Nicaragua and the Plurinational State of Bolivia in sustainable management of forest and farm landscapes; and the development and exchange of good practice, learning and experience to serve as a model for other countries in the region.

Recommendation

Ratify the need to strengthen family farming and rural development policies based on a territorial agroecology approach, placing special emphasis on the interaction of policies for sustainable production and responsible consumption, disaster risk management, agricultural insurance, technical assistance, rural extension and communication, social protection, and farm employment.

Achievements

34. The Organization has continued to promote the development of policies for family farming and rural development with a territorial and agroecological approach, bearing in mind the multisectoral nature of such policies, which must take into account the link between social protection and environmental programmes, as well as economic inclusion strategies (creation of farm and non-farm rural employment). To this end, FAO has worked at both country and regional level with public policy advocacy forums (see paragraph 28) and mechanisms for disaster risk management in agriculture (including agricultural insurance for small producers). It has also supported subregional strategies, such as the Central American Strategy for Rural Territorial Development (ECADERT) of the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC) (part of the Central American Integration System [SICA]), and specific forums to discuss elements to be considered in these strategies (second and third regional forum on innovation systems for sustainable rural development). Further FAO activities have included supporting the Latin American Network for Rural Extension Services (RELASER) and providing technical support to improve technical assistance and rural extension systems through the Forum on Communication for Development and Community Media for Family Farming (FCCM) in support of the network of REAF family farming communicators, as well as strengthening rural communication services for family farming in Guatemala and Nicaragua.

Recommendation

Request FAO to promote fora for policy dialogue and the exchange of experiences between the region's countries to foster better coordination between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction activities.

Achievements

35. FAO assisted CELAC in drafting a regional strategy for disaster risk management in the agricultural sector and food and nutrition security in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was adopted by the ministers of agriculture of countries in the region at a meeting of the CELAC Working Group on Family Farming in December 2017.

36. With the collaboration of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), FAO implemented a subregional action plan for South-South cooperation to strengthen national integrated disaster risk management systems for the agricultural sector and food security in the countries of the Southern Agricultural Council (CAS). A practical, flexible and dynamic mechanism for South-South cooperation was used as a catalyst for capacity-building on integrated agricultural risk management.

37. With the collaboration of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), FAO held a high-level policy dialogue on disaster risk reduction for food and nutrition security to address the main challenges and opportunities for disaster risk management in agriculture, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture in Latin America and the Caribbean. This led to the publication of guidelines and recommendations for the implementation of the Sendai framework for disaster risk reduction in the agriculture and food security and nutrition sector – Latin America and the Caribbean,

to guide Member Nations in mainstreaming disaster risk management and climate change adaptation into the planning and implementation of actions for sustainable development of the sector.

Recommendation

Ratify the need to support prevention, mitigation and response to extreme weather and human-induced events, developing resilience, placing particular emphasis on vulnerable populations.

Achievements

38. In coordination with the CAC technical group on climate change and integrated risk management (GTCCGIR), FAO supported the establishment and institutionalization of an e-learning programme on agroclimatic risk management. It is aimed at government officials (from ministries of agriculture, environment ministries and disaster risk management systems) and will be managed and updated directly by the CAC technical group on climate change and integrated risk management.

39. FAO assisted in drafting a subregional action plan for South-South cooperation to strengthen national disaster risk management systems for the agricultural sector and food security in CAS countries, which was adopted by CAS ministers of agriculture in December 2017.

40. It began working with the Regional Water Resources Committee (CRRH) to support the establishment of an agricultural drought monitoring system in Central America, which will determine the status of staple crops for food security (rice, maize and beans) and the impact of agricultural drought, providing information for an early and timely response.

41. With the collaboration of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), support was also provided to small island developing states in the Caribbean for building the capacity of technical personnel to develop and implement disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation plans for the agricultural sector, with a gender focus.

Recommendation

Endorse the importance of supporting national plant and animal health, and food safety systems, and develop programmes to strengthen regional efforts for prevention, control and eradication of invasive species, pests and diseases.

Achievements

42. With regard to supporting national plant and animal health and food safety systems and to enhancing regional efforts to prevent, control and eradicate invasive species, pests and diseases, support was provided in drafting policy guidelines and building existing institutional capacity in the sector through: (a) assistance with the development of a binational programme for strengthening animal and plant health services in the Dominican Republic and Republic of Haiti, supported by South-South cooperation from Cuba; (b) implementation of risk prevention and mitigation actions relating to animal health, plant health and food safety in countries in the region under the "One Health" cross-sector approach; (c) support with drafting an Andean strategy (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Plurinational State of Bolivia) to prevent the introduction of foot and mouth disease and a plan of action to improve animal health emergency management and response (collaboration with PAHO/WHO and the General Secretariat of the Andean Community); (d) assistance with developing a regional strategy to reduce the impact of the Zika virus on food security in rural areas; (e) support for the development of strategies to control and eradicate invasive alien species in Chile and Argentina; (f) support for the development of national action plans to contain antimicrobial resistance.

43. In Ecuador and Uruguay, FAO has supported the design and implementation of two Global Environment Facility (GEF) projects on climate-smart livestock production in order to build the resilience of livestock producers. Furthermore, FAO is working with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) to integrate methane mitigation in Argentina and Uruguay.

Recommendation

Examine the conclusions and recommendations of the Regional Seminar on Agroecology and urge FAO to continue working on the issue.

Achievements

44. Following up the recommendations of the first international symposium on agroecology in Rome in September 2014, two regional seminars on the subject (one in Brazil in June 2015 and the other in the Plurinational State of Bolivia in September 2016) were held jointly by FAO, host governments, CELAC, REAF and the Alliance for the Food Sovereignty of the Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean. The two seminars furthered the development of agroecology in the region, through political commitment and the creation of stakeholder synergies. In addition, a regional agroecology agenda was developed in conjunction with representatives of government, civil society, social movements, indigenous peoples' organizations, women's associations, private companies and academia, and with the participation of over 18 countries in the region. The agenda is a direct means of supporting implementation of the 2016 plan of action of the CELAC Working Group on Family Farming and Rural Development and contributes to the 2025 CELAC FNS Plan.

45. Moreover, to support the regional development agenda, FAO, jointly with the network Public Policy and Rural Development in Latin America, which has published a study on public policy to promote agroecology in Latin America and the Caribbean, and in collaboration with the Latin American and Caribbean Agroecology Movement (MAELA), Assessoria e Serviços a Projetos em Agricultura Alternativa (AS-PTA), a non-governmental organization specializing in family farming and agroecology, and Argentina's National Agricultural Technology Institute (INTA), is working to generate and systematize evidence-based information to aid policymaking for agroecological transition, legal frameworks and performance of agroecological systems to strengthen their position in decision-makers' forums.

46. Over the current period, an increasing number of laws, public policies, strategies and programmes have been adopted in the region, both nationally and locally. FAO's database now contains more than 80 legal documents within regulatory frameworks in over 17 countries in the region that have included agroecology within their development plans, including promoting the transition to a more sustainable form of agriculture and developing climate change adaptation and resilience and greater biodiversity.