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منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

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Progress in Implementing the SAMOA Pathway: Global Action Programme

Executive Summary

The Global Action Programme (GAP) on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) is a concrete, tangible contribution to Paragraph 61 of the SAMOA Pathway which addresses the challenges and priorities of SIDS in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals on food and nutrition security.

The GAP is a global guidance document intended to support and strengthen the coherence, coordination, implementation and alignment of existing strategies and plans for food security and nutrition in SIDS, within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It recommends actions at community, national, regional, and global levels to achieve three interconnected and mutually reinforcing objectives:

- a) enabling environments for food security and nutrition;
- b) establishing sustainable, resilient food systems that support healthy diets and nutrition;
- c) empowering people and communities to achieve improved food security and nutrition, with a focus on vulnerable groups.

FAO is delivering its contribution to the implementation of the GAP through an Interregional Initiative (IRI) on SIDS.

The IRI is designed to reflect the specificities and requirements of each SIDS subregion in relation to the GAP. In addition to the three subregional specific components, the IRI includes a cross-regional component to promote South-South Cooperation, partnership and experience sharing.

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Suggested action by the Regional Conference:

The Regional Conference is invited to:

- note progress and provide guidance on the implementation of the activities under the GAP and FAO's IRI;
- review the Caribbean component of the Interregional Initiative

I. FAO's support to implement GAP on Food Security and Nutrition on SIDS: the Interregional Initiative

1. In 2014, the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) met in Samoa. The outcome document of the conference, the SAMOA Pathway, emphasized the need for national leadership and international cooperation in order to overcome the unique sustainable development challenges faced by SIDS. Ensuring improved food security and nutrition was identified as one of the most important challenges to be addressed. This was reiterated during the Second International Conference on Nutrition in 2014 (ICN2) which highlighted the complex burdens faced by SIDS with regard to all forms of malnutrition, including undernourishment, micronutrient deficiency and obesity.

2. The SAMOA Pathway (paragraph 61) invited FAO to facilitate a biennial forum to develop an Action Programme addressing food and nutrition challenges in SIDS. In this context, FAO has worked closely with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the United Nations Office for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS) to develop the GAP, which was officially launched in Rome during the 40th Session of the FAO Conference, in July 2017.

3. The GAP is a global guidance document intended to strengthen the coherence and coordination of global and regional actions related to food security and nutrition in SIDS, as well as to support SIDS' governments in strengthening their national approaches and ensuring that their needs and priorities are met in relevant global and regional policy processes.

4. The GAP recommends actions at local, national, regional and global levels to achieve three interconnected and mutually-reinforcing objectives:

- a) enabling environments for food security and nutrition;
- b) establishing sustainable, resilient food systems that support healthy diets and nutrition; and
- c) empowering people and communities to achieve improved food security and nutrition, with a focus on vulnerable groups.

5. Implementation of the GAP calls for:

- a) identification of specific needs to ensure that the GAP is aligned with existing national food and nutrition security strategies;
- b) development of joint regional and national action programmes;
- c) effective knowledge sharing and interregional activities across the SIDS;
- d) strengthened coordination of the development partners' work with SIDS governments, working together in resource mobilization at international, regional and national levels.

6. FAO will deliver its contribution to the implementation of the GAP through the IRI on SIDS.
7. The GAP and the IRI, as FAO's main delivery mechanism, have been designed with the recognition that SIDS share many characteristics that imply increased vulnerability to economic and environmental shocks and constrain the development of commercially oriented agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors. These characteristics – a narrow resource base, reliance on ocean resources, volatile market dependencies and high food imports; high costs for energy, transportation and communication; and fragile natural environments, amongst others – further contribute to the increased prevalence of diet-related non communicable diseases (NCDs) in SIDS.
8. At the same time, each subregional grouping of SIDS has specific needs and requirements. The IRI seeks to address these while promoting South-South Cooperation as well as Triangular Cooperation, partnerships and experience sharing. Interregional aspects of the IRI will focus on knowledge-sharing between the three SIDS subregions (the Caribbean, the Pacific, and the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Seas [AIMS]).
9. The IRI places emphasis on developing partnerships within and outside the UN system, and on providing a more integrated approach to address the institutional challenges faced by SIDS. It seeks to scale up FAO's support from the existing set of small projects to a more programmatic approach that can attract further resources, such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Green Climate Fund (GCF) funding.
10. Since the launch of the GAP at the 40th Session of the FAO Conference in July 2017, a number of activities have been initiated in the Caribbean to kick-start its implementation.

II. Key milestones and plan in the Caribbean

A. Reinforcement of school feeding programmes as drivers for nutrition education and market access

11. A Letter of Agreement was signed between FAO and the University of the West Indies to conduct a diagnostic study of school feeding programmes in 14 Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries. The study seeks to identify options for adapting the Brazilian sustainable school feeding approach in the Caribbean context. Findings will be shared during a Regional Workshop in 2018.
12. Caribbean key stakeholders from the Ministries of Agriculture, Health and Education of the Bahamas, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and from the University of the West Indies, participated in a study tour and an international school feeding congress in Brazil in October 2017.
13. A delegation from Guyana of Ministers for Agriculture, Education, Health, and Social Protection, the First Lady and stakeholders from civil society undertook from in October 2017, a study tour to Brazil to understand the coordination, management and participation of different sectors and ministries in the decision-making of the Brazilian school feeding approach. This experience was a step toward the establishment of an interinstitutional and intersectoral Guyanese School feeding committee.
14. A Letter of Agreement between FAO and the Marketing and National Importing Board (MNIB) of Grenada, signed in December 2017, will support procurement of fresh, healthy, locally and culturally accepted products for school meals from local small scale and family farmers to support local economy and domestic production.

B. Parliamentary involvement in food and nutrition security governance

15. The first Parliamentary Front against Hunger (PFH) meeting in the Caribbean was organized by FAO in July 2017 in Barbados. It gathered 26 parliamentarians and advisors from the opposition and ruling parties of 13 countries of the Caribbean Community. The meeting provided a forum to share experiences of existing chapters of PFH in Latin America and the Caribbean and Africa.

16. This meeting proposed common steps for Caribbean Parliamentarians to place food and nutrition security at the highest levels of their political and legislative agendas. A regional Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) project was developed for provision of technical assistance for strengthening the PFH in the Caribbean.

17. A second Caribbean Parliamentarians meeting was held in Trinidad and Tobago from 7 to 8 November 2017. This meeting was supported by FAO in partnership with many other UN agencies (such as the World Food Programme [WFP], the United Nations Development Programme [UNDP], and the Pan-American Health Organization [PAHO]) and regional agencies (the Association of Caribbean States [ACS], the Caribbean Development Bank [CDB] and the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility [CCRIF]). Participants discussed the role of parliamentarians in building Caribbean resilience in the face of natural disasters and economic shocks. Key themes included: a) building resilient food systems for food and nutrition security, b) building resilient health systems and c) resilience budgeting.

C. Sharing best practices in climate smart agriculture, innovative technologies and youth employment opportunities for agricultural sector and related industries

18. Thirty-one youths from Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago attended the first Caribbean Regional Learning Route in Dominican Republic from 5 to 11 November 2017. The Learning Route is a new learning methodology that FAO, in collaboration with the PROCASUR Corporation, has been testing in the Caribbean to promote capacity building among young people in the agricultural sector and related industries.

19. Assistance was provided for a regional symposium on innovation for sustainable agriculture and rural development in Latin American and the Caribbean, held from 14 to 15 September 2017. The meeting was a forum to discuss how the region can strengthen sustainable agriculture and rural development through innovation. Recommendations from the symposium were presented at the Council on Trade and Economic Development (COTED) Ministerial meeting of the CARICOM in October 2017.

20. Eight stakeholders from the Caribbean attended the Global Breadfruit Summit in Samoa in October 2017. During the summit these stakeholders gained knowledge and exchanged experiences with representatives of other SIDS regions on all aspects of the breadfruit value chain from production to processing, value addition and consumption.

D. Alliance with academia and evidence-based information to tackle chronic NCDs, obesity and food insecurity

21. Through a Letter of Agreement with the Caribbean Institute for Health Research (CAIHR) the University of the West Indies will complete and validate a regional project to strengthen multisectoral actions to enhance food security and sovereignty for the prevention of obesity and related NCDs in the Caribbean. Findings will be disseminated to all CARICOM countries in 2018 for adaptation and adoption.

22. A Letter of Agreement with the University of Guyana will establish the Institute of Food and Nutrition Security. Assistance provided will support the preparation of technical studies in the first half of 2018 that will lay the groundwork for the establishment of the Institute including:

- a) A policy and Institutional Framework for the proposed Institute of Food and Nutrition Security;
- b) A stakeholder consultation report on the purpose and activities of the proposed institution;
- c) Curricula and Training Modules for the Institute;
- d) A Case study of a functional Institute in the region; and
- e) Other institutional support.

23. Assistance is provided for the collection of information for the development of the second report on “State of Food Insecurity in the CARICOM Caribbean 2018”. The first was published in 2015 and reflected Caribbean progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The new report is scheduled for publication in early 2018.