

43rd Session of the Conference

Introduction to Item 12.1: Report of the 28th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (18 to 22 July 2022)

The Committee on Agriculture (COAG) held its 28th Session from 18 to 22 July 2022 and was, for the first time, conducted as a hybrid event. Of the 136 Members of the Committee, 118 registered for the Session, including nine Ministers, and a total of 778 participants registered.

The Report of the 28th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG 28) was endorsed by the 171st Session of the Council (paragraph 21, [CL 171/REP](#)). The Conference is invited to endorse the findings and recommendations as submitted in document C 2023/22. The following items are brought to the attention of the Conference.

The Committee endorsed the proposed Strategic Priorities for Food Safety within the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, which were endorsed by the 171st Session of the FAO Council.

The Committee discussed the item on agriculture and forestry linkages, presented to both COAG 28 and the 26th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO), in line with the Council's request to strengthen coordination on cross-sectoral matters and to present papers dealing with inter-related issues between agriculture and forests to both Committees. COAG recommended FAO to continue collecting and analysing science- and evidence-based data on agriculture and forestry interdependencies, including on the direct and underlying drivers of deforestation and land degradation. In addition, the Committee invited FAO to conduct a global assessment of the status and scaling-up potential of agroforestry, and to report on progress to COAG 29.

The Committee welcomed progress in the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors and its 2021-23 Action Plan, and requested to continue consultations for the finalization of the 2024-27 Action Plan, taking into account other FAO Strategies, guidance provided by the Committee, and further developments under other instruments and bodies, including the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA).

As a late consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 19th Regular Session of the CGRFA will only be held after the Conference. Therefore, the Conference is not in a position to endorse the Commission's report. The Conference is therefore invited to consider giving a mandate to the Council at its 174th Session, to consider and endorse the recommendations of the Report of the 19th Regular Session of the CGRFA.

With a view to address water scarcity, COAG 28 recommended FAO to step up the work of the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG), to undertake an assessment of existing water tenure arrangements and to initiate a Global Dialogue on Water Tenure matters.

The Committee, acknowledging the need for improved intersectoral collaboration and governance to address plastic use throughout agrifood systems, recommended FAO to address knowledge gaps through inclusive consultations with Members and relevant stakeholders, and to develop, within its mandate, a Voluntary Code of Conduct on the sustainable use of plastics in agriculture, taking into account the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution *End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument* (UNEP/EA.5/Res.14) to be presented to COAG 29.

The Committee endorsed the new Global Soil Partnership (GSP) Action Framework 2022-2030. On the proposed institutionalization of the GSP, it recommended FAO to prepare an in-depth analysis to be submitted to the 11th GSP Plenary Assembly, and its recommendations to be provided to COAG 29.

COAG 28 commended the development of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031 and of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy (2022-25), and requested FAO to continue open consultation processes for refining, respectively, the action plan and the high-level framework for the development of regional action plans.

Further, COAG 28 endorsed the draft Conference Resolution for the proposal for an International Day of Potato, which is submitted for adoption by the 43rd Session of the Conference under sub-item Item 15.4, *Proposal for an International Day of the Potato*.

In conclusion, and in view of the forgoing, the Conference is invited to endorse the Report of the 28th Session of the Committee on Agriculture, with the aforementioned additions.

Ms Julie Emond, Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture