



联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Organisation des Nations
Unies pour l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

E

FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Thirty-seventh Session

Quito, Ecuador, 28 March – 1 April 2022

Priorities for FAO in the region under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31

Executive Summary

The 42nd FAO Conference unanimously approved the Strategic Framework 2022-31. The strategic narrative guiding the Strategic Framework is supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the transformation to MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems for *better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life*, leaving no one behind. The 37th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean is called to localize the Strategic Framework in the specific conditions, needs and priorities of the Members in the region.

In 2022-23, five major trends will set the stage for FAO's programmatic focus in Latin America and the Caribbean: (i) persistency of the COVID-19 pandemic and its socioeconomic consequences; (ii) economic recovery that is uneven and less dynamic than expected; (iii) increase in rates of poverty, hunger and food insecurity; (iv) widening inequality among and within countries; and (v) natural resource and ecosystem degradation, the impacts of the climate crisis and increasingly frequent and intense disasters and shocks.

FAO's work in the region will deliver on two complementary fronts: i) in the short-term, by supporting country-level recovery efforts to overcome the economic and social impacts caused by the COVID19 pandemic in the food and agriculture sector; and ii) in the medium- to long-term, by supporting countries to transform agrifood systems in accordance with national contexts, priorities and capacities. FAO will do so by ensuring effective country delivery and impact in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), utilizing the 20 Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) of the Strategic Framework, through three Regional Initiatives (RIs). The RIs proposed for the 2022-23 biennium localize the new Strategic Framework in the region and respond to the COVID-19 impacts and challenges.

RI 1: Sustainable agrifood systems for healthy diets for all, focusing on: (i) contributing to reversing hunger, increasing food security and improving nutrition; (ii) ensuring physical and economic access to safe and nutritious foods to achieve healthy diets; (iii) supporting policies and programmes to reduce overweight and obesity and diet-related chronic diseases; and (iv) promoting agrifood trade.

Documents can be consulted at www.fao.org.

RI 2: Prosperous and inclusive rural societies, emphasising four areas: (i) eradicating rural poverty and protecting rural livelihoods; (ii) increasing productivity and expanding rural economic opportunities; (iii) fostering equitable rural societies through the inclusion of rural women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent; and (iv) applying systematically the innovative analytical, technical, policy, investment and programme management support being developed globally across FAO through the Hand-in-Hand Initiative.

RI 3: Sustainable and Resilient Agriculture¹, focusing efforts on: (i) building agrifood systems that are better adapted to climate change and more resilient; (ii) enhancing ecosystem services and biodiversity for better production; and (iii) reducing GHG emissions from agrifood systems. The highly successful work on environmental and climate financing will continue as well.

To accelerate progress and maximize efforts in meeting the SDGs, FAO will mainstream and intensify the application of technology, innovation, and data, and bring greater focus on strengthening governance, human capital, and institutional development in all interventions. Additionally, three cross-cutting themes – gender, youth and inclusion – are key areas to be addressed across all of FAO’s programmatic work.

Suggested action by the Regional Conference

The Regional Conference is invited to:

- Note the context and challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) related to the impact of COVID-19, including substantial increases in poverty (SDG 1), hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition in all its forms (SDG 2) and inequalities (SDG 10).
- Recognize the need to localize the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 to the specific conditions, needs and priorities of the Members and in the region.
- Endorse the three Regional Initiatives (RIs) as programmatic delivery mechanisms to localize and implement the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, the Medium Term Plan 2022-25, and the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23.
- Request FAO to provide integrated (normative, technical, policy, operational and investment planning) support to Members, in the priority areas of each RI.
- Request FAO to implement its work in the region with a programmatic approach that ensures improved coordinated and increased efficiency, sustainability and impact.

Queries on the content of this document may be addressed to:

Regional Conference Secretariat

RLC-Conferencia@fao.org

I. Introduction

1. The 42nd Session of the FAO Conference endorsed the Strategic Framework 2022-31,² which will guide the work of the Organization for the next 10 years and support the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development through the transformation to MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems for *better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life*, leaving no one behind.

2. FAO will implement the Strategic Framework through 20 Programme Priority Areas (PPAs), which articulate FAO’s thematic, technical comparative advantage and competency to deliver (see

¹ In this document and unless otherwise noted, the term “agriculture” includes forestry, fishing and hunting, as well as cultivation of crops and livestock production.

² <https://www.fao.org/3/cb7099en/cb7099en.pdf>.

Annex 1). The *four betters* and 20 PPAs are anchored in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Organization will use a systems approach, considering social, economic and environmental development dimensions, addressing the relevant trade-offs. Action at country-level is at the core of the transformative nature of the Agenda 2030, and the PPAs act as a pathway towards achieving the SDGs in alignment with national priorities.

3. The four cross-cutting accelerators: technology, innovation, data and complements (governance, human capital, and institutions) focus efforts in all of FAO's programmatic interventions to fast-track progress and maximize prospects for contributing to the SDGs, while minimizing trade-offs. The crosscutting themes of gender, youth and inclusion are embedded across all of FAO's work to operationalize the principle of leaving no one behind.

4. Two new thematic strategies on Science and Innovation and Climate Change are being developed to support the implementation of the Strategic Framework 2022-31 and provide guidance on: coherence and alignment to Member-led initiatives for impact at country-level through better use of science and innovation; and strengthened support to countries in their raised ambitions on climate action and achievement of their nationally determined contributions.

5. In the 2022-23 biennium, FAO will continue to maximize impact at the country level through other key corporate initiatives. The Hand-in-Hand Initiative is FAO's evidence-based, country-led and country-owned initiative to accelerate agricultural transformation and sustainable rural development in support of the SDGs. The COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme aims to mitigate the immediate impacts while strengthening the longer-term resilience of livelihoods, moving towards a sustainable recovery, building to transform agrifood systems, and appeals for immediate-, medium- and longer-term actions to prevent the health crisis from becoming a food crisis.

II. Latin America and the Caribbean: context and challenges

6. Five major trends are impacting agrifood systems in the region: i) the persistent presence of the COVID-19 pandemic and its socio-economic consequences; ii) an uneven and underwhelming economic recovery; iii) a substantial increase in poverty rates, hunger and food insecurity; iv) widening inequality between and within countries; and v) the urgency to address natural resources and ecosystem degradation, the impacts of the climate crisis and the increased frequency and intensity of disasters and shocks.

7. The pandemic has hit the region hard. LAC is one of the most affected regions, also considering the total reported deaths attributed to COVID-19.^{3,4} In all probability, the pandemic will continue causing uneven damage in the region in the coming years. However, the COVID-19 crisis has also brought increasing cooperation among countries, revealed urban-rural interdependencies and demonstrated the resilience of agrifood systems under major stress.

8. The COVID-19 crisis exacerbated pre-existing social and economic challenges. In 2014-2019, the region had one of the lowest economic growth rates on record, with an average Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate of only 0.3 percent and negative per capita growth.⁵ Despite the pandemic's persistence, 2021 saw the beginnings of regional economic recovery after the 7 percent GDP reduction in 2020, with significant improvements in different economic indicators. GDP growth of 5.2 percent is forecast for LAC, with positive results for most economies in this biennium. However, this overall regional forecast masks subregional and national differences and will not be enough to recover what was lost in 2020. GDP levels are projected to remain even below the trajectory of the pre-pandemic trend until 2024.^{6,7}

³ United Nations, (n. d.). *Population | United Nations*, <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/population>

⁴ ECLAC (2021a). *Recovery, Paradox, Latin America and the Caribbean*.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ IMF (2021a). *Managing divergent recoveries*. <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/Issues/2021/03/23/world-economic-outlook-april-2021>.

⁷ IMF (2021b). *Drawing Further Apart: Widening Gaps in the Global Recovery*, <https://blogs.imf.org/2021/07/27/drawing-further-apart-widening-gaps-in-the-global-recovery/>.

9. Economic recovery is coming with inflationary pressure for most economies.⁸ Food prices, already increasing before the pandemic, are now a key part of this trend. Emerging economies – net food-importing countries – and low-income economies struggling with the pandemic will be significantly affected by food price increases, exacerbating trends of rising hunger, food insecurity, poverty and inequalities.⁹

10. The region also faces fiscal challenges. During 2020, fiscal income decreased, and expenditures increased.¹⁰ External debt grew in an amount equivalent to 10.7 percent of the regional GDP.¹¹ This increased indebtedness, required to face the emergency, reduces fiscal space, and could jeopardize recovery and future growth, as well as the necessary investments required to achieve the SDGs.¹²

11. In the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, the *four betters* (*better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life*) represent the organizing principle through which FAO will support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In the following sections, additional challenges and opportunities related to the four betters are presented.

A. Challenges and opportunities related to *better production*

*“Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, through efficient and inclusive food and agriculture supply chains at local, regional, and global level, ensuring resilient and sustainable agrifood systems in a changing climate and environment”.*¹³

12. Agriculture in LAC plays a key role in the regional economy and global food supply. The region accounts for 13 percent of the global production value of agriculture and fish commodities and 17 percent of the net export value of such products. Agricultural production is projected to grow by 14 percent over the coming decade, driven by an increase in exports and domestic economic growth.¹⁴

13. At the same time, the region’s agriculture is characterized by diverse productive structures. These range from capital and technology-intensive corporate enterprises and industries, successfully integrated into global agrifood markets, to subsistence family farmers, small-scale, artisanal fisherfolk and landless or near-landless households often struggling to subsist. Between these two extremes lies a large sector of medium- and small-scale producers who are linked to national and global markets, but who are also vulnerable to economic and political shocks as well as to climate variability and risks.

14. Most production growth in the last decade has come from productivity improvements, rather than from bringing more land into production. In turn, productivity growth across the region has been driven by science and innovation, research and development (IR&D); accompanying investments in agriculture’s enabling environment; and specific support to farmers, with significant differences across countries.¹⁵ Yet, few countries invest more than 1 percent of agricultural value-added in research, compared with most developed countries that have been investing over 4 percent of agricultural GDP over many decades.¹⁶

15. Climate change is affecting agricultural production, with stronger negative impacts expected by the end of the 21st century compared to earlier periods. The effect of climate variability on productivity is estimated to be between -2.3 percent and -10.7 percent over the 2013--2040 period.¹⁷

⁸ IMF (2021c). *Fault lines widen in the global recovery*, <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/Issues/2021/07/27/world-economic-outlook-update-july-2021>.

⁹ IMF (2021d). *Four Facts about Soaring Consumer Food Prices*, <https://blogs.imf.org/2021/06/24/four-facts-about-soaring-consumer-food-prices/>.

¹⁰ ECLAC (2021b). *Fiscal Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean*. https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/46809/1/S2100169_en.pdf.

¹¹ IMF (2021e). *World Economic Outlook Database*, <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/weo-database/2021/April>.

¹² ECLAC (2021a). *Recovery, Paradox, Latin America and the Caribbean*.

¹³ FAO (2021a). *Strategic Framework 2022-31*.

¹⁴ OECD/FAO (2021). *Agricultural Outlook 2021-2030*, <https://doi.org/10.1787/19428846-en>.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Lachaud, M., Bravo-Ureta, B., Ludena, C. (2017). *Agricultural productivity in Latin America and the Caribbean in the presence of unobserved heterogeneity and climatic effects*, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/318291462_Agricultural_productivity_in_Latin_America_and_the_Caribbean_in_the_presence_of_unobserved_heterogeneity_and_climatic_effects.

The negative effects of climate variability on production are more severe in Central America and the Caribbean. Climate change will shift agriculture seasons; decrease crop yields and crop suitability; bring change in trade patterns; increase pests, diseases, animal stress and fish stock depletion.¹⁸ Climatic impacts are unequally distributed and expected to have more negative impacts on agriculture-dependent livelihoods and coastal communities.

16. Integrated land and water management is necessary for sustainable agrifood systems and better production. About 45 percent of croplands in South America and 74 percent in Mesoamerica are degraded, compromising agricultural productivity¹⁹. LAC holds 34 percent of the world's total available freshwater yet all subregions experience water scarcity. Inland fisheries, aquaculture and marine resources face additional constraints by water pollution from sewage, industrial waste and metals from mining. Furthermore, 50 percent of agricultural soil in the region is eroded. Erosion and loss of organic life and biodiversity are major threats for regional agrifood systems and could generate large economic and social losses.²⁰

17. In recent years, regional agricultural and animal production faced serious phytosanitary and animal health threats, aggravated by climatic variability and extreme hydrometeorological events. The introduction and spread of severe transboundary and invasive pests and diseases increased crop and animal losses and affected food security and nutrition, food quality, and biodiversity.

18. Science and innovation, including new digital tools and technologies, offer an opportunity to address these challenges, particularly in the context of increasing demand for the region's agrifood products and the changes in distribution and consumption patterns caused by the pandemic. The mobile phone ecosystem in LAC is conducive to the development of digital services in agrifood systems, with a mobile subscriber base of around 416 million, of which 78 percent have access to mobile Internet. By 2025, 90 percent of mobile subscribers will be mobile Internet users.^{21, 22} However, significant changes are needed so that millions of farmers and agrifood entrepreneurs, especially family farmers and agrifood small and medium enterprises (SMEs), can be part of this digital revolution. These include significant expansions in infrastructure and connectivity, accessibility, digital education and rural extension services, and an enabling regulatory environment for innovation in production and access to markets.²³

B. Challenges and opportunities related to better nutrition

“End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition in all its forms, including promoting nutritious food and increasing access to healthy diets”²⁴

19. After five consecutive years of continuous growth, the number of severely food insecure people in the region jumped by 27.5 million between 2019 and 2020, and by 60.2 million if the moderately food insecure population is included. In total, 41 percent of LAC's population is food insecure, 14 percent severely food insecure.²⁵ Additionally, the number of undernourished people grew by 13.8 million in 2020, reaching 59.7 million (33.7 million in South America; 19.0 million in Central America and 7.0 million in the Caribbean), meaning that 9.1 percent of the region's population is

¹⁸ IPCC (2021). *AR6 Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis*. <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/>.

¹⁹ Santibañez (2007). *Trends in Land Degradation in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Role of Climate Change*, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/227236633_Trends_in_Land_Degradation_in_Latin_America_and_the_Caribbean_the_Role_of_Climate_Change.

²⁰ Gardi, C., Angelini, M., Barceló, S., Comerma, J., Cruz Gaistardo, C. Encina Rojas, A., Jones, A., Krasilnikov, P., Mendonça Santos Brefin, M.L., Montanarella, L., Muniz Ugarte, O., Schad, P., Vara Rodríguez, M.I., Vargas, R. (eds), 2014. *Atlas de suelos de América Latina y el Caribe*, Comisión Europea - Oficina de Publicaciones de la Unión Europea, L-2995 Luxembourg, 176 pp. https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/library/maps/LatinAmerica_Atlas/Documents/LAC.pdf.

²¹ GSMA (2019). *The Mobile Economy Latin America*. Available at: <https://www.gsma.com/latinamerica/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Mobile-Economy-Latin-America-2019-Spanish-Executive-Summary.pdf>.

²² FAO/ECLAC (2020). *Food systems and COVID-19 in Latin America and the Caribbean*:

The opportunity for digital transformation. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/ca9508en/CA9508EN.pdf>.

²³ FAO (2019). *Digital technologies in agriculture and rural areas*. Available at:

<http://www.fao.org/3/ca4887en/ca4887en.pdf>.

²⁴ FAO (2021a). *Strategic Framework 2022-31*.

²⁵ FAO (2021d). *SOFI, The state of food security and nutrition in the world*. Available at:

<http://www.fao.org/3/cb5409es/cb5409es.pdf>.

going hungry, a figure that reaches 16.1 percent considering only the Caribbean.²⁶ Stunting rates are close to 16.6 percent in Central America, more than five percentage points above the region's average.

20. The impact of COVID-19 aggravated hunger and food insecurity, which were further exacerbated in countries hit by natural disasters, as was the case of hurricanes Eta and Iota in Central America, volcanic eruptions in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, an earthquake in Haiti and areas with recurrent droughts such as the Central American Dry Corridor.²⁷

21. To tackle this scenario, several governments in the region are seeking to support vulnerable families, women, and children, through income transfers and school feeding programmes, among other initiatives.²⁸ With scarce budgetary resources, an important challenge is sustaining these initiatives, including by encouraging countries to review fiscal policies and/or requesting international public financing.

22. The prevalence of overweight and obesity has also increased over the last decades. Across LAC, 7.5 percent of children under five are overweight and more than 24 percent of adults are obese. Childhood overweight is particularly high in South America.²⁹

23. Malnutrition in all its forms shows important socioeconomic, gender, ethnic and territorial gaps.³⁰ Rural people, Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent groups are far more often affected by child stunting and undernutrition, along with overweight and obesity, associated with high rates of diet-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs). In Latin America, stunting among indigenous children is twice as prevalent as among their non-indigenous peers.³¹

24. The cost of a healthy diet increased by almost 7 percent in the region between 2017 and 2019, making it impossible for 113 million people (almost one in five) to afford it.³²

25. To counter the overweight, obesity and NCDs crisis, countries have been actively promoting healthier diets. At least 23 of the 33 countries in the region have approved legislation and other forms of regulation to discourage the consumption of processed products high in added sugar, calories, sodium and fat, particularly among children and adolescents; and/or to promote the consumption of fruits and vegetables, animal protein including fish, legumes, whole grains, and other nutritious foods. Governments in a rapidly growing number of countries are employing a range of policy and legal instruments such as taxes on sugar, frontal package labelling, regulation of publicity aimed at children, improved school meals in school feeding programmes, promotion of local and farmers' markets, and food aid, incentives to increase the affordability of fruits and vegetables, and cash transfers to vulnerable sectors to support the consumption of healthy diets. All countries in the region have developed food-based dietary guidelines, and some are expanding their use to inform and align the above-mentioned policies.

26. FAO estimates that in LAC over 127 million tons of food are wasted or lost any given year.³³ Public goods such as plant protection systems, improved rural road and electricity infrastructure, the modernization of wholesale markets, and research to increase post-harvest shelf-life and lower nutrition losses, can be especially useful in reducing the amount of food lost and wasted.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ WFP/FAO (2021). *Hunger Hotspots. FAO-WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity*, Available at: <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb3938en>.

²⁸ ECLAC (2021a). *Recovery, Paradox, Latin America and the Caribbean*.

²⁹ FAO (2021d). *SOFI*.

³⁰ Territories where nutrition indicators are significantly below each country's own average. FAO (2021). *Regional overview of food security and nutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean 2020*. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/3/cb2330en/cb2330en.pdf>.

³¹ Gatica-Domínguez, Mesenburg, Barros & Victora (2020). *Ethnic inequalities in child stunting and feeding practices: results from surveys in thirteen countries from Latin America*. *International Journal for Equity in Health*, 19 (53). Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12939-020-01165-9>.

³² FAO (2021d). *SOFI*.

³³ *Food losses and waste in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/i5504e/i5504e.pdf>.

C. Challenges and opportunities related to a *better environment*

“Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial and marine ecosystems and combat climate change (reduce, reuse, recycle, residual management) through MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems”³⁴

27. The region is facing the impacts of climate change. Four of the top ten most climate-affected countries of the world in 1998-2017, are in the region,³⁵ and in the last decade, climate change accounted for 46 percent of global climate-disaster losses.³⁶ Climate change will exacerbate water shortages and scarcity, and negatively affect agricultural production, especially in low-latitude and tropical regions, while weather extremes will be more frequent.^{37, 38} Rises in sea level will impact coastal communities, particularly threatening Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS).³⁹

28. The region is a low greenhouse gas (GHG) global contributor, amounting to 8 percent of global GHG emissions. Yet, the contribution of Latin America and the Caribbean to climate change mitigation requires the contribution of agrifood systems, as 45 percent of the region’s GHG emissions came from agriculture, forestry, and other land-use (AFOLU).⁴⁰

29. Countries in LAC are addressing the link between climate change and AFOLU. For example, 77 percent of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) include mitigation and adaptation measures related to agriculture and land-use sectors. There is also a growing number of public, private, and public-private initiatives aimed at accelerating adaptation and mitigation, including decoupling commodity value chains from deforestation; supporting science and innovation for a low emissions livestock system; strengthening the adaptive capacity of the fisheries and aquaculture sector, amongst other. Notably, policies that have recognized and titled 227 million hectares in favour of indigenous communities, have had a major impact on reducing or avoiding carbon emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.⁴¹

30. Human activity has weakened the health of terrestrial and marine ecosystems, reducing biodiversity and agricultural production.⁴² Effects of this can be seen in a variety of indicators, for example, from 2010 to 2020, 2.60 million hectares per year of forest were lost,⁴³ approximately one-quarter of all river stretches in the region are severely polluted,⁴⁴ 60 percent of ecosystems are already degraded⁴⁵ and the region includes 7 of the 20 countries whose plant varieties are the most threatened and 5 of the 20 countries with the highest numbers of species of fauna endangered or threatened.⁴⁶ The United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030)⁴⁷ offers an opportunity to prevent, halt, and reverse the degradation of ecosystems so they are able to support human needs for sustainable food and livelihoods. There are sustainable production initiatives that generate environmental, social and economic benefits that can be scaled up.⁴⁸

³⁴ FAO (2021a). *Strategic Framework 2022-31*.

³⁵ Germanwatch, (2018). *Global climate Risk index 2019*, Available at: https://germanwatch.org/sites/default/files/20-2-01e%20Global%20Climate%20Risk%20Index%202020_14.pdf

³⁶ UNDRR Regional Assessment Report on Disaster Risk in Latin America and the Caribbean Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/RAR%202021%20%28ENG%29.pdf>.

³⁷ FAO (2020). *SOFI*.

³⁸ IPCC 2021. *Climate Change 2021*.

³⁹ UNDRR Regional Assessment Report on Disaster Risk in Latin America and the Caribbean Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/RAR%202021%20%28ENG%29.pdf>.

⁴⁰ <https://www.climatewatchdata.org/>.

⁴¹ FAO and FILAC. 2021. *Forest Governance by Indigenous and Tribal People. An Opportunity for Climate Action in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Santiago.

⁴² World Bank (2021). *The Economic Case for Nature*. Available at: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/35882>.

⁴³ FAO/UNEP (2020). *The State of the World’s Forests 2020. Forests, biodiversity and people*. Rome. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca8642en>.

⁴⁴ UNEP (2016). *A Snapshot of the World’s Water Quality: Towards a global assessment*, Nairobi, Kenya. 162pp. Available at: https://uneplive.unep.org/media/docs/assessments/unep_wwqa_report_web.pdf.

⁴⁵ Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Synthesis, 2005, p. 39.

⁴⁶ UNEP (2010). *State of Biodiversity in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Available at: <https://www.cbd.int/gbo/gbo3/doc/StateOfBiodiversity-LatinAmerica.pdf>.

⁴⁷ FAO (2020). *Position paper on “Ecosystem Restoration” of production ecosystems, in the context of the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030*. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/nd425en/nd425en.pdf>.

⁴⁸ FAO (2021e). *Agricultura sostenible, resiliente, LAC*.

31. In the past decade, deforestation rates in South American indigenous territories in three countries were only one-third to one-half the rates in other forests with similar ecological characteristics. However, in LAC forest indigenous communities often are confronting not only the COVID-19, but also an unprecedented invasion of their ancestral territories, as illegal loggers, drug lords, ranchers, miners, and many other groups take advantage of the cover of the pandemic. While the impact of guaranteeing tenure security to indigenous communities is great, the cost is low, since the investment in land right recognition might be 5 to 42 times lower than carbon capture technologies for both coal- and gas-fired power plants, the benefits of recognizing indigenous land rights tower over alternative ways forward.⁴⁹

D. Challenges and opportunities related to a better life

“Promote inclusive economic growth by reducing inequalities (urban/rural areas, rich/poor countries, men/women)”⁵⁰

32. The COVID-19 crisis produced a major setback to poverty reduction. Extreme poverty in 2020 affected 12.5 percent of the population (11.3 percent in 2019) and the poverty rate reached 33.7 percent (30.5 percent in 2019). The region had 209 million people in poverty at the end of 2020, of which 78 million were in extreme poverty, 8 million more than in 2019,⁵¹ a 20-year setback for extreme poverty levels in LAC.⁵² In rural areas, the poverty rate in 2020 was 56.2 percent, a value close to that of 2005. Similarly, the incidence of extreme rural poverty at 23.4 percent is now equivalent to that of 15 years ago.⁵³

33. The region is also experiencing an unprecedented increase in the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance since 2018, climbing from 9.6 million people to 26.4 million in 2021, due to the higher number of sudden-onset disasters, the impact of the pandemic, and challenging socioeconomic conditions. This fuelled internal displacement flows to historic levels in many countries.

34. Economic inequality also increased. Between 2019 and 2020, it is estimated that the Gini index of the region increased by 5.6 percentage points due to the contraction of labour incomes. When considering public transfers, it is estimated that this increase was 2.9 percentage points.⁵⁴ Even before the COVID-19 crisis, inequalities between urban and rural settings remained broadly unchanged for the last two decades. One in two rural citizens lives in poverty, compared to one in five urban residents. Moreover, 75 percent of rural workers in LAC are in low-productivity and/or informal economic sectors and, despite recent progress, by the end of the decade of 2010- only an average of 11 percent of all rural households in 19 countries were affiliated to contributory social protection, while 25 percent of households of the poorest rural quintile was excluded from social assistance policies.^{55,56}

35. Rural inequalities hinder the development of specific population groups. Almost half of the rural population in the region (46 percent) is indigenous or afro-descendant populations.⁵⁷ By 2019, the rates of poverty (46.7 percent) and extreme poverty (17.3 percent) among Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent were, respectively, twice and three times higher than non-indigenous nor African descent populations.⁵⁸ Furthermore, between 2002 and 2019, the female poverty index in rural

⁴⁹ *Forest governance by indigenous and tribal peoples*. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/americas/publicaciones-audio-video/forest-gov-by-indigenous/en/>.

⁵⁰ FAO (2021a), *Strategic Framework 2022-31*.

⁵¹ ECLAC (2021c). *Social Panorama of Latin America 2020*. Santiago.

⁵² Alkire, S., Nogales, R., Quinn, N. N., Suppa, N. (2021). *Global Multidimensional poverty and COVID-19: A decade of progress at Risk?*. Available at: <https://ophi.org.uk/tp-61a/>.

⁵³ Trivelli, C. (2020). *Acciones para la reducción de la pobreza rural en América Latina y el Caribe en el contexto de la pandemia del COVID-19*. Available at: https://repositorio.iep.org.pe/bitstream/handle/IEP/1185/Trivelli_Acciones-reduccion-pobreza-rural-America-Latina-pandemia-covid-19.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

⁵⁴ ECLAC (2021c). *Social Panorama of Latin America 2020*. Santiago.

⁵⁵ ECLAC (2021c). *Social Panorama, LAC*.

⁵⁶ Winder-Rossi, N., & Faret, P. (2019). *Garantías mínimas de protección social para el desarrollo incluyente de la economía rural en América Latina y el Caribe. Serie 2030*. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/publications/card/es/c/CA5461ES/>.

⁵⁷ Angulo, R., Solano, A., & Tamayo, A. (2018). *La pobreza rural en América Latina: ¿Qué dicen los indicadores sobre la población indígena y afrodescendiente de la región?*. Available at: <https://repositorio.iep.org.pe/handle/IEP/1135>.

⁵⁸ ECLAC (2021c). *Social Panorama, LAC*.

areas increased from 109 units to 110.4, and from 105.6 to 109 for extreme poverty.⁵⁹ Within this unequal context, gender gaps were significantly exacerbated during 2020 with job losses affecting women in greater proportion than men.

36. Rural economic trends can drive labour inclusion and livelihood diversification. In a context marked by the growing demand for food and the preeminent position of the region in the world's food market, agricultural production and related value chains will continue to offer a platform for the economic inclusion of workers, SMEs and family farmers. In addition, non-agricultural employment in rural areas has increased from 36 percent in 2004 to 44.6 percent in 2017.⁶⁰ This trend represents a strategic opportunity to diversify rural livelihoods, increasing resilience and addressing some of the drivers of rural migration, particularly among rural women and youth.⁶¹

37. In the last two decades, LAC countries made great strides to foster inclusive rural development. Social protection systems have been critical as a component of governments' responses to the COVID-19 crisis, facilitating the agile implementation of social transfers and food support for more vulnerable groups.⁶²

38. COVID-19 exposed critical contradictions of agrifood systems in the region. While food supply held firm during the 2020 lockdowns and crisis, poverty, extreme poverty, hunger, and food insecurity increased. Food production and food markets continued, and new attention was given by society to agricultural production, rural livelihoods, and consumption. Several countries declared food and agriculture as essential economic activities to sustain the levels of production, supply, and trade during the crisis. This resilience is also a product of previous efforts towards inclusive agricultural development, expanding and securing access to natural resources, supporting international commercial and logistical integration, differentiated credit and technical assistance, and expanding the scope of rural development strategies to respond to broader issues, such as environmental sustainability, healthy diets, territorial development, and poverty. This set of policies constitutes an authentic regional asset for inclusive recovery and sustainable rural development in the coming years.

III. Priority Areas of work

A. Regional Initiatives⁶³

39. FAO delivers its work in the region through Regional Initiatives (RIs) which are multidisciplinary programmatic delivery mechanisms in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with emphasis on SDGs 1, 2 and 10 as outlined in the Strategic Framework 2022-31. FAO's regional priorities are fully aligned with the Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) defined in the Strategic Framework and the Medium Term Plan 2022-25 (MTP), while keeping within country realities. Annex 1 provides details on the PPAs.

40. To counter COVID-19's impact in the region, in 2022-23 FAO will deliver on two complementary fronts: i) in the short-term, by supporting country-level recovery efforts to overcome the COVID-19 induced economic and social crises, and ii) in the medium to long term, by supporting countries to transform agrifood systems, as defined in the Strategic Framework 2022-31 and in accordance with national contexts, priorities and capacities.

41. The Regional Initiatives approved by the 36th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (LARC 36) are proposed to be adjusted in this biennium to fully align to the Strategic Framework and MTP, and to take into account the conditions created by the

⁵⁹ Ibid, *Statistical Annex*. Available at: https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/46688/4/SP2020statisticalannex_en.xlsx

⁶⁰ Ramírez, E. (2019). *Empleo rural no agrícola en América Latina, Serie 2030*. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/ca5098es/ca5098es.pdf>.

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² ECLAC (2021a). *Recovery, Paradox, Latin America and the Caribbean*.

⁶³ The initiatives outlined in this section of the document are well financed. During the 2018-19 biennium, USD 235.5 million were mobilized by FAO for the region. In the current biennium (2020-21), resource mobilization is estimated in USD 424.4 million, of which USD 249.3 million have been secured (as of July 2021) and it is estimated that in the remainder of 2021 USD 175.7 million will be approved. Thus, during the last four years, USD 659.9 million would have been mobilized by FAO for the region, resources that support the programme outlined in this document.

COVID-19 pandemic, in consultation with Members. These are: RI 1 “Sustainable agrifood systems to provide healthy diets for all”; RI 2 “Prosperous and inclusive rural societies”; and RI 3 “Sustainable and resilient agriculture”. The RIs will localize the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 in the region. The section below presents the 2022-23 Regional Initiatives and Annex 2 documents their relationship with the SDGs and the PPAs.

42. At the UN Food Systems Summit (FSS), in September 2021, 23 countries of the region affirmed their commitments to move towards more inclusive and sustainable agrifood systems. FAO is committed to support Members in their national pathways for agrifood systems transformation and the coalitions and initiatives under the FSS action areas, such as: nourish all people (under RI 1), advance equitable livelihoods, decent work, and empowered communities (under RI 2), boost nature-based solutions for production and build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks, and stresses (under RI 3).

A.1. Regional Initiative 1: Sustainable agrifood systems to provide healthy diets for all

43. Through RI 1 FAO will focus its efforts on: (a) contributing to reverse hunger and increase food security and nutrition; (b) ensuring physical and economic access to safe and nutritious foods to achieve healthy diets; (c) supporting policies and programmes to reduce overweight, obesity and diet-related NCDs; and (d) promoting agrifood trade.

44. The four priorities of RI 1 align to the PPAs and SDGs indicators of *better nutrition* and the FAO Nutrition Strategy outcomes focus on data, evidence, policy coherence and collective action and capacity, and advocacy and commitment.

45. RI 1 is aligned to the five PPAs under *better nutrition*, namely Healthy diets for all (BN1), Nutrition for the most vulnerable (BN2), Safe food for everyone (BN3), Reducing food loss and waste (BN4), and Transparent markets and trade (BN5). It also has a strong anchor in the PPA Achieving sustainable urban food systems (BE4) under *better environment*.

46. Outcomes focus on data, evidence, policy coherence and collective action, capacity and advocacy and commitment, and contribute to the achievement of SDGs: SDG 1, No Poverty; SDG 2, Zero Hunger; SDG 3, Good health and well-being; SDG 10 Reduced inequalities; SDG 11, Sustainable cities and communities; SDG 12 Responsible consumption and production; SDG 14, Life below water; and SDG 17, Partnership. Table 1 presents additional details.

Table 1: Relationship between RI 1 and PPAs, SDG targets and areas of emphasis

Programme Priority Areas (PPAs)	SDGs targets	Regional areas of emphasis
BN1.- Healthy diets for all	1.3, 2.1, 2.2 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 12.8, 14.b	a. Contributing to reversing hunger and increasing food security
		b. Ensuring physical and economic access to safe and nutritious foods to achieve healthy diets
		d. Promoting agrifood trade
		c. Supporting policies and programmes to reduce overweight, obesity and diet-related NCDs
BN2.- Nutrition for the most vulnerable	1.3, 2.1, 2.2 3.1, 3.2	a. Contributing to reversing hunger and increasing food security
		b. Ensuring physical and economic access to safe and nutritious foods to achieve healthy diets
BN3.- Safe food for everyone	2.1, 2.2, 3.2	b. Ensuring physical and economic access to safe, nutritious and healthy diets
		d. Promoting agrifood trade

BN4.- Reducing food loss and waste	2.1, 2.2, 12.3	b. Ensuring physical and economic access to safe, nutritious and healthy diets
BN5.- Transparent markets and trade	2.b, 2.c, 10.a, 17.11	d. Promoting agrifood trade
BE4.- Achieving sustainable urban food systems	1.1, 2.1, 11.a, 12.1	b. Ensuring physical and economic access to safe, nutritious and healthy diets
		c. Supporting policies and programmes to reduce overweight and obesity

47. The following details how FAO plans to address the four priorities of RI 1:

a. Contributing to reversing hunger and increasing food security and nutrition.

A priority is to ensure access to safe and nutritious foods to achieve healthy diets by those households experiencing hunger and food insecurity, to return rapidly to pre-pandemic levels, setting the stage for further improvements in future years within a right to food approach. FAO will:

- i. *Support countries in designing and implementing food security and nutrition plans and programmes, and in adapting their policies and legal frameworks to promote access to safe and nutritious food and healthy diets for all, especially for the most vulnerable, with a rights-based approach. This includes mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on food access and availability.*
- ii. *Increase the number of countries that have statistical systems to measure, evaluate and monitor advances in hunger reduction and food security at the national and regional levels, and by gender, age, socioeconomic status, race and ethnic origin, to ensure no one is left behind.*
- iii. *Assist Members in improving social protection mechanisms, including nutrition-sensitive social protection programmes such as school food and nutrition programmes, and measures to increase sustainable production and consumption of healthy food.*

b. Ensuring physical and economic access to safe and nutritious foods to achieve healthy diets. FAO will continue to support Members through:

- i. *Technical assistance towards reducing the cost of healthy diets, including gathering and disseminating evidence aimed at lowering costs across agrifood systems and food supply chains. FAO will also support collaboration between producers, processors, traders, retailers, inputs and service providers and consumers for the provision, promotion and practice of healthy diets, especially for nutrition-vulnerable households and individuals.*
- ii. *Promote dialogue and evidence-based policies and programmes to increase physical and economic access to nutritious and varied food. Including community-based solutions to eliminate food deserts and food swamps, as well as fiscal policies and incentives for sustainable production and consumption of healthy diets according to food-based dietary guidelines, as well as policies to adopt the approved Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition.*
- iii. *Reduce food loss and waste (FLW). FAO will continue to support public-private partnerships equipped with data and action plans, policies, technologies, and legal frameworks to adopt the Voluntary Code of Conduct for Food Loss and Waste Reduction, approved by FAO Conference in 2021.*
- iv. *Promote food safety standards. FAO will continue to support country participation in Codex Alimentarius for the development of standards, guidelines and best practices, sharing innovation and technology, supporting data generation for risk-*

based decision making, public-private partnerships and communication and behavioural sciences initiatives to facilitate market access and trade.

- c. Supporting policies and programmes to reduce overweight, obesity and diet-related NCDs.** LAC is a world leader in this area, with 23 of its 33 countries having approved and using at least 116 laws, regulations, taxes and fiscal incentives, directly geared at promoting healthier diets. FAO's work will include:
- i. *Supporting technical assistance and dialogue to foster a multisectoral approach to tackle overweight and obesity.* FAO will support the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger, continuing to support, document, analyse and facilitate the exchange of policies, legislation, regulations and other instruments to promote healthy diets and reduce the consumption of added sugar, fats, and highly caloric foods, particularly among children, adolescents and other vulnerable groups.
 - ii. *Enhancing food environments for healthy diets.* Including, the strengthening of school food and nutrition programmes, the food urban planning in local governments, the implementation of dietary guidelines targeted at improving food quality and diversity, as well as food labelling front-of-package labelling systems, and food marketing and promotion.
 - iii. *Supporting Members in their efforts to involve the agrifood industry, SMEs and producer associations in developing, distributing and marketing healthier food products.*
- d. Promoting agrifood trade.** FAO is committed to promoting global food supply chains and open, rules-based, non-discriminatory and predictable, international trading system, considering pertinent international agreements, including those under the World Trade Organization. To this end FAO, in collaboration with public and private partners, will:
- i. *Generate and share evidence for more and better trade.* FAO will cooperate with countries in generating and sharing analysis on the opportunities offered by existing and potential trade agreements, new consumer preferences and consumption trends, market and logistical innovations, and best practices to increase market transparency and reduce uncertainty.
 - ii. *Support institutional capacity development, intersectoral dialogue and training.* FAO will promote intra- and inter-regional South-South and triangular cooperation to upgrade regional capacities in agrifood trade and the use of international trade databases.
 - iii. *Trade and global markets promotion of small and medium-scale family farmers and agrifood small and medium enterprises,* through capacity-building programmes and policy, legal and technical assistance to Member countries.

48. FAO recognizes that the challenges of *better nutrition* between subregions and countries are varied. Therefore, while FAO will continue to offer technical assistance to fight hunger and all forms of malnutrition across the region; in the Caribbean, FAO will support Members' efforts to reduce trade constraints, foster intra-regional trade and strengthen local producers' food value chains; in Central America efforts will be placed on securing access to nutritious food for the most vulnerable; and in South America efforts will promote the adoption of healthy diets and reduce overweight and obesity.

A.2. Regional Initiative 2: Prosperous and inclusive rural societies

49. Through RI 2, FAO supports countries to address the effects of the COVID19 pandemic on rural livelihoods and to promote, strengthen and transform as necessary, rural economic activities to build productive, innovative, and inclusive rural societies. To this end, RI 2 will emphasize four areas: (a) protecting rural livelihoods; (b) increasing productivity and expanding rural economic opportunities; (c) fostering equitable rural societies through the economic inclusion of rural women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent, and (d) supporting the implementation of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative.

50. RI 2 is linked to a number of PPAs under *better production* and *better life*, namely Innovation for sustainable agriculture production (BP1), Small-scale producers' equitable access to resources (BP4), Digital agriculture (BP5), Gender equality and rural women's empowerment (BL1), Inclusive rural transformation (BL2), Hand-in-Hand Initiative (BL5) and Scaling-up investment (BL6).

51. Accordingly, RI 2 contributes to the achievement of SDGs: SDG 1, No Poverty; SDG 2, Zero Hunger; SDG 5, Gender equality; SDG 6, Clean water and sanitation; SDG 8, Decent work and economic growth; SDG 9, Industry, innovation and infrastructure; SDG 10, Reduced inequalities; SDG 14, Life below water; SDG 15, Life on land; and SDG 17, Partnerships. See Table 2 for further details.

Table 2: Relationship between RI 2 and PPAs, SDG targets and areas of emphasis

Programme Priority Areas (PPAs)	SDGs targets	Regional areas of emphasis
BP1.- Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture Production	2.3, 2.4, 6.4, 15.2	b. Increasing productivity and expanding rural economic opportunities
BP4.- Small-scale producers' equitable access to resources	1.4, 2.3, 2.4, 9.3	b. Increasing productivity and expanding rural economic opportunities
BP5.- Digital Agriculture	1.4, 5.b, 9.c, 17.8	b. Increasing productivity and expanding rural economic opportunities
BL1.- Gender equality and rural women's empowerment	2.3, 5.4, 5.a, 5.c	c. Fostering equitable rural societies through the economic inclusion of rural women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent
BL2.- Inclusive rural transformation	1.1, 8.3, 8.5, 10.1, 10.2, 10.7, 14.b	a. Protecting rural livelihoods
		b. Increasing productivity and expanding rural economic opportunities
BL5.- Hand-in-Hand (HIH) Initiative	1.1, 1.2, 2.1 2.2, 2.a, 10.1, 10.2	d. Hand-in-Hand Initiative
BL6.- Scaling up investment	1.b, 2.a, 10.1, 10.2, 10.b, 17.5	b. Increasing productivity and expanding rural economic opportunities

52. FAO will pursue RI 2's four priorities in the following ways:

- a. **Protecting rural livelihoods.** With poverty affecting half of the rural population, conditions for agrifood systems transformation become more complex to design and to achieve, particularly in a context of tight fiscal spaces. FAO will provide technical assistance for coordinated and inclusive policy design, through:
 - i. improving the coherence and coordination between social, economic and environmental policies to protect livelihoods and increase resilience;
 - ii. developing evidence to inform policies and legislation, particularly regarding the impact of social protection and productive programmes on food security and nutrition, rural poverty, rural migration, agroclimatic resilience, and the economic inclusion of the poor and vulnerable;
 - iii. assisting in the design and implementation of cost-effective interventions, particularly cash transfer programmes, nutrition and gender-sensitive rural livelihood programmes, input transfers, and productive assistance; and

- iv. providing support to improve land access and tenure and natural resources rights – particularly for indigenous people, small farmers, rural women and youth.
- b. **Increasing productivity and expanding rural economic opportunities.** FAO will support Members to improve their rural information and communications (ICT) systems, including their governance mechanisms, to make science and innovations, including digital technologies more accessible to SMEs and family farmers and increase investments to accelerate economic recovery and expand rural opportunities. FAO's support will include:
- i. *Increasing productivity through science and innovation:* Making use of FAO's strategic global initiatives (see paragraph 61), the aim will be to: i) contribute to increase relevant agriculture technology including digital and financial solutions that are available to SMEs and family farmers to increase productivity, and their participation in value chains and local markets; and ii) support the transition of the agricultural sector to more productive, efficient, and sustainable practices. In line with FAO's Regional Framework for Action on Science and Innovation 2021-2025,⁶⁴ approved by LARC 36, FAO will support public-private partnerships to strengthen national innovation systems and provide technical assistance and capacity development for the implementation of mobile-based innovations for development, including digital extension, real-time price and market information, agricultural insurance, weather forecasting, pest and disease detection, precision agriculture, nutrition-sensitive agricultural strategies, improved seeds, agroecological technical advice, and the Internet of Things.
 - ii. *Fostering decent rural employment:* working with governments to improve the conditions for investments and innovations that create more and better jobs in rural areas, to improve resilience and address the drivers of rural migration. FAO will provide knowledge and data; mobilize global expertise and foster multisectoral partnerships to develop high-impact investment strategies and new funding and investment agreements; work with governments to enhance synergies between agricultural value chains and off-farm activities; and implement entrepreneurial and commercial support within territorial development strategies.
 - iii. *Enhancing medium and small-scale family farmers and fisheries' access to credit, technologies, markets, and natural resources,* increasing market opportunities for SMEs and family farmers to build resilient livelihoods and greater capacity to provide safe and nutritious food at accessible prices. FAO will assess market opportunities, support the adoption of technical standards of production, post-harvest and logistic operations and national, regional and international commerce; and contribute to the improvement of value-chains, information mechanisms, adapted food technologies, entrepreneurial skills, and local procurement. Especially, FAO will continue working with its Members in the implementation of action plans of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019-2028),⁶⁵ and will promote the Regional Technical Platform on Family Farming to strengthen technical cooperation and knowledge-sharing to support the sustainable development of the small- and medium-scale family farming.
 - iv. *Strengthening social capital and rural economic governance:* FAO will cooperate with Members to promote producer organizations, cooperatives, organizations of rural women and youth, and other forms of collective action. FAO will also work with Members to assess, define, and implement public and private investments to extend the set of public goods and services available for such rural organizations.
- c. **Fostering equitable rural societies through the economic inclusion of rural women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent:** FAO will support Members in the region to enhance the access of historically excluded and marginalized populations

⁶⁵ FAO and IFAD. 2019. United Nations Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028. Global Action Plan. Rome.

to rural services, markets, and assets, to reverse social and economic exclusion. FAO's support will include:

- i. *Expanding economic inclusion, employment, incomes and empowerment of rural women and youth*: Supporting governments to expand the inclusion of women and youth in agricultural and non-agricultural labour markets. FAO will support their participation in digital and emerging economic activities and will work with governments to assess and implement agribusiness models, technological packages, matching grant agreements and integrated advisory mechanisms.
 - ii. *Expanding development opportunities for Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent*: FAO will provide technical assistance and facilitate policy dialogue to improve institutional and governance frameworks to protect and enhance the livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent. FAO will pursue a two-fold strategy: i) supporting the recognition and expansion of traditional practices to strengthen local and national agrifood systems through Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS); and ii) assisting governments and communities in improving the relevance and effectiveness of policies and programs in support of the economic activities carried out by Indigenous and African descendant communities.
- d. **Supporting the implementation of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative**: As the need for innovative bespoke tools increases, FAO will continue supporting and expanding the HII in the region, seeking synergies within the three RIs from a territorial approach to rural development – particularly in sub-national areas with a high incidence of poverty and food insecurity and good agricultural potential.

53. To address specific subregional challenges, FAO will emphasize: in the Caribbean, employment generation through relevant agricultural value chains, rural non-farm activities, and digital, post-harvest and financial innovations, particularly for women and youth, and strengthening of livelihoods in coastal communities; in Mesoamerica, especially in the Central American Dry Corridor, FAO will focus on reducing rural vulnerabilities and addressing critical food security, economic opportunity, climate and social cohesion drivers of migration from rural territories; and in South America, FAO will emphasize the adoption of digital and financial tools to increase innovation in agricultural production, post-harvest and logistic operations and commerce and trade, while strengthening the role of cooperatives, SMEs associations and other rural organizations. In addition, FAO can provide technical assistance to assess and design strategies, policies and programs targeted at the development of lagging rural territories, to reduce rural-urban disparities.

A.3. Regional Initiative 3: Sustainable and resilient agriculture

54. Through RI 3 FAO supports countries in building sustainable and resilient agrifood systems. In this area, FAO will focus its efforts on: (a) building agrifood systems that are better adapted to climate change and more resilient, (b) enhancing ecosystem services and biodiversity for *better production and better nutrition*, and (c) reducing GHG emissions from agrifood systems. All of them contribute to the achievement of the different international environmental commitments of Members in the region.⁶⁶

55. FAO will continue its highly successful work to increase access by all countries in the region to environmental and climate financing, working and partnering with multilateral and bilateral resource partners and donors, catalysing investments through proven successful strategies such as results-based payments. FAO will also continue to support the Climate Action Platform for Agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLACA), a regional mechanism for voluntary collaboration amongst Ministries of Agriculture.

56. RI 3's work links with seven PPAs across *better production, better environment, and better life*: Blue transformation (BP2), One Health (BP3), Climate change mitigating and adapted agrifood

⁶⁶ Members in the region are signatories to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and conventions on persistent chemicals (Rotterdam and Stockholm).

systems (BE1), Bioeconomy for sustainable food and agriculture (BE2), Biodiversity and ecosystem services for food and agriculture (BE3), Resilient agri-food systems (BL4), and Agriculture and food emergencies (BL3).

57. RI 3 supports the achievement of SDG 1, No poverty; SDG 2, Zero Hunger; SDG 3, Good health and well-being; SDG 12, Responsible consumption and production; SDG 13, Climate action; SDG 14, Life below water; SDG 15, Life on land; and SDG 16, Peace, justice and strong institutions. See Table 3 for further details.

Table 3: Relationship between RI 3 and PPAs, SDG targets and areas of emphasis

Programme Priority Areas (PPAs)	SDGs targets	Regional areas of emphasis
BP2.- Blue transformation	2.1, 2.2, 14.2, 14.4, 14.6, 14.7, 14.b, 14.c	a. Building agrifood systems that are better adapted to climate change and more resilient
		b. Enhancing ecosystem services and biodiversity for better production
BP3.- One Health	1.5, 3.d, 15.8	a. Building agrifood systems that are better adapted to climate change and more resilient
BE1.- Climate change mitigating and adapted agrifood systems	2.4, 13.1, 13.2, 13.b, 14.3	a. Building agrifood systems that are better adapted to climate change and more resilient
		c. Reducing GHG emissions of agrifood systems
BE2.- Bioeconomy for sustainable food and agriculture	12.2, 12.4, 12.5	b. Enhancing ecosystem services and biodiversity for better production
BE3.- Biodiversity and ecosystem services for food and agriculture	2.5, 14.4, 15.1, 15.3, 15.4, 15.6	b. Enhancing ecosystem services and biodiversity for better production
BL3.- Agriculture and food emergencies	1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 16.1	a. Building agrifood systems that are better adapted to climate change and more resilient
BL4.- Resilient agrifood systems	1.3, 1.5, 2.4	a. Building agrifood systems that are better adapted to climate change and more resilient

58. FAO will pursue RI 3's priorities in the following ways:

- a. **Building agrifood systems that are better adapted to climate change and more resilient:** The COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the need to boost the resilience of agrifood systems to cope with multiple economic, social, and environmental shocks and stresses. Supporting innovative agrifood systems that address climate change adaptation while also increasing productivity remains a priority of FAO in the region. FAO will provide support through:
 - i. *Scaling up practices for climate change adaptation.* FAO will support the implementation of good practices, climate change adaptation and resilience practices and technologies, and sustainable solutions (such as nature-based solutions and

ecosystem-based approaches). Actions that simultaneously deliver social and economic benefits and positive climate impacts will be identified and promoted.

- ii. *Adapting to a drier future: sustainable and efficient water management.* FAO will provide technical assistance in support of integrated water management to address water scarcity and drought. Specifically, through sustainable and agrotechnological solutions, accompanied by better policies, finance, incentives and governance.
 - iii. *Acting early ahead of systemic multiple hazards and threats.* FAO will work to harness existing mechanisms, including early warning systems at territorial and local levels to anticipate multiple hazards and threats to safeguard agriculture and livelihoods assets. Multi-risk monitoring and information systems coupled with anticipatory action ahead of forecasted hazards will help reduce the fragility of vulnerable livelihoods and, in turn, improve food security and nutrition.
 - iv. *Enabling an effective local, national and regional emergency response and recovery* to protect and restore agriculture and food based livelihoods and related agrifood systems of affected populations, addressing both short-term crisis response and longer-term resilience building.
 - v. *Prevent and control animal, zoonotic and plant diseases and pests.* Strengthening monitoring, surveillance, knowledge and reporting systems to prevent and detect outbreaks of pests and diseases. This includes fostering the One Health approach and addressing and understanding risks at the human-animal-plant-environmental interphase. Priority attention will continue to be given to the outbreaks of *Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp. *cubense* tropical race 4 and African swine fever.
- b. **Enhancing ecosystem services and biodiversity for better production.** Considering opportunities provided by the *UN Decade on Ecosystems Restoration (2021-2030)*,⁶⁷ FAO will support Members to advance in the following:
- i. *Mainstreaming biodiversity into agrifood systems.* FAO will support Members to take advantage of the many benefits that biodiversity provides to agricultural production and nutrition through: i) integral management and restoration of ecosystems at landscape and seascapes level; ii) promoting sustainable agricultural practices to conserve, enhance and restore biodiversity; iii) enhancing the rich agrobiodiversity in LAC's traditional agrifood systems, including those of Indigenous Peoples; iv) promoting species tolerant to different stresses (salinity, drought, rising temperatures) v) valuing the economic contribution of agrobiodiversity; vi) integrating silvopastoral and agroforestry systems; and vii) promoting aquaculture and agri-aquaculture integrated systems.
 - ii. *Tackling land degradation and soil health.* FAO will support addressing land degradation through implementing sustainable land management and restoration initiatives at all scales. Soil conservation and management will be enhanced through the Regional Soil Partnership. FAO will also provide support to formulate and implement countries' specific strategies regarding the achievement of land degradation neutrality within the framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
 - iii. *Strengthening aquatic ecosystems and the communities that depend on them.* 2022 is the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture. FAO will provide technical assistance for: i) the adoption and implementation of the Agreement on Port State Measures⁶⁸ and related international instruments to eradicate illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing; ii) improving national systems for evaluation, monitoring, and sustainable management of fisheries and aquaculture; iii) strengthening the technical and organizational capacities of micro and small

⁶⁷ Co-led by FAO and UN Environment.

⁶⁸ The Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) is the only binding instrument to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) adopted by the international community. However, institutional weakness remains in terms of fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance due to the low prioritization of fisheries in the sectoral political agenda.

producers to ensure their inclusion in sustainable and resilient value chains and their adaptation to climate change; iv) fostering integrated coastal zone and watershed management; and v) implementing sustainable solutions to enhance marine and aquatic ecosystems for carbon sequestration while also providing natural barriers to storms, coastal erosion and other climate derived hazards.

- iv. *Sustainable forest management.* FAO will provide support for developing policies, standards, and capacities to: reduce illegal logging, promote co-management, community forestry, sustainable forest management in concessions, fire-risk management, and sociocultural appreciation of forests as providers of environmental services and also for job creation and livelihoods.
- c. **Reducing GHG emissions of agrifood systems:** Agrifood systems are solution providers to reduce GHG emissions and meet NDCs.⁶⁹ FAO will continue to provide support in:
 - i. Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD+), including restoration and forest management, and developing capacities of national forest monitoring systems.
 - ii. Reducing agrifood systems emissions, by working with agrifood systems actors, including generating public-private partnerships, promoting i) practices for climate change adaptation, ii) low emissions livestock production, and iii) the reduction of food loss and waste.
 - iii. Carbon sequestration through soil recarbonization. Scaling-up and promoting sound soil management practices together with strengthening countries' capacities to map, monitor, and verify organic carbon in soils.

59. FAO acknowledges each subregion's unique features and, accordingly, focuses its efforts on their key challenges and opportunities. For the Caribbean countries, efforts will be made to enhance their resilience, to act preventively on climate change threats to reduce damage and loss and adapt livelihoods, and increase the abilities of agrifood system actors to recover after adverse climate events. Particular attention will also be given to coastal marine and aquatic ecosystems and the livelihoods that depend on them. For Mesoamerica, FAO will focus on addressing water scarcity, land degradation, ecosystem restoration and early action against climate change threats. Livelihoods in the Dry Corridor will be protected with a focus on integrated water management strategies at technical and policy levels. For South American countries, FAO will work on enhancing and restoring ecosystem services for agriculture, in particular integrated land and water management, soil health and forest management, promoting the scaling up of successful and validated practices, including those related to low emissions livestock production.

B. Accelerators and cross-cutting themes

60. In order to accelerate progress and maximize efforts in meeting the SDGs and to realize the *four betters*, FAO will apply four cross-cutting accelerators in all programmatic interventions to accelerate impact while minimizing trade-offs:

- a. *Technology* for sustainable agrifood systems can be defined as the application of science and knowledge to develop techniques to deliver a product and/or service that enhances the sustainability of agrifood systems. Access and use of technologies must be available and affordable to all, being mindful of possible risks of increasing inequality, market concentration and contributing to the degradation of natural resources.
- b. *Innovation* is a central driving force for achieving a world free from hunger and malnutrition, and includes technological, social, policy, institutional and financial innovations. Innovation can be defined as doing something new and different like solving an old problem in a new way, addressing a new problem with a proven solution, and/or bringing a new solution to a new problem. The regional innovation strategy endorsed by

⁶⁹ IPCC (2018). *Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C*. Available at: <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/chapter/spm/>.

LARC 36 will be guided by the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy, which will provide a coherent framework for FAO and member countries to drive forward the PPAs.

- c. *Data* products contribute to strengthening evidence-based decision-making, and include the development of methods, standards and frameworks, as well as the collection, processing and dissemination of data, together with required capacity building and partnerships.
 - i. COVID-19 exacerbated the agricultural and food security data gap in national agricultural statistics systems due to the reliance on face-to-face data collection. Many operations such as agricultural censuses and household surveys were compromised leading to 64 percent of countries in the region reporting delays, postponements or cancellations of their agricultural census. FAO will support these countries to put statistical operations back on track, leveraging international standards, innovative methods, and good practices. Furthermore, FAO will conduct training and support cooperation for countries to access advanced statistical methods and data sources such as machine learning and remote sensing, to produce timelier and more detailed environmental and agricultural statistics for policymaking, and to increase the resilience of national agricultural statistical systems. FAO will step up its support countries in SDGs data reporting to raise the reporting rate, generate representative statistics for vulnerable populations, and utilize trend analysis methodologies for evaluating current policies.
- d. *Complements (governance, human capital and institutions)* are necessary and complementary dimensions of effective collective action at all scales, considering in particular that while technology and innovation have achieved important progress over the last decade, many stakeholders remain excluded from their benefits.
 - i. Improved and strengthened institutions, legal frameworks and governance are needed across agrifood systems and their socioeconomic and environmental contexts. Better legislation and legal capacity building are indispensable to bring long-lasting change, given that laws are adopted as long-term national commitments. It also requires capacities in data usage to help formulate, target, implement, monitor and evaluate better-quality policies and programmes. FAO will provide normative and standard-setting assistance to Members for the adoption and implementation, at the national level, of international voluntary guidelines and codes of conduct, as well as international agreements and treaties deposited with FAO's Director-General.
 - ii. Investing in human and social capital is required for a people-centred approach to transformation. This means investing in and raising awareness of the human rights-based approach (HRBA) and the human right to adequate food, building capacities for better use and preservation of assets, and of financial resources for long-lasting effects on wellbeing.
 - iii. Rural institutions in the region must be dynamic and active in the diversification of rural economies. FAO will provide support across all priority areas for institutional reform, promoting horizontal and interinstitutional coordination, spending efficiency, effective territorial coverage of investments and implementing integrated and intersectoral goal setting.
 - iv. FAO will facilitate governance spaces for agrifood systems, specifically in small and medium-sized cities, linking urban and rural development agendas.
 - v. Transformative partnerships, including South-South Cooperation, have the potential to address systemic problems, generate win-win outcomes and – through collective action – broaden impact. FAO will focus particularly on facilitating transformative partnerships at the national level, acting as a catalyst for joint action between governments and diverse partners. The 2030 Agenda explicitly acknowledges multi-stakeholder partnerships as a major driver of the SDGs, with private sector

engagement and investment as an accelerator. FAO's Hand-in-Hand Initiative is emblematic of this approach.

61. The cross-cutting themes of gender, youth and inclusion, are critical areas identified to be considered across all of FAO's programmatic work in order to ensure the achievement of the UN programming principle of leaving no one behind, as reflected in FAO's strategic narrative.

- a. *Gender* equality is central to FAO's mandate as FAO can achieve its goals only if it works parallelly towards gender equality and supports women's diverse roles in agriculture and rural transformation. FAO aims to: (i) reduce the gap between rural women and men in access to productive resources and services; (ii) ensure that women and men have the ability to influence programme and policy decision-making and building institutional responsiveness and accountability (voice); and (iii) ensure that rural women and men can take up economic opportunities to improve their individual and household wellbeing (agency).
- b. *Youth* have long been recognized by the United Nations as a major human resource for development and key agents for social change, economic growth and technological innovation. FAO will strive to assess and include youth's needs and opportunities, place attention on the needs of younger youth (age 15-17) and ensure inclusion of youth representatives. The World Food Forum (WFF), created for and led by youth, is one example of global follow-up action towards transforming agri-food systems and achieving the SDGs. The WFF brings together youth from around the world to brainstorm and spur action, recognizing that the future of our planet belongs to them and that their engagement is central.
- c. *Inclusion* is critical for FAO's interventions to leaving no one behind, which calls for an inclusive approach to local, national and global action to ensure historically marginalized groups including Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent participate, contribute and benefit from economic growth and human development. It is a process, a principle and an outcome. For this purpose, FAO will launch a Regional Strategy on Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent in 2022.

C. FAO's corporate strategies and initiatives

62. Work in the region will continue to benefit from FAO's corporate strategies and initiatives, including those outlined below.

63. FAO's Hand-in-Hand Initiative strives to facilitate agrifood systems transformation and sustainable rural development accelerated through targeting the poorest and the hungry, differentiating territories and strategies, and bringing together all relevant dimensions through analysis and partnerships. FAO will continue to facilitate partnerships and provide advanced geo-spatial modelling and analytics through the Hand-in-Hand Geospatial Platform, to identify the biggest opportunities to raise the incomes and reduce the inequities and vulnerabilities of rural populations.

64. In September 2021, FAO launched its Global Action on Green Development of Special Agricultural Products: One Country One Priority Product, aiming to develop sustainable value chains for Special Agricultural Products (SAPs). SAPs include various agricultural products with unique qualities and special characteristics associated with geographical locations and cultural heritages, which can significantly contribute to ensuring food security and healthy diets, supporting farmers' livelihoods and economic growth while protecting the environment and biodiversity.

65. FAO's 1 000 Digital Villages Initiative aims to convert 1 000 villages across the world into digital hubs – with the aim of supporting the transformation of agrifood systems. Furthermore, FAO is operationalizing the International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture to provide a venue for dialogue, policy-making, and strengthening of the linkages between agriculture and digital economy fora, supporting governments to enhance the benefits of digital agriculture and leapfrog by learning from their peers, while addressing potential concerns.

IV. Towards a reinvigorated business model

66. In implementing the Strategic Framework 2022-31, FAO aims to strengthen the shift towards an inclusive and agile Organization that is transparent, open, and innovative, that generates and

contributes to impactful coalitions of partners in support of challenges related to food, agriculture and agrifood systems transformation.

67. This means deepening the programmatic approach by strengthening the synergies from numerous projects in order to increase their impact. It also means ensuring that FAO projects contribute to national priorities and progress towards the SDGs, as reflected in the Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs). To accomplish this, strong links must be developed with investments, national and regional policy processes, and the promotion of new partnerships, including UN joint work, the private sector, civil society and academia.

68. FAO is putting in place a common regional structure that mirrors the changes in the management structure in FAO headquarters. This unified structure integrates resources management across regional and subregional offices to enhance efficiencies, flatten hierarchies and promote partnerships and knowledge management. The implementation of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 and its PPAs will focus on regional areas of emphasis, fully integrating normative and policy support into all aspects of FAO's interventions. This model reinforces an organizational culture that encourages results-based management practices and promotes learning from monitoring and evaluation to improve performance management and programme delivery.

69. Progress in CPF implementation will continue to be monitored in conjunction with work plans at national level and project implementation, in order to give an overall perspective of programme evolution at the country and regional level. The Organization will continue to address the key constraints for an efficient delivery, implementing automatization of processes and a project monitoring system, addressing key structural bottlenecks and increasing countries capacities to address them.

70. FAO will continue investing in strengthening capacities of its personnel, in the project cycle and capacity analysis for more efficient, sustainable and impactful implementation and to build the connection between projects and programme implementation.

Annex 1

Table 4: The four betters and 20 Programme Priority Areas (PPAs)

PPA	Outcome Statement	SDG Targets
BETTER PRODUCTION	<i>Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, through efficient and inclusive food and agriculture supply chains at local, regional and global level, ensuring resilient and sustainable agri-food systems in a changing climate and environment</i>	2.3, 2.4, 6.4, 14.6, 14.7, 14.b, 15.2
BP1: Innovation for sustainable agriculture production	Sustainable crop, livestock and forestry production systems that are productive, resilient, innovative and competitive, and create integrated entrepreneurial and business opportunities, inclusive of small-scale and vulnerable producers, supported through enabling technologies and policies	2.3, 2.4, 6.4, 15.2
BP2: Blue transformation	More efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable blue food systems promoted through improved policies and programmes for integrated science-based management, technological innovation and private-sector engagement	2.1, 2.2, 14.2, 14.4, 14.6, 14.7, 14.b, 14.c
BP3: One Health	Strengthened and better performing national and international integrated One Health systems for human, animal, plant and environmental health achieved through improved pest and disease prevention, early warning and management of national and global health risks, including antimicrobial resistance (AMR)	1.5, 3.d, 15.8
BP4: Small-scale producers' equitable access to resources	Enhanced equitable access of small-scale producers and family farmers to economic and natural resources, markets, services, information, education and technologies ensured through improved policies, strategies and programmes	1.4, 2.3, 2.4, 9.3
BP5: Digital agriculture	Accessible digital ICT technologies to enhance market opportunities, productivity and resilience integrated into agrifood systems policies and programmes, with particular focus on ensuring affordable and equitable access of poor and vulnerable rural communities	1.4, 5.b, 9.c, 17.8
BETTER NUTRITION	<i>End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition in all its forms, including promoting nutritious food and increasing access to healthy diets</i>	2.1, 2.2, 2.c, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 12.3
BN1: Healthy diets for all	The right to adequate food established and transition towards healthy diets for national populations prioritized in integrated institutional, policy and legal environments that ensure and incentivize engagement of consumers and the private sector	1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 12.8, 14.b
BN2: Nutrition for the most vulnerable	Identifying and ending food insecurity and malnutrition for the most vulnerable individuals in all contexts made the specific focus of targeted policies, strategies and programmes developed and implemented by countries	1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2
BN3: Safe food for everyone	Integrated, multi-sectoral food safety policies and legislation across national agrifood systems adopted and implemented by governments, and capacities and awareness of value chain operators and consumers enhanced	2.1, 2.2, 3.2
BN4: Reducing food loss and waste	Clear, specific and contextualized roadmaps to prompt and enable all actors in the food supply chain, the food environment and at consumer level to reduce food loss and waste put in place and implemented by governments and intergovernmental organizations	2.1, 2.2, 12.3
BN5: Transparent markets and trade	Improved market transparency and equitable participation in markets, global value chains and international trade achieved through policy	2.b, 2.c, 10.a, 17.11

PPA	Outcome Statement	SDG Targets
	coordination and human and institutional capacities for evidence-based decision-making	
BETTER ENVIRONMENT	<i>Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial and marine ecosystems and combat climate change (reduce, reuse, recycle, residual management) through more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems</i>	2.5, 12.2, 12.4, 12.5, 13.2, 14.3, 14.4, 15.1, 15.3, 15.4
BE1: Climate change mitigating and adapted agrifood systems	Transformation and resilience of agrifood systems to achieve sustainability and Paris Agreement goals enabled through the establishment and implementation of climate-smart agricultural practices, policies and programmes	2.4, 13.1, 13.2, 13.b, 14.3
BE2: Bioeconomy for sustainable food and agriculture	A bioeconomy that balances economic value and social welfare with environmental sustainability promoted through formulation and implementation of integrated evidence-based policies and practices in micro and macro environments, using technological, organizational and social innovations	12.2, 12.4, 12.5
BE3: Biodiversity and ecosystem services for food and agriculture	Biodiversity for food and agriculture maintained and sustainable use, conservation and restoration of marine, terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, and their services promoted through adoption of targeted policies and practices	2.5, 14.4, 15.1, 15.3, 15.4, 15.6
BE4: Achieving sustainable urban food systems	More efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable urban and peri-urban agrifood systems transformation that addresses urban poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition, enables healthy diets and catalyses inclusive and sustainable rural transformation while safeguarding the underlying natural resources base, promoted through the adoption of supportive policies and programmes, and the initiation and scaling-up of actions and investments by national and local stakeholders	1.1, 2.1, 11.a, 12.1
BETTER LIFE	<i>Promote inclusive economic growth by reducing inequalities (urban/rural areas, rich/poor countries, men/women)</i>	1.1, 1.2, 1.5, 2.3, 2.a, 5.4, 5.a, 10.1, 10.2, 16.1
BL1: Gender equality and rural women's empowerment	Women's equal rights, access to, and control over resources, services, technologies, institutions, economic opportunities and decision-making ensured, and discriminatory laws and practices eliminated, through gender-responsive policies, strategies, programmes and legal frameworks	2.3, 5.4, 5.a, 5.c
BL2: Inclusive rural transformation	Inclusive rural transformation and revitalization of rural areas ensuring equal participation of, and benefits to poor, vulnerable and marginalized groups accelerated through implementation of targeted policies, strategies and programmes	1.1, 8.3, 8.5, 10.1, 10.2, 10.7, 14.b
BL3: Agriculture and food emergencies	Countries facing, or at risk of acute food insecurity provided with urgent livelihood and nutrition assistance and, adopting a humanitarian-development nexus and its contribution to peace approach, their populations equipped with appropriate capacities to better withstand and manage future shocks and risks	1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 16.1
BL4: Resilient agrifood systems	Resilience of agrifood systems and livelihoods to socioeconomic and environmental shocks and stresses strengthened through improved multirisk understanding and effective governance mechanisms for implementation of vulnerability reduction measures	1.3, 1.5, 2.4
BL5: Hand-in-Hand (HIH) Initiative	Agricultural transformation and sustainable rural development accelerated through targeting the poorest and the hungry, differentiating territories and strategies, and bringing together all relevant dimensions of agrifood systems through analysis and partnerships	1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.a, 10.1, 10.2
BL6: Scaling up investment	Transformation towards sustainable agrifood systems with large-scale impacts on reducing inequalities and eradicating poverty and	1.b, 2.a, 10.1, 10.2,

PPA	Outcome Statement	SDG Targets
	hunger accelerated through increased public and private investment, and improved capacities to leverage future investments	10.b, 17.5

Annex 2

Table 5: Link between the four betters, PPAs, SDGs and the 2022-23 Regional Initiatives

Four betters	PPAs	SDG targets	SDGs	RIIs
Better production	BP1.- Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture Production	2.3, 2.4, 6.4, 15.2	2, 6, 15	RI2
	BP2.- Blue transformation	2.1, 2.2, 14.2, 14.4, 14.6, 14.7, 14.b, 14.c	2, 14	RI3
	BP3.- One Health	1.5, 3.d, 15.8	1, 3, 15	RI3
	BP4.- Small-scale producers' equitable access to resources	1.4, 2.3, 2.4, 9.3	1, 2, 9	RI2
	BP5.- Digital Agriculture	1.4, 5.b, 9.c, 17.8	1, 5, 9, 17	RI2
Better nutrition	BN1.- Healthy diets for all	1.3, 2.1, 2.2 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 12.8, 14.b	1, 2, 3, 12, 14	RI1
	BN2.- Nutrition for the most vulnerable	1.3, 2.1, 2.2 3.1, 3.2	1, 2, 3	RI1
	BN3.- Safe food for everyone	2.1, 2.2, 3.2	2, 3	RI1
	BN4.- Reducing food loss and waste	2.1, 2.2, 12.3	2, 12	RI1
	BN5.- Transparent markets and trade	2.b, 2.c, 10.a, 17.11	2, 10, 17	RI1
Better environment	BE1.- Climate change mitigating and adapted agrifood systems	2.4, 13.1, 13.2, 13.b, 14.3	2, 13, 14	RI3
	BE2.- Bioeconomy for sustainable food and agriculture	12.2, 12.4, 12.5	12	RI3
	BE3.- Biodiversity and ecosystem services for food and agriculture	2.5, 14.4, 15.1, 15.3, 15.4, 15.6	2, 14, 15	RI3
	BE4.- Achieving sustainable urban food systems	1.1, 2.1, 11.a, 12.1	1, 2, 11, 12	RI1
Better life	BL1.- Gender equality and rural women's empowerment	2.3, 5.4, 5.a, 5.c	2, 5	RI2
	BL2.- Inclusive rural transformation	1.1, 8.3, 8.5, 10.1, 10.2, 10.7, 14.b	1, 8, 10, 14	RI2
	BL3.- Agriculture and food emergencies	1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 16.1	1, 2, 16	RI3
	BL4.- Resilient agrifood systems	1.3, 1.5, 2.4	1, 2	RI3
	BL5.- Hand-in-Hand Initiative	1.1, 1.2, 2.1 2.2, 2.a, 10.1, 10.2	1, 2, 10	RI2
	BL6.- Scaling up investment	1.b, 2.a, 10.1, 10.2, 10.b, 17.5	1, 2, 10, 17	RI2