COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Twenty-eighth Session

18 - 22 July 2022

Implementation of the recommendations of the 27th Session of the Committee

Executive Summary

The Committee on Agriculture (COAG) is the main technical Governing Body of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) providing overall policy and regulatory guidance on issues relating to agriculture, livestock, food safety, nutrition, rural development and natural resource management. COAG plays a key role in guiding FAO and provides strategic advice on the challenges FAO has faced in assisting its Members to achieve the 2030 Agenda. The 27th Session of COAG reviewed several matters requiring the attention of the FAO Conference and Council and its Members.

This report provides an update on the implementation of the recommendations of the 27th Session of COAG.

Suggested action by the Committee

The Committee is invited to take note of the report and to provide any guidance it may find necessary for future reporting.

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I. Introduction

1. The Committee on Agriculture (COAG) has always played an important role in guiding the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The 27th Session of COAG reviewed and made a set of recommendations detailed below on programmatic, policy and regulatory matters within its competence. Topics discussed included:

   (i) Livestock Sector contributions to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
   (ii) Preventing, anticipating and responding to high-impact animal and plant diseases and pests;
   (iii) Proposal for the establishment of a COAG Sub-Committee on Livestock;
   (v) Update on COVID-19 and its impact on food security and nutrition, and food systems;
   (vi) Operationalizing a food systems approach to accelerate delivery of the 2030 Agenda;
   (vii) Rationale for a new FAO Food Safety Strategy;
   (viii) Agricultural transformation and the Urban Food Agenda;
   (ix) Voluntary Code of Conduct for Food Loss and Waste Reduction;
   (x) Rural Youth Action Plan;
   (xi) Enabling smallholders and family farmers to access appropriate innovation, information and advisory services for sustainable agrifood systems;
   (xii) Terms of Reference of the International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture;
   (xiii) Implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors;
   (xiv) Towards a Global Programme on Sustainable Dryland Agriculture in collaboration with the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG) in a Changing Climate;
   (xv) Report of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP);
   (xvi) FAO's Programme of Work in Food and Agriculture under the FAO Strategic Framework;
   (xvii) Implementation of the recommendations of the 26th Session of the Committee;
   (xviii) Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Committee;
   (xix) FAO’s work on Rangelands and Pastoralism, and Proposal for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists;
   (xx) Proposal for an International Day of Plant Health; and
   (xxi) Proposal for an International Year of Date Palm.

2. This report provides a summary and some indications of the main achievements of FAO as a result of the implementation of COAG 27 recommendations. While COVID-19 related measures and effects still were prevailing during the period 2020-21, all efforts were made by the COAG Bureau, the Secretariat, FAO technical units and Management to address the recommendations regardless of these limiting factors.

II. Status of implementation of recommendations of the Twenty-Seventh Session of COAG

Livestock Sector contributions to achieving the SDGs (C 2021/21, from para 12 to 14)

Recommendation 1: The Committee requested FAO to strengthen its policy and technical support to Members by collecting appropriate data and knowledge and developing tools to guide countries in formulating institutional mechanisms for the preparation and implementation of livestock policy and investments, including increased resources, in relation to achieving the SDGs.
3. As part of its work to support countries in the preparation and implementation of livestock policy and investments, FAO is developing an interactive online version of the Livestock Sector Investment and Policy Toolkit (LSIPT) and the Livestock Policy Lab (LPL).

**Recommendation 2:** The Committee requested FAO to promote the exchange of information, dissemination of good practices and technical cooperation for sustainable livestock production, including by fostering integrated systems, increased productivity, adaptation, and low carbon and resilient livestock, as appropriate to different production systems and contexts and to safeguard human, animal and environmental health.

4. FAO continues to support the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources, particularly at country and regional levels in order to guide and strengthen sustainable management of animal genetic resources. It continues to maintain and further develop the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS) supporting countries in the collection, analysis and interpretation of relevant data for SDG indicators 2.5.1b and 2.5.2. FAO continues to develop assessments, methodologies, guidelines and tools for inventories of feed use, assessing their nutritional value, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through the Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance partnership (LEAP), and the Global Livestock Environmental Assessment Model (GLEAM) and its interactive version GLEAM-i.1

5. FAO is supporting Members to identify opportunities to raise their ambitions on climate action in their Nationally Determined Contributions by integrating livestock-specific interventions in several countries.

6. FAO supports the implementation of SDG 13 on climate action through regional consultation workshops on boosting Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture in the livestock sector in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean.

7. FAO, in close collaboration with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), and New Zealand Agricultural GHG Centre (NZAGRC) is supporting Member Nations to build institutional capacities to develop baselines for methane and other GHG emissions.

8. To promote feed safety, FAO has established a Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Feed Safety and a Global Platform for Feed Safety.

9. The “One Health” Programme Priority Area (PPA) within the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 aims to enhance livestock production through sustainable and inclusive livestock supply chains at local, regional and global level, ensuring resilient agrifood systems in a changing climate and environment.2

10. Under FAO’s chair of the Tripartite, the One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH-JPA) has been developed and will support countries, organizations and institutions active in the One Health landscape to focus their initiatives and implement joint One Health actions at country level. A One Health umbrella programme has been established to ensure coordinated One Health programming, resource mobilisation and implementation at all levels. FAO, the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) recently established a One Health High-Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP) with a view to strengthen global efforts at preventing future pandemics by collecting, distributing, and publicizing reliable scientific information on the links between human, animal and environmental health.3 In December 2021, OHHLEP published a definition4 of One Health. Further details are provided in document COAG/2022/7.5

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1 [https://gleami.appsfao.org/](https://gleami.appsfao.org/)
5 [COAG/2022/7](https://www.who.int/news/item/20-05-2021-new-international-expert-panel-to-address-the-emergence-and-spread-of-zoonotic-diseases)
Recommendation 3: The Committee requested FAO to produce a comprehensive, science and evidence-based global assessment of the contribution of livestock to food security, sustainable food systems, nutrition and healthy diets, and to develop a technical document of good practices, based on sound scientific evidence, including consideration of the relevant policy recommendations adopted by CFS 43 on this subject, as the basis to consider initiating negotiations by Members on voluntary guidelines to enhance the productivity of small-scale livestock keepers.

11. This global assessment is jointly led by the FAO Animal Production and Health Division (NSA) and the Food and Nutrition Division (ESN), in close collaboration with other technical units and Decentralized Offices, and external partners. In June 2021, a webinar was held to raise awareness for the global assessment and engage potential stakeholders. A multi-disciplinary Scientific Advisory Committee was established to guide the process and the preparation of the assessment. The document Contribution of terrestrial animal source food to healthy diets for improved nutrition and health outcomes – an evidence and policy overview on the state of knowledge and gaps has been presented at the First Session of the Sub-Committee on Livestock (SCL-1).

12. The document Good practices to sustainably enhance the productivity of small-scale livestock producers was submitted to the SCL-1.

Preventing, anticipating and responding to high-impact animal and plant diseases and pests (C 2021/21, from para 15 to 18)

Recommendation 4: The Committee recognized the critical importance of prevention and management of Animal and Plant Pest and Diseases (APPDs) for food security. It also acknowledged FAO’s efforts to address these challenges at global, regional and country levels, particularly the progress made with regard to the Desert Locust emergency response and the Global Action on Fall Armyworm (FAW), as well as the progressive elimination of high impact transboundary animal diseases under the FAO-OIE Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs).

Recommendation 5: The Committee welcomed the draft resolution (provided in Appendix D) for consolidating the implementation of the Peste des Petits Ruminants Global Eradication Programme (PPR GEP) to achieve the goal of a PPR free world by 2030, and requested that it be submitted to the Council at its 165th Session and subsequently to the FAO Conference at its 42nd session in 2021 for adoption.

13. The draft resolution for the Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) has been updated following the recommendations of COAG 27 and of the 165th Session of the Council (CL 165), and was adopted by the FAO Conference at its 42nd Session (C 42) in June 2021. The PPR Monitoring and Assessment Tool (PMAT) is a companion tool to the PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy (PPR GCES) and a pillar of its implementation. The FAO/OIE PPR GEP Secretariat has formulated the second phase of the programme (2022-2026) and is continuing the resource mobilization activities as well as the coordination of field activities.

14. The Fall Armyworm (FAW) Secretariat continues to manage the implementation of the Global Action for FAW Control in eight geographic zones. A regional Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategy is being developed for each geographic zone, led by the designated demonstration country, to guide each demonstration country in finalizing a work plan that includes technology evaluation, large scale demonstration, Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and capacity development activities. The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat is leading a Focus Group aiming at providing recommendations on how to establish a global plant pest outbreaks alert and response system for quarantining plant pests, reporting directly to the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures, using FAW as a pilot case.

15. FAO applies an IPM approach focusing on early warning and prevention for responding to high-impact plant pests and a lifecycle management approach to reduce risks of chemical pesticides.

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For the disease and pest management, preventing the use of highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs), promoting biopesticides and appropriate and safe application are priority activities for the risk reduction of pesticides. FAO, together with WHO and UNEP, is developing the Action Plan on HHPs.  

16. An IPPC Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) Team is also being established to develop global prevention for the tropical race 4 (TR4) of banana wilt (*Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense*) and capacity development materials.

17. FAO has enhanced its coordination for the prevention and management of disease threats at the animal-human-environment interface, working closely with WHO, OIE and UNEP, to pursue jointly the objectives of the One Health Programme Priority Area (PPA-BP3).  

18. Within the PPA-BP3, the Emergency Prevention System for transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases (EMPRES) pillars of early warning, prevention and response will build upon its earlier efforts and lessons in the management of transboundary APPDs and progressive aquaculture biosecurity programmes, applying an integrated approach for agrifood system health. It will add value and efficiencies from joint programming, and more efficient coordination of pest and disease management ensuring increased national resilience to APPDs. The First Session of the Sub-Committee on Livestock endorsed the implementation of Progressive Management Pathways for Biosecurity (PMP-B) in different production systems to manage the risks of animal diseases and emerging zoonoses through stakeholder-led, collaborative, stepwise approaches to mainstream One Health and biosecurity at country level.

19. FAO has enhanced disease intelligence and early warning of high impact animal diseases through the upgrade of the EMPRES Global Animal Disease Information System (EMPRES-i+). The upgraded platform was launched in October 2021 with functionalities of interoperability with other data platforms from public health, animal health, and environmental sectors for integrated One Health intelligence, advanced data analytics for real time visualization and evidence-based intervention support, and improved risk assessments and forecasting.

20. Risk assessments of several emerging transboundary diseases have been published to provide Members with evidence-based recommendations on prevention and control. The global and regional coordination for control of priority transboundary animal diseases (TADs) has been enhanced through the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GFTADs) Global Strategy for 2021-2025.

21. As a result of the extended period of the COVID-19 pandemic, exposure of animals to SARS-CoV-2 from infected humans has become a concern, potentially leading to the establishment of animal reservoirs in which the virus may genetically evolve and then spill back to humans. FAO is providing technical guidance to design and implement a One Health epidemiological investigation of SARS-CoV-2 in exposed animals. A quarterly EMPRES situation update on SARS-CoV-2 in animals is being published. The monitoring of the global situation is conducted under the Quadripartite collaboration through several ad hoc and technical advisory groups.

22. To prevent the risk of emergence and spillover of high impact diseases, FAO has launched the programme “Preventing the Next Zoonotic Pandemic, aiming at strengthening and extending the One Health work, renaming the group the “Quadripartite,” reflecting equal participation of all four partners. Prior to the establishment of the Quadripartite, reference is made to the Tripartite and UNEP in the text.

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14 On 17 March 2022, the Directors General of FAO, OIE, and WHO, and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), signed a Memorandum of Understanding for collaborative One Health work, renaming the group the “Quadripartite,” reflecting equal participation of all four partners. Prior to the establishment of the Quadripartite, reference is made to the Tripartite and UNEP in the text.
Health approach to avert animal-origin pandemics” (PNP), which is incorporated into the Strategic Framework 2022-31 as a key component of the “One Health” PPA.

Proposal for the establishment of a COAG Sub-Committee on Livestock
(C 2021/21, from para 19 to 22)

Recommendation 6: The Committee, in accordance with Rule VII.1 of its Rules of Procedure, established a Sub-Committee on Livestock (Sub-Committee) and invited the Council at its 165th Session in December 2020 and the Conference at its 42nd Session in 2021 to endorse the Sub-Committee as an intergovernmental forum with a mandate to discuss and build consensus on livestock issues and priorities, and advise COAG, and through it, the FAO Council and the FAO Conference, on technical and policy programmes and activities needed to optimize the contribution of livestock, including in poverty alleviation, food security and nutrition, sustainable livelihoods and the realization of the 2030 Agenda.

Recommendation 7: In accordance with Rule VII.3 of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee adopted the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Sub-Committee, as contained in Appendix E to this report. The Committee stressed the importance of collaborating with specialized organizations and existing multiple stakeholder partnerships. The Committee invited the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL) to report regularly on its work to the Sub-Committee at its sessions.

Recommendation 8: The Committee further requested the Secretariat to develop the Sub-Committee’s draft programme of work, for further consideration by the Committee.

Recommendation 9: The Committee recommended that the first session of the Sub-Committee on Livestock be held, subject to the availability of extra-budgetary funds, during the first quarter of 2022 and followed by the COAG at its 28th Session. This funding arrangement could be revisited in subsequent COAG sessions with a view to explore other funding options.

23. The establishment of the Sub-Committee on Livestock (SCL) was endorsed by C 42. The First Session of the Sub-Committee took place from 16 to 18 March 2022 in virtual mode. The meeting documentation and information on the SCL Bureau composition are available on the Sub-Committee website.15

24. The Sub-Committee elected H.E. Carlos Cherniak, Permanent Representative of the Argentine Republic to FAO, as Chairperson. Of the 133 Members of COAG, 123 registered their delegations for the Session. Six Members of the Organization, two United Nations agencies, seven Intergovernmental organizations, seven non-governmental organizations and six private sector representatives participated as observers.

25. The Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) was discussed at the First Session of the Sub-Committee, and a revised version was developed under the guidance of the Sub-Committee's Bureau for consideration by COAG 28.16 The proposed programme of work is focusing on three main thematic areas, i. sustainable livestock systems for food security, nutrition and inclusive economic growth; ii animal, public and environmental health through the One Health approach; and, iii. natural resource use, climate change and biodiversity. Further resource mobilization is required to enable its timely implementation.

(C 2021/21 para 23)

Recommendation 10: The Committee welcomed the progress report on the implementation of the FAO Action Plan on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and requested a regular update on progress with the Action Plan objectives to the Programme Committee and to other Technical Committees, including

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COAG, as appropriate, and acknowledged FAO’s work to reduce the burden of AMR in food and agriculture, which contributed to eradicating hunger, sustainable livestock production and food security.

26. The FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) 2021-2025 is the continuation of the first Action Plan, which covered the period 2016-2020.\(^\text{17}\) It sets out five mutually reinforcing objectives that are guiding the programming of FAO activities to support its Members to build capacities on AMR, including: 1) increasing stakeholder awareness and engagement; 2) strengthening surveillance and research; 3) enabling good practices; 4) promoting responsible use of antimicrobials; and 5) strengthening governance and allocating resources sustainably.

27. On 19 November 2021, the FAO Action Plan on AMR was launched during the information session to Members on addressing AMR through a One Health approach. Significant progress in the implementation of activities has been made under each of the five objectives, including the inception of the International FAO Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring (InFARM) data platform, the ongoing development of the AMR e-learning courses, and several hybrid/online workshops on tools such as the FAO PMP AMR (FAO Progressive Management Pathway for AMR) and the Assessment Tool for Laboratories and AMR Surveillance Systems (ATLASS). The World Antimicrobial Awareness Week took place in November 2021, under the theme “Spread Awareness. Stop Resistance”.

28. Forty-seven countries received assistance to progress in their national action plans on AMR in 2020-21. FAO, WHO and OIE established the Global Leaders Group on AMR, co-chaired by two Prime Ministers, and scaled up support to countries under the Multi-Partner Trust Fund. Furthermore, FAO has led the development under the Tripartite of the AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform.

Recommendation 11: The Committee recognized the importance of not losing sight of the 2030 Agenda and its commitment to ending hunger and poverty, notably tackling its root causes by building sustainability and resilience in food systems and to this end requested FAO to enhance work with partners, including United Nations country teams and host governments, to provide its expertise, data, analysis and technical support to countries to strengthen capacities for implementation of policy advice and to guide and accelerate investments, with a strong monitoring and evaluation system, particularly in Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) and innovation in order to help countries “build back better”.

Recommendation 12: The Committee expressed particular concern for the lives, livelihoods and nutritional status of those who are least able to cope with the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis, and requested FAO to assess the specific impacts on women, youth, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, smallholders and family farmers and those exposed to conflict and protracted crisis and to recommend measures to ensure that no countries and no persons are left behind.

Recommendation 13: The Committee requested FAO to promote increased information sharing on country experiences in containing COVID-19 and its various health, economic and social impacts, noting the importance of identifying and assessing the diverse measures that have been taken and the factors influencing their success.

29. The COVID-19 pandemic has entered in a new phase, showing that collective efforts and multilateral cooperation have enabled agrifood systems and trade to remain open and flowing. The pandemic with related containment measures had a clear, but short-term effect on agricultural and food trade in 2020, and contributed to the largest single-year increase in global hunger in decades up to 161 million people more than in 2019.

30. However, while the global agrifood systems have remained resilient, income losses and food price spikes caused undernourishment to rise. Per capita incomes contracted in more countries than at

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\(^{17}\) COAG/2022/8
any time in the recent past, leading to exacerbated inequalities especially in rural areas. FAO continues to provide related regular updates, analytical products, policy briefs and other key information.

31. FAO has been intensively working on the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme, launched in July 2020, and has mobilized financial and technical support to reach a large share of rural populations and to re-launch the economic activities. The Programme focused on innovative data sources to monitor and rapid assessment of the impact of COVID-19; scaling up and expansion of national social protection programmes across different regions; analytical work on the impact of the pandemic on agrifood trade; and, early warning system together with WHO, OIE and UNEP to monitor the animal-human interface while advancing a comprehensive One Health approach.

32. In this context, and as a complementary component, the Food Coalition proposed by Italy and led by FAO was introduced with the aim to coordinate a multistakeholder, multisectoral mechanism to mobilize political, financial and technical assistance to address and recover from the challenges faced. Further updates are provided in document COAG/2022/INF/12.

33. The Programme further demonstrated the critical importance of robust monitoring systems for real-time data and analysis, including early warning systems, price monitoring and identification of vulnerability hotspots and bottlenecks. The need for a strong link between short-medium and long-term policy decisions and measures, with emphasis on women as the group hardest hit by the pandemic in the agrifood systems. The process also highlighted the need for policies and strategies that would address structural issues related to inequalities and immediate and concrete responses required to ensure decent work and economic undertakings in the informal economy.

**Operationalizing a food systems approach to accelerate delivery of the 2030 Agenda**

(C 2021/21, from para 35 to 38)

**Recommendation 14:** The Committee requested FAO to continue supporting Members in developing sustainable food systems, where requested and as specific to each context, to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, including through such mechanisms as the 10YFP Sustainable Food Systems Programme and requested that the Organization continues to provide full support to the preparatory process towards the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit. The Committee underlined the importance of CFS agreed products to feed into the Summit discussions and follow-up process, as well as the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit, and acknowledged the on-going CFS work in this regard. The Committee encouraged FAO to assist Members, at their request, to assess the sustainability of their food systems in the framework of the 2030 Agenda.

**Recommendation 15:** The Committee noted with satisfaction the comprehensive nature of the updated Vision and Strategy for FAO’s Work in Nutrition and its articulation of the central role of healthy diets to be achieved through a food system approach that recognizes nutrition as a central component of sustainable food systems. The Committee encouraged the continued consultative effort to develop the draft Strategy and its Implementation Plan considering diverse comments and the current global challenges to address malnutrition, particularly in the most vulnerable including smallholder producers.

**Recommendation 16:** The Committee stressed the importance of food safety for healthy diets and requested the inclusion of the Codex Alimentarius definition of food safety in the glossary of terms in the updated Vision and Strategy for FAO’s Work in Nutrition.

34. The FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, aims to support the 2030 Agenda 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. With its endorsement by the 42nd Session of the FAO Conference, the operationalization of a food systems approach discussed during the last two sessions of COAG has been integrated as a foundation of the Organization’s programme of work.

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35. The UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) held in 2021,\textsuperscript{19} to which FAO provided significant technical support, including \textit{inter alia} to the Secretariat, as UN Anchor Agency for Action Track 1, has convened a number of national, regional, global and independent Food Systems Summit Dialogues. FAO, through its country offices, has contributed to the Member-led Food Systems Summit Dialogues. FAO also hosted the Pre-Summit event in July 2021, which provided an excellent basis for defining required actions and for strengthening partnerships to support countries in implementing pathways towards more sustainable food systems. FAO together with the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and other UN agencies has taken a leadership role in the post-Summit follow-up process. FAO, on behalf of the UN system, is hosting the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub providing a mechanism for a better coordinated support to countries in implementing their pathways, supporting the alignment of actions through services to be provided by the UN System and an ecosystem of support including the coalitions and multistakeholder initiatives emerging from the UNFSS process.

36. In addition, recognizing the importance of youth as a constituency in the global food systems dialogue, FAO, through its youth committee, and partners, in particular WFP and IFAD, launched the World Food Forum (WFF) as a movement and network of partners with the mission of empowering youth for a better food future. The Forum leaders worked closely with the youth work stream of the UNFSS to ensure that youth had a strong voice during the Summit.

37. In supporting national pathway implementation, FAO’s Investment Centre built on a series of rapid food systems assessments to strengthen the design of the pathways.

38. In collaboration with 10YFP/One Planet Network Sustainable Food Systems Programme partners, including UN Development Programme (UNDP), UNEP and the World Economic Forum (WEF), and with the involvement of Members, FAO is co-designing a Food Systems Transformation Support Facility.

39. FAO is co-leading a number of coalitions initiated during the Food Systems Summit process in support of Zero Hunger, Healthy Diets for all, Food Loss and Waste Reduction, Urban Food Systems, Repurposing Agricultural Support, Halting Deforestation, Indigenous Peoples’ food systems, and Territorial Food Systems Governance.

40. At global level, FAO continues to implement projects and initiatives under the 10YFP/One Planet Network Sustainable Food Systems Programme. FAO has recently launched an e-learning course on Sustainable Food Systems in association with the One Planet Network. Additionally, FAO is part of a Rome-Based Agencies (RBA) working group on nutrition sensitive value chains and released an e-learning course on the topic that could be used by countries and partners to contribute to SDGs.

41. Also under the One Planet Network, FAO is an active member of the Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) Programme and is starting the creation of an interest group on Public Food Procurement to be jointly led by FAO and ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability). FAO has co-published the comprehensive book \textit{Public Food Procurement for Sustainable Food Systems and Healthy Diets} with Bioversity International and CIAT, and the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul of Brazil.

42. FAO fully supports the use of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) agreed products in supporting the follow-up process to the UNFSS. In particular, FAO actively supported the negotiations of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition\textsuperscript{20} by providing a technical advisory role to the CFS Secretariat and CFS Members during formal negotiations and the Friends of the Chair informal sessions.

43. FAO also led the preparatory work in the thematic area of food systems for healthy diets for the Nutrition for Growth Summit (N4G) in Tokyo and actively supported the Government of Japan as

\textsuperscript{19} COAG/2022/INF/11
\textsuperscript{20} www.fao.org/cfs/vgfsn
part of the Advisory Group for N4G. FAO continues to support the alignment between follow-up processes of the UNFSS and the N4G Summit in Tokyo.

44. After a consultative process including all Technical Committees, the Vision and Strategy for FAO’s Work in Nutrition was recommended for Council’s endorsement at the 130th Session of the Programme Committee, in March 2021, and was adopted at the 166th Session of the Council, in April 2021. Steered by an agrifood systems approach, FAO’s work in nutrition recognizes the crucial role of the agricultural sector in enabling healthy diets for all.

45. FAO has pursued the creation of a stronger enabling environment for FAO personnel and offices to promote healthy diets as an integral part of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31. FAO has further accelerated its efforts to create an enabling environment to fulfil its mission and its vision for nutrition and specific progress across the three aspects of organizational change have been documented. FAO will hold itself accountable to its efforts to fulfil its mission in nutrition through monitoring the indicators of the Accountability Framework and the implementation plan of FAO’s work in nutrition.

46. FAO released its School Food and Nutrition framework, which aims to support governments and institutions in developing, transforming or strengthening their school policies, programmes and other initiatives for an enhanced and synergistic impact on diets, child and adolescent nutrition, community socioeconomic development and local food systems. The Framework represents a direct response to the international call for improving nutrition along the life cycle and for transforming food systems to be conducive of better diets, in the context of the SDGs, the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) and the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025). FAO has developed a global action plan for School Food and Nutrition for the next five years based on this framework. These programmes can also support local agriculture, strengthen and diversify local agrifood systems and help move people out of poverty by sourcing food for school meals from local smallholder farmers.

Rationale for a new FAO Food Safety Strategy (C 2021/21, from para 41 to 44)

Recommendation 17: The Committee emphasized the need for the new FAO Food Safety Strategy to contribute to the 2030 Agenda. The Committee requested FAO to develop a new Food Safety Strategy to serve as an international guidance, policy and advocacy instrument for decision-makers that can be used to encourage increased investments and the consistent integration of food safety into the development of sustainable food systems, food security and nutrition policies and agriculture development strategies.

Recommendation 18: The Committee underlined the importance of the World Health Assembly (WHA) resolution 73.5 and requested FAO to collaborate with WHO to ensure that their respective food safety strategies are aligned and mutually supportive, following the One Health approach and taking into consideration the public health impact and global recession of the current COVID-19 pandemic on the resilience of food safety systems.

47. COAG emphasized at its 27th Session the connection between food safety and food security as well as the role food safety plays in FAO’s support to achieve more sustainable and inclusive agrifood systems and requested that FAO develop a new Food Safety Strategy.

48. The FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 comprises several PPAs centred around or include important food safety activities.

49. Following the Committee’s request, and taking into account the global strategic context, FAO developed a set of strategic priorities for its work on food safety while keeping with the vision to provide “Safe food for all people at all times” and the mission “To support Members in continuing to

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improve food safety at all levels by providing scientific advice and strengthening their food safety capacities for efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems”.

50. These strategic priorities are articulated around four strategic outcomes that result from an iterative consultative process led by FAO with its Members and international partner organizations, including, notably, WHO. FAO and WHO have been working for many decades through a longstanding partnership to implement the Food Standards Programme (Codex Alimentarius), provide scientific advice, strengthen the capacities of Members for a better participation in standard-setting processes of Codex Alimentarius, and for strengthening their national food control systems. During the development of the FAO food safety priorities and the WHO Global Food Safety Strategy, FAO and WHO maintained a standing and rigorous information sharing and discussion mechanism. Both organizations have committed to plan the development of a joint framework for implementation, following the endorsement of the respective strategic directions.

51. FAO expects the document on the strategic priorities for food safety to act as an instrument that will spur investments and secure adequate human and financial resources for FAO to successfully implement its food safety programme and provide international guidance, policy and advocacy for policy-makers. These strategic priorities encourage a more consistent integration of food safety in the development of sustainable agrifood systems, food security and nutrition policies and agriculture development strategies.

Agricultural Transformation and the Urban Food Agenda (C 2021/21 para 48)

Recommendation 19: The Committee supported the inclusion of the expanded Urban Food Agenda in FAO’s corporate initiatives such as Hand-in-Hand and the Green Cities Initiative and its efforts in the lead up process towards the United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021. The Committee asked FAO to present the Urban Food Agenda to an upcoming meeting of Programme Committee for further elaboration of the concept and the integration of the concept into FAO’s strategic work to be presented at the FAO Council.

52. The Urban Food Agenda has been articulated as one of twenty Programme Priority Areas (PPA) under the Strategic Framework 2022-31. The “Achieving sustainable urban food systems transformation” PPA will provide a structure to continue to strengthen the Organization’s support to urban and peri-urban stakeholders including city and local governments.

53. The Urban Food Agenda provided the overall framework for this PPA, of which the Green Cities Initiative is one of its delivery mechanisms.

54. During the process leading towards the UNFSS, FAO, in partnership with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), acted as a Secretariat to the Urban Food Systems Working Group (UFS WG), an informal inter-agency group to raise the profile and voice of local and sub-national governments in the global but also national processes leading to agrifood systems transformation towards sustainability.

55. FAO has co-led the Action Area 4.3 on “Localizing Food Systems” where the territorial approach, which was the focus of the item discussed at COAG 27, and territorial food systems governance constitute the overarching framework. FAO is part of an Ad-Hoc Working Group on Territorial Development which includes the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Center, the French Agency for Development (AFD), the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), the European Commission, and the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD). An important outcome of the UNFSS was the clear recognition of the role of local and sub-national governments as a key part of the solution in promoting sustainable food systems transformation. The Urban Food Systems Coalition has been established and it is now formally recognized as one of the emerging coalitions coming out of the UNFSS process.

56. FAO and the Urban Food Systems Working Group (UFS WG) were also active in the context of the 49th Session of the CFS and at the Nutrition for Growth Summit organizing events with the aim
of raising awareness on the importance of promoting urban and territorial food governance, and strengthening alliances and coalitions among various actors at national and local levels to increase coherence in policy and actions for sustainable agrifood systems.

57. FAO is implementing projects and interventions at city level, in particular in Africa, for improving agrifood systems governance as well as supporting local initiatives such as territorial markets and public food procurement programmes, including school feeding, to improve the food environment for giving access to healthy diets to consumers in intermediary cities and small towns.

58. The connection with the FAO Green Cities Initiative has also been strengthened starting the implementation of quick-win agrifood systems actions in cities already engaged in the FAO Urban Food Agenda.

Voluntary Code of Conduct for Food Loss and Waste (FLW) Reduction (C 2021/21, from para 51 to 53)

Recommendation 20: The Committee welcomed the proposed Voluntary Code of Conduct for Food Loss and Waste Reduction (CoC) and noted the importance of the CoC and the role it can play in contributing to FLW reduction globally and to sustainable food systems development and achieving the SDGs, in particular SDG target 12.3. The Committee asked FAO to follow a holistic approach to include all stakeholders along the whole food chain as highlighted in the CFS HLPE report on Food losses and waste in the context of sustainable food systems (2014) and CFS agreed policy recommendations.

Recommendation 21: The Committee provided a number of comments, queries and suggestions for improvement to the document, including related to short supply chains and international trade, and requested FAO to prepare a revised document in consultation with Members and under the guidance of the COAG Bureau to be submitted to the FAO Council at its next session.

59. Recommendation 22: The Committee requested FAO to continue providing demand-driven policy and technical support to countries in their FLW reduction efforts, including for the measurement of FLW, considering national and regional contexts.

60. In response to the COAG 27 request, the Voluntary Code of Conduct for Food Loss and Waste Reduction (CoC) was revised in consultation with Members and under the guidance of the COAG 28 Bureau. The document was endorsed by the 42nd Session of the FAO Conference in June 2021. Since, FAO has been providing support to assist Members to apply the CoC. A report of progress made in the application of the CoC is presented as an information document.

61. Many Members have expressed interest in working on FLW reduction, including within the framework of programmes to address the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, in relation to the follow-up to the UNFSS 2021, and within broader agrifood systems development programmes. FLW also features in multiple Country Programming Frameworks (CPF). In response to this demand, FAO is continuing to provide support to Members in their FLW reduction efforts through an agrifood systems approach. Partnerships with various entities – UN agencies, private sector companies, academic and research institutions, civil society organizations and others – is central in this effort, and FAO will continue to play a leading role in the Food is Never Waste Coalition that emerged from the UNFSS 2021.

62. As the custodian agency for SDG 12.3.1.a, the Food Loss Index (FLI), FAO’s work prioritizes measurement and field-level actions to reduce food losses in a sustainable manner. The CoC presents guiding principles to be followed in implementing these actions and measures.

Rural Youth Action Plan (RYAP) (C 2021/21 para 56)

Recommendation 23: The Committee endorsed the Rural Youth Action Plan (RYAP) on the understanding that it is a living document, which can be updated to align with new FAO objectives and emerging issues such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee recommended that this version

of the RYAP be also reviewed by the Programme Committee at its next meeting and at any other session as is necessary.

63. The RYAP, developed in consultation with Rome-based agencies, other UN Entities and youth organizations, presents a five-year Action Plan (2021-2025), aligned to five thematic areas (or pillars) with the goal of contributing to the realization of the SDGs by equally empowering rural young women and men, protecting children and other excluded youth groups.

64. During the Programme Committee’s 130th Session (22-26 March 2021), the Committee encouraged FAO to integrate the RYAP into corporate mechanisms to adequately monitor the progress towards youth inclusiveness and to fully implement the five pillars of the Plan in support of the SDGs, and to update the RYAP in order to be aligned with FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31. The Programme Committee reviewed the RYAP at its 132nd Session, and a) appreciated the inclusion of the revisions suggested during its 130th Session; and b) welcomed FAO’s embedding of RYAP in its Medium Term Plan 2022-25 and its alignment with the Strategic Framework 2022-31. The progress made is reported below for each of the five pillars.

65. Pillar 1 - Support youth participation in rural development, within the context of integrated Landscape and Territorial Approaches. Partnerships with youth networks and organizations have been constantly increasing with activities organized by units at FAO headquarters and by Decentralized Offices.

66. Pillar 2 – Foster youth employment in an inclusive green economy within the three pillars of sustainability: social, environmental and economic. This title was modified following the 130th Session of the Programme Committee. FAO is reinforcing youth capacities in multiple countries while supporting governments in designing or updating curricula for training both youth and national institutions involved in enhancing youth capacities. Several initiatives are ongoing across regions and countries, including in Burkina Faso, Guatemala, Kenya, Lebanon, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Syria, Timor Leste, Togo, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Palestine.

67. Pillar 3 - Strengthen rural youth capacities for the use of innovative approaches and technologies in food and agriculture. Various learning programmes, case studies and assessments have been developed. Ongoing activities, in all regions, include awareness campaigns and support to media like radio stations and digital platforms.

68. Pillar 4 - Promote rural services for youth and agripreneurs. Several initiatives are ongoing in various countries and regions, to promote rural services for youth via mentorship approaches, incubators, facilitated access to finance for youth, and promotion of investments for young agripreneurs.

69. Pillar 5 – Building FAO institutional capacity to address rural youth areas of work. The strengthening of capacities to address rural youth areas of work is ongoing via various mechanisms, for example, the new Cross-Cutting Theme Team on Youth is also aligned with the Youth Stream of the 2021 UNFSS. FAO, through its Youth Committee, launched the WFF, a global, youth-led movement and network to transform our agrifood systems to achieve the SDGs, in particular “Zero Hunger”.

Enabling smallholders and family farmers to access and participate in appropriate innovation, information and advisory services for sustainable agrifood systems

(C 2021/21 from para 62 to 64)

Recommendation 24: The Committee requested FAO to strengthen its strategic guidance and knowledge competencies as well as its technical support for Members in promoting institutional reforms, the reorientation of services, and development of the technical and functional capacities of organizations within EAS.

Recommendation 25: The Committee requested FAO to strengthen its technical support to generate evidence for informed policy and investment decisions, in order to increase investment in advisory services and strengthen engagement with producer organizations, cooperatives, and other public and private sector actors. The Committee also requested FAO to strengthen its capacity at Headquarters and decentralized offices and develop tools, guidelines and policy recommendations for institutional reforms, as appropriate.

Recommendation 26: The Committee requested FAO to develop programmes to support Members in improving demand-driven innovation, information and advisory services, by encouraging multiple actors and farmer participation, including farmer-to-farmer knowledge sharing, in the co-creation of knowledge and sharing of good practices through multi-stakeholder innovation platforms. The Committee noted the importance of indigenous knowledge, cultivars and local innovations. It also requested the Organization to work towards bridging the gap between information generation and use by smallholders and family farmers as well as other vulnerable groups, by strengthening linkages between research, extension and farmers.

70. FAO has developed a number of tools, methodologies and guidelines, which were implemented at country level to enable smallholders’ access to appropriate innovations, information and advisory services. FAO works to strengthen national extension and advisory services (EAS), National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) and national Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS) through various interventions targeting different levels and actors. FAO provided strategic guidance and support for comprehensive assessments in over 50 countries.27

71. FAO strengthened its technical support to generate evidence for informed policy and investment decisions. Relevant guidelines were developed to support over 40 field projects across all regions.

72. Models for pluralistic, market-oriented, nutrition sensitive and digitally enabled national EAS systems were promoted to increase access to information and innovation services. Technical support has been provided to more than ten countries in all regions. In Azerbaijan and Malawi, a hybrid model of FFS and Farm Business School (FBS) has been promoted to improve the linkage between production and marketing.

73. A quantitative scoring tool and indicator metrics framework for EAS was developed to measure evidence on performance and outcomes of national EAS systems. These tools and indicator metrics have been piloted in six countries.28 In addition, an indicator framework for AIS was developed and applied in Burkina Faso to understand the factors that enable agricultural innovation, system interactions and innovation provision intensity.

74. To facilitate EAS institutional reform processes at country level, guidance was developed, including topics such as enhancing linkages between research, extension and producers, making EAS demand-driven, pluralistic, nutrition sensitive, market-oriented, EAS for women and youth and EAS to promote agroecology and entrepreneurship.

75. In sub-Saharan Africa, a needs assessment on capacity development of EAS through digital innovations has been completed, and a policy brief on digital EAS developed.

76. FAO has taken stock of experiences in implementing the FBS approach for empowering small-scale farmers as informed market actors. The full Arabic training package is now available online.29 Support to formulation and implementation of EAS and NARS policies, strategies and implementation plans were given to Azerbaijan, Cambodia, the Gambia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Malawi, Moldova, Lao PDR, Liberia, Tajikistan, Tunisia, and Uzbekistan.30

77. Multistakeholder processes to strengthen agricultural innovation systems were initiated in ten countries across regions. Multistakeholder innovation platforms, targeting EAS actors are also being

developed and supported as well as digital EAS platforms and other digital tools for advisors were
developed to close the gap between information generation and use in several countries across regions.

78. A policy brief on empowering smallholder farmers to access digital agricultural extension and
advisory services was prepared and promoted through a web conference "Extension and advisory
services for the empowerment of small and family farmers: Addressing the digital divide". FAO
conducted a series of regional webinars in Asia, Europe and Central Asia, and Africa, to understand
how different EAS providers and systems are coping with the COVID-19 pandemic responses under
different circumstances.

79. FAO works with regional research and extension organizations in Asia, Africa, and Latin
America to promote functional capacity to support innovation processes. Appraisal of capacity
development interventions in each region was concluded and a typology of interventions was
developed to inform future capacity development interventions in AIS. At country level, various
interventions have been carried out to strengthen national AIS.

Terms of Reference of the International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture
(C 2021/21 para 66)

Recommendation 27: The Committee requested FAO to:

I. ensure that the initiative will create synergies between international organizations and
stakeholders, and strengthen coordination between them without duplicating their activities
under their respective mandates;

II. include in the Terms of Reference reporting mechanisms through which voluntary guidelines
from the Platform on issues related to digital food and agriculture are submitted to the FAO
Members for consideration through the FAO governing body process;

III. develop a solid funding plan based on voluntary contributions; and,

IV. continue developing and refining the Terms of Reference for the Platform for further review by
the Programme Committee and the FAO Council.

80. The FAO Council, at its 166th Session, discussed and approved the Terms of Reference of the
International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture (ToRs). Adjusted according to the guidance
from Council and the Technical Committees, the ToRs emphasized that the authority to draft the
voluntary guidelines should come from Members through the FAO Governing Bodies and should be
developed by a Member-led, open, transparent and inclusive process.

81. Upon their endorsement, the relevant FAO technical units established the International
Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture operating mechanisms. To carry out its functions, the
Platform will operate based on four mechanisms: the Inter-governmental Representatives’ Group, the
Advisory Committee, the Online Multistakeholder Forum, and the Coordination Unit. FAO
commenced the process of establishing the Inter-governmental Representatives’ Group, which will be
the decision-making component of the Platform, by requesting the Regional Groups to provide
nominees. In addition, FAO also hosted multiple meetings with other international organizations that
would join the Advisory Committee. This Advisory Committee will analyse, provide evidence, submit
action proposals, and support the work of the Intergovernmental Representatives’ Group. Moreover, an
informal global stakeholder mapping exercise has been initiated for supporting the composition of the
Online Multistakeholder Forum and meetings have taken place with the Digital Agri-hub (University
of Wageningen) to collaborate on ensuring the inclusion of all stakeholders and their participation in
the discussions.

82. FAO has convened a high-level dialogue on the establishment of the International Platform for
Digital Food and Agriculture with a panel of stakeholders including policymakers, farmers’

representatives, senior managers of agri-businesses, and digital technology companies to discuss the opportunities, challenges, and risks associated with the digitalization in food and agriculture.

**Implementation of FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors (C 2021/21, from para 70 to 74)**

**Recommendation 28:** The Committee reviewed and provided detailed comments on and inputs to the draft 2021-23 Action Plan for the Implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors and requested the Secretariat to reflect them in the next version of the draft Action Plan for consideration of the Council.

**Recommendation 29:** The Committee recommended that an open, transparent and Member-led consultation process be convened to finalize the draft Action Plan and that comments and inputs from all Technical Committees, as well as the group of national focal points for Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) be considered in such process.

**Recommendation 30:** The Committee highlighted that the Action Plan should aim at integrating biodiversity across agricultural sectors as a strategy to achieve sustainable food systems and nutrition, and in that sense, requested that key actions and deliverables outlined a clear relation to food and agriculture. The Committee acknowledged the importance to promote sustainable agriculture practices that have an effective and proven positive impact on biodiversity.

**Recommendation 31:** The Committee noted the important role of the Strategy and its Action Plan in guiding and facilitating FAO’s support to countries in their attempt to develop and reach agreement on a policy response to the Report on the State of the World’s Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture, and in their implementation of outcomes of biodiversity-related intergovernmental processes, including the global plans of action of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The Committee requested FAO to continue providing policy and technical support to Members, particularly developing countries and megadiverse countries.

**Recommendation 32:** The Committee noted on-going processes in other fora, including the development of the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), and requested FAO to consider the outcomes of these processes in the implementation of the Strategy, and its Action Plan, with any revisions to be presented to Members for approval. It stressed the importance of ensuring full complementarity of FAO’s work on biodiversity mainstreaming with processes in other fora, with a view to increase synergies and avoid duplication of work, including reporting.

**Recommendation 33:** The Committee requested FAO to strengthen the implementation of the Strategy and its Action Plan in collaboration with all relevant partners, including, in particular the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) taking the “One Health” approach that seeks to comprehensively address the disease threats at the animal-human-environment interface. It also stressed the importance of collaboration with all relevant stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, and requested FAO to continue strengthening this collaboration in the implementation of the Strategy and its Action Plan.

83. The 2021-23 Action Plan for the Implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors was adopted by the 166th Council. It was developed in an inclusive and transparent manner with inputs from Members and all Technical Committees, the group of national focal points for Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture of the CGRFA, the Programme Committee and the Council.

84. The implementation of the actions has started for which the Action Plan specifies deliverables and delivery dates. New developments and agreements, including those reached under the Convention  

on Biological Diversity (CBD), will be taken into consideration to adapt the Action Plan if needed. Further updates are reported under COAG/2022/13.35

85. On 6-7 July 2021, a Global Dialogue on the Role of Food and Agriculture in the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and a High-level Segment was co-organized by FAO and the Secretariat of the CBD, which provided a forum to highlight the role and facilitate the engagement of the food and agriculture sectors in the Post-2020 GBF. The Joint Report of the Co-Chairs of the Global Dialogue on the Role of Food and Agriculture in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework36 was brought to the attention of the negotiations of the CBD Post-2020 processes and other relevant fora.

Towards a Global Programme on Sustainable Dryland Agriculture in collaboration with the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG)

(C 2021/21 paras 79 and 80)

Recommendation 34: The Committee endorsed the “Global Programme on Sustainable Dryland Agriculture”, and recognized its contribution to advance the 2030 Agenda, and called upon FAO to integrate it into its work and suggested it be subject to monitoring and evaluation, including under the SDG monitoring framework, in partnership with countries with technical experience of sustainable management of dryland agricultural systems and South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

Recommendation 35: The Committee recommended FAO monitor the implementation of the Global Programme and adopt digitalization platforms and participatory approaches to support regular reporting.

86. A programme document was developed. FAO projects, activities and knowledge products related to drylands will be publicized through a designated website for the Global Programme on Sustainable Dryland Agriculture (hereafter Dryland Programme). The website will have an interactive and visualized data platform and a virtual toolbox, linked to the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, the Hand-in-Hand digital platform and relevant information sources.

87. With the purpose of raising awareness, widening the network, involving a wider group of stakeholders and development partners and a possible resource mobilization, the Dryland Programme was presented during the webinars organized by FAO and partners. A series of technical meetings were held with FAO projects implemented in drylands, to explore cooperation possibilities.

88. WASAG continues to support and promote sustainable dryland agriculture within WASAG’s established working groups, such as on ‘Drought Preparedness’ and ‘Saline Agriculture’, reflecting that WASAG is well positioned to advance the water component which is key to the Dryland Programme. In this regard, WASAG’s strategy for 2021-24 adopted by the Steering Committee, has made provision for promoting dryland agriculture through approaches including supplemental irrigation, rainwater harvesting, diversified intercropping systems, maximizing economic water productivity, solar irrigation using desalinated water, agroforestry, and integrated crop-livestock-forage systems.

Report of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) (C 2021/21 paras 84 and 85)

Recommendation 36: The Committee acknowledged the findings of the evaluation of the GSP and requested the Secretariat to carry out a detailed analysis of the legal and financial implications, including on the involvement of non-state actors, the decision-making process, the roles of the Regional Soil Partnerships and Focal points in case of an institutionalization of the GSP as a FAO statutory body. The Committee asked that the findings of the assessment be submitted to the COAG at its 28th Session.

Recommendation 37: The Committee endorsed the ‘Resolution for International Exchange of Soil Samples for Research Purposes under Global Soil Network (GLOSOLAN)’, as contained in Appendix

35 COAG/2022/13
F. The Committee noted that the adoption of this resolution is not mandatory, but can be of use to countries that deem it necessary.

89. The Secretariat has performed the analysis of the implications of a potential institutionalization of the GSP as requested by the 27th Session of COAG. The analysis, including different scenarios, was submitted for consideration of the 10th GSP Plenary Assembly (23-25th May 2022), further reviewed at the Extraordinary Session of the 10th Plenary Assembly (PA) of the GSP on 30 June 2022, and submitted to the 28th Session of COAG for discussion.

90. Following the recommendations of the stocktaking exercise of the GSP conducted in 2020 and in response to the 8th GSP Plenary Assembly request, a new GSP Action Framework 2022-2030 “Healthy soils for a healthy life and environment: from promotion to consolidation of Sustainable Soil Management” was developed by an Open-ended Working Group and endorsed by the 10th GSP Plenary Assembly, and is submitted to the 28th Session of COAG.

91. The GSP Secretariat is raising awareness on the availability of the Resolution for International Exchange of Soil Samples for Research Purposes under the Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN) so that participating laboratories can make use of it when exchanging soil samples for research purposes. In support to this resolution, GLOSOLAN decided to share its knowledge and experience in national customs control procedures by organizing them in an online global customs control procedures database called Soil Import Legislation (SIMPLE).

92. In 2022, GLOSOLAN is conducting an inter-laboratory comparison to assess and enhance standards of the analysis, and assist in the standardization of soil analytical methods across laboratories leading to more reliable and interoperable soil data. The Resolution for International Exchange of Soil Samples and the SIMPLE database have facilitated complying with national regulations on the import/export of soil samples thus avoiding the destruction of the soil samples at the customs.

93. Detailed information on the progress made by the GSP is provided in the document Report of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) (COAG/2022/18).

FAO’s Programme of Work in Food and Agriculture under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 (C 2021/21, from para 88 to 90)

94. Recommendation 38: The Committee welcomed and endorsed the main priorities identified for FAO’s work in food and agriculture. The Committee encouraged FAO additionally to maintain a strong focus on eradication of hunger and malnutrition, food systems and nutrition while strengthening the following areas: digital agriculture, capacity development at country level for data, information and tracking of SDG indicators for better decision making, reducing food loss and waste, addressing issues related to climate change and biodiversity in relation to food and agriculture, and a strategy for innovation with inclusion of smallholder farmers.

Recommendation 39: The Committee called on FAO to further strengthen its important normative and standard setting role, including FAO’s support to the Codex Alimentarius-related science-based programmes and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), and increase focus on One Health, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), food safety and addressing transboundary pests and diseases.

Recommendation 40: The Committee encouraged FAO to invest and advocate for all innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems, while ensuring gender equality and women’s empowerment. The Committee urged FAO to increase its technical capacity in priority areas of its highlighted work. The Committee supported FAO to play an active role towards the UN Food Systems Summit 2021 and took note of the importance of the Summit’s upcoming outcomes to achieve SDG 2 and FAO’s work. The Committee further called on FAO to review the ways the organization establishes its partnerships for closer cooperation with other agencies around its top priorities.

95. The 42nd session of the FAO Conference endorsed FAO’s Strategic Framework 2022-31 (SF), Medium Term Plan 2022-25 and Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23. This includes the new strategic narrative of supporting the transformation to achieve MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and
sustainable agrifood systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life, leaving no one behind, to support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and FAO’s three Global Goals of Members.

96. The Strategic Framework aligns itself with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs with the guiding lens of SDG 1 (No poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), and SDG 10 (Reduced inequalities).

97. The four betters represent an organizing principle for how FAO intends to contribute directly to SDGs 1, 2 and 10 as well as to supporting the achievement of the broader SDG agenda. The betters reflect the interconnected economic, social and environmental dimensions of agrifood systems.

98. FAO applies four cross-cutting and cross-sectional “accelerators”: (i) technology, (ii) innovation, (iii) data, and (iv) complements (governance, human capital, and institutions) in all its programmatic interventions to accelerate impact while minimizing trade-offs.

99. The Strategic Framework includes 20 Programme Priority Areas (PPAs), formulated as interdisciplinary, issue-based technical themes to guide FAO and putting in place the conditions needed to drive the changes that will ultimately contribute to the achievement of the selected SDG targets. This responds to the request of COAG for strengthened capacity development (complements) and innovation. In addition, three cross-cutting themes (gender, youth and inclusion) will serve as critical areas to be taken into account across all of FAO’s programmatic work in order to ensure the achievement of the UN programming principle of leaving no one behind, in accordance with the FAO strategic narrative.

100. All PPAs include elaboration of normative aspects and are being further articulated and refined. Furthermore, the FAO enabling environment is organized by Functional Objectives for each organizational function and are measured through a series of key performance indicators and include relevant outcomes and outputs. This includes Objective 5 (Technical quality, statistics, cross-cutting themes and accelerators) and Outcome 5.1: Quality and integrity of the technical and normative work of the Organization, encompassing the work of the Technical Committees, amongst others.

101. The updated results framework was presented in the Adjustments to the PWB 2022-23 (CL 168/3 Annex 1: Updated results framework 2022-25) and endorsed by the 168th Session of the FAO Council in December 2021.

102. Several PPAs are specifically dedicated, inter alia, to digital agriculture, food loss and waste, gender equality and rural women’s empowerment, food safety, climate change, biodiversity and One Health – which respond directly to the relevant COAG recommendations.

103. The Strategic Framework also puts forward the elements of a reinvigorated business model for FAO to operate more efficiently and effectively, with a key focus on transformative partnerships as requested by COAG.

104. Regarding FAO’s support to the Joint FAO/WHO Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme and the IPPC, the PWB 2022-23 maintained the increase of USD 1 million each initially provided in 2020-21.

Implementation of the recommendations of the 26th Session of the Committee
(C 2021/21 paras 92 and 93)

Recommendation 41: Recognizing the importance of regular reporting on COAG recommendations, the Committee requested FAO’s continued reporting, including on the 2030 Agenda and progress on SDGs implementation, Innovation, the Rural Youth Action Plan, Family Farming, Fall Armyworm, Desert Locust, Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), agroecology and other innovative approaches, antimicrobial resistance, Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG) and Global Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS).
105. The resolution on the Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) was endorsed by the FAO Conference at its 42nd Session (C42). The FAO/OIE PPR Global Eradication Programme (PPR GEP) Secretariat is formulating the second phase of the programme (2022-2026).

106. WASAG has published a *Strategy for 2021 to 2024*\(^{38}\) in response to country needs and to reflect the growth of the partnership as well as to guide the work of WASAG partners.

107. WASAG launched its new website.\(^{39}\) It has published a white paper on water productivity improvements, a working paper on droughts and pandemics and a compendium of community and indigenous strategies for climate change adaptation, and is finalizing publications on sustainable soil and water management in salt-affected areas, a framework on financing mechanisms, and a paper on gender and water scarcity.

108. In addition to the 11 webinars organized since 2020, WASAG participated in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) twenty sixth Session of the Conference of Parties (COP 26) with a pre-COP 26 event focusing on water scarcity and the youth, and an event in COP 26’s Water Pavilion promoting saline agriculture, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of the Netherlands. These events reached more than 3000 participants from governments, international organizations, academic institutions and private sectors, representing more than 135 countries.

109. WASAG was acknowledged by the Committee on Food Security as an example for implementing its recommendations on climate change and water. The Kingdom of Thailand has joined WASAG as a partner; and China, Switzerland and the Province of Québec (Canada), are supporting Associate Professional Officers. Cabo Verde has confirmed its commitment to host the second WASAG International Forum in the last quarter of 2022.

110. The UN Decade of Family Farming (UNDFF)\(^{40}\) supported the promotion of institutional reforms towards an integrated and coherent approach to holistically support family farming with the development and adoption of National Action Plans for family farming (NAPs). A report on the main results of the UNDFF in the first biennium of implementation, including information on the activities carried out to promote family farmers’ access to innovation, information and services, has been drafted further to a global consultation with key stakeholders, and will be submitted to the UN Secretary General via the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The report will be discussed in the framework of the next UN General Assembly (UNGA) session.

111. The FAO-IFAD Joint Secretariat of the UNDFF has developed global products to offer technical support for a more effective design and implementation of tailored actions and strategies to support family farming at the national level.

112. In the framework of the UNDFF, many activities have been conducted to promote horizontal exchanges at different levels, to embrace the variety of formats to further strengthen the capacities of farmers’ organizations and their members in sustainable production and processing practices, entrepreneurial and business management skills, engagement in policymaking processes and access to markets.

**Recommendation 42:** Recognizing the importance of the reduction of food loss and food waste, the Committee requested regular reporting on follow up actions on the Voluntary Code of Conduct for Food Loss and Waste Reduction and appealed to its Members to support the implementation of the Code of Conduct and related initiatives, once the Code of Conduct is adopted.

113. The revised Voluntary Code of Conduct was endorsed by C 42 and the related follow-up is reported under COAG/2022/INF/4.

114. The Food is Never Waste Coalition, developed under Action Track 2, was launched at the UNFSS Pre-Summit in July 2021. Almost two thirds of countries that addressed the Food Systems

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\(^{39}\) [www.fao.org/wasag](http://www.fao.org/wasag)

Summit in September 2021, identified FLW reduction as a priority area in their national pathways. FAO is co-leading the Food is Never Waste Coalition and will facilitate reporting and knowledge transfer on actions of the Coalition through the Technical Platform on the Measurement and Reduction of Food Loss and Waste.

115. The Progress reports and updates on the UNFSS follow-up and FAO’s work in this regard were presented to the 130th Session of the Programme Committee, the Joint Meeting of the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee and 191st Session of the Finance Committee, and the 170th Session of the Council.

**Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Committee (MYPOW) (C 2021/21 para 100)**

**Recommendation 43:** The Committee requested the Secretariat to monitor the impact of COVID-19, including on nutrition and in the context of the One Health approach, and welcomed FAO’s COVID-19 response and recovery programme.

116. Main developments are reported under Recommendation 13.

117. The gender gap in food insecurity has grown even larger in the past few years of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity being 10 percent higher among women than men in 2020, compared with 6 percent in 2019. Essential nutrition services coverage were declined by 40 percent, and nearly half of the countries reported a drop of 50 percent or more for at least one nutrition intervention. Nutrition programmes in schools were the most affected.

118. While the global agrifood systems remained resilient during this crisis, income losses and food price spikes caused inequality to rise. Per capita incomes contracted in more countries than at any time in the recent past, leading to exacerbated inequalities especially in rural areas. There has been a significant impact on the middle class because of high level of involvement in informal works and informal economy, and the containment measures have strongly affected their economic activities and income earning.

119. Lack of a united global governance for a coherent approach to the challenges posed by the pandemic, and inequality of global access to vaccines had extremely negative impacts and are the root causes of many challenges posed to the most vulnerable nations.

**FAO’s work on Rangelands and Pastoralism, and proposal for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (C 2021/21, from para 103 to 105)**

**Recommendation 44:** The Committee recognized the numerous challenges faced by pastoralists and rangelands, such as land degradation and climate change impact, and requested FAO to mainstream its work on rangelands and pastoralism to ensure their systematic consideration in its technical and policy programmes.

**Recommendation 45:** The Committee endorsed the proposal and the draft Conference Resolution, as contained in Appendix G, and recommended it be submitted for the consideration of the FAO Council at its 165th Session in December 2020 for adoption by the FAO Conference at its 42nd Session in 2021.

120. The proposal of the Government of Mongolia to establish the observance of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) in 2026, supported by 14 FAO Members including the EU, and over 160 organizations worldwide, was approved by the 165th Session of the FAO Council, in December 2020, and endorsed by the 42nd Session of the FAO Conference in June 2021.

121. The Director General of FAO transmitted the proposal to the UN Secretary General for submission to the United Nations General Assembly. The resolution was approved by the UN General Assembly, as reflected in the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 75/298 (2021).
Assembly at its 61st Plenary Meeting on 15 March 2022.\textsuperscript{46} 102 Members and 303 organisations support the IYRP. FAO provided technical support for the negotiation process.

122. The National Steering Committee of Mongolia and the International Support Group for the IYRP convened several meetings to take stock of the above developments.

123. The final resolution invites FAO, mindful of the provisions contained in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67, to facilitate the implementation of the International Year, stresses that the costs of all the activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met through voluntary contributions, including from the private sector, and invites all relevant stakeholders to contribute to and support the International Year.

124. FAO proposes to report to COAG 29 on the progress in the planning of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.

125. The reference document \textit{Pastoralism, making variability work} was published in June 2021 and presented at a FAO side event at COP26. It provides a renewed understanding of pastoral systems while supporting pastoral communities and rangeland ecosystems and related policy development.

126. FAO fosters the adaptation and implementation of tools, guidelines and knowledge generation on pastoralism to inform policy development with key stakeholders. The Organization also delivered evidence on the potential of pastoral systems to be carbon-neutral, the sustainability of pastoral agrifood systems and their contribution to the national gross domestic product.

127. FAO is assessing the role of livestock in restoring dryland forests and rangelands, particularly the role of integrated extensive grazing in managing and restoring dryland forests, trees and agrosilvopastoral ecosystems.

\textbf{Proposal for an International Day of Plant Health (C 2021/21 para 109)}

\textbf{Recommendation 46:} The Committee endorsed the draft Conference Resolution, as contained in Appendix H, and recommended to submit the proposal for approval by the Council at its 165th Session in December 2020 and adoption by the Conference at its 42nd Session in 2021.

128. The draft resolution for an International Day of Plant Health (IDPH) was endorsed by C 42 and established following a decision taken by the UN General Assembly at its 76th Session on 29 March 2022\textsuperscript{[1]}. Championed by Zambia, the Resolution co-signed by Bolivia, Finland, Pakistan, the Philippines and Tanzania, was unanimously adopted. The Day is a key legacy of the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) celebrated in 2020-21.

129. The first observance of the IDPH was celebrated on 12 May 2022, with a major global event hosted virtually by FAO under the theme of “Plant health innovations for food security”, attended by nearly 1400 participants from over 140 countries. Four high-level keynote speakers from Argentina, Finland, the United States and Zambia joined the celebrations underlining the importance of plant health, followed by five high-level technical speakers from China, Côte d’Ivoire, Egypt, the United Kingdom and the International Seed Federation. Further FAO initiatives included: i) a successful social media campaign for #PlantHealthDay, with 170 posts shared by FAO channels, reaching 31 million accounts; ii) articles on the interaction between plant health and other major themes including pest and pesticides management, food safety, and climate change; and iii) the launch of the IPDH website with multimedia contents. Contents were picked-up by major media outlet and partner organizations. Additionally, dozens of IDPH-related initiatives were held at the regional, national and local level and are being recorded in a list linked to the IDPH website.

\textbf{Proposal for an International Year of Date Palm (C 2021/21 para 115)}

\textbf{Recommendation 47:} The Committee endorsed the draft Conference Resolution, as contained in Appendix I and recommended to submit the proposal to declare 2027 the International Year of Date Palm.

\textsuperscript{46} A/RES/76/253
\textsuperscript{[1]} A/RES/76/256
Palm for approval by the FAO Council at its 165th Session of in December 2020 and adoption by the Conference at its 42nd Session in 2021.

130. The draft resolution was endorsed by C 42 and forwarded to the United Nations Secretariat for information. In order for UNGA to declare the International Year, the draft Resolution needs to be sponsored by a Member, to progress it to the Second Committee or Plenary of UNGA to ensure consideration of the Resolution at a forthcoming UNGA session, as appropriate. FAO stands ready to support this process. The observance of an International Year of Date Palm in 2027, proposed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, would contribute to raising awareness of the suitability for sustainable cultivation of date palm under adverse climatic conditions, the nutritional and health benefits of consuming dates, while directing policy attention to improving value chain efficiencies. Further promotion would enable national governments, academia, regional institutions and the private sector, to collaborate towards transforming this agricultural sector, important to many countries.