



منظمة الأغذية
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para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación



CONFERENCE

Twenty-eighth Session

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IMPLEMENTATION OF 1994 REGIONAL CONFERENCES RECOMMENDATIONS

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EIGHTEENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA
(Gaborone, Botswana, 24-28 October 1994)

The following is a brief summary of action taken on recommendations for the attention of FAO.

Country Statements and General Debate

The Conference:

recommended that FAO update its study "African Agriculture - the next 25 years", and especially, to update its study on the irrigation potential in Africa so as to have the most realistic data available.

recommended that FAO initiate action to update the study "African Agriculture - the next 25 years".

Under the AQUASTAT programme, the present situation of water development for agriculture in Africa was assessed through the collection of country and sub-country information on rural water resources development and management, with special emphasis on irrigation and drainage. Country profiles will be published using the data collected. The information was also used to produce an update on the water resources of African countries, which is in the process of being published. Another related programme consists of collecting, reviewing and updating the information on irrigation potential for Africa. The results of this programme are expected to be available by the end of 1995. The financial situation did not permit a global revision of "African Agriculture".

recommended that FAO establish an African Commission for Land and Water Development which would undertake, *inter alia*: the promotion of improved land and water use techniques for sustainable agriculture and rural development; the compilation of a land and water development and conservation database which would serve as a forum of exchange for land and water use-related problems; the formulation of recommendations of ways and means for FAO to enhance its assistance to the countries of the region for the development of efficient water use for both irrigated and rain-fed crops.

The Agriculture Department, in close collaboration with the Regional Office for Africa (RAF) and the Sub-regional Office for Southern and East Africa (SAFR), is working on an action plan for integrated management of water, soil and plant nutrition for sustainable agricultural and rural development (SARD) in the moist savannah zones of Africa, with focus in the onchocerciasis-free areas of West Africa. This may lead to the establishment of a full-scale African Commission for Land and Water Development, including programmes in other agro-ecological zones of Africa.

Report on FAO Activities in the Region 1992-93

The Conference:

requested FAO to assist member countries to take the appropriate measures in establishing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for technology transfer and research.

An FAO/SPAAR (Special Programme for African Agricultural Research) Expert Consultation on Technology Assessment and Transfer in sub-Saharan Africa is being organized in Ghana in early 1996. The Consultation will also focus on monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. Under the Organization's restructuring, the Regional Office is being strengthened to enable it to assist efficiently in the establishment of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for technology transfer in member countries.

recommended that FAO and other concerned international agencies such as the OAU ensure that, during international meetings, Ministers of Agriculture interact with Ministers in charge of national departments of finance and other key ministries as well as Heads of State, whenever the opportunity arose.

Information on financial aspects concerning in particular the need for increased investment in the agricultural sector, including fisheries and forestry, is consistently provided in relevant documents. Data is also provided on unemployment, levels of income, income distribution, share of agriculture in GDP and other indicators which help Ministers of Agriculture to interact with finance and other key departments at national level.

recommended that FAO intensify its efforts to make the development, implementation and monitoring of the Common African Agriculture Programme (CAAP) a standing item on the agenda of future Regional Conferences, in order to ensure continuing participation of the Conference in this process.

Implementation of CAAP is an OAU endeavour to which FAO continues to provide technical inputs as requested. Efforts and progress on CAAP implementation will be further reported to the 19th Regional Conference.

recommended that FAO continue providing technical assistance to strengthen the analytical capacity of individual member countries as well as integration groupings in the area of policy analysis.

FAO provided technical assistance in this field to 19 African countries within the framework of its Regular and Field Programme activities. This included: (i) assistance in the establishment/restructuring of government units to respond more adequately to the growing challenges of agricultural sector planning and policy formulation, monitoring and evaluation; (ii) long-term support to develop national policy analysis capacities; (iii) short-term technical support in the preparation of agricultural policy framework papers and documents for round-table meetings, and in assessing the impacts of Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAP); (iv) development of statistical infrastructures and of more efficient methods of estimating crop production for use in "forecasting and early warning systems". An FAO/EDI (Economic Development Institute) seminar on sustainable development and agricultural policies for francophone African countries was held in Morocco in March 1995. Support was given to technical assistance projects in Tanzania (assessment of training needs); two training seminars in Ethiopia were organized for regional government officials on agricultural sector policy analysis and formulation of a sector development programme; and a course was organized in the Sudan in December 1994 on agricultural policy analysis for 30 participants.

appealed to FAO to provide support to member countries to help them create favourable conditions for enhancing trade among African countries.

An FAO study on cross-border food and non-food trade among members of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), together with FAO studies on the development of Sub-Regional Food Security Strategies for Eastern and Southern Africa, West Africa and Central Africa provided the basis for a mini-workshop on Cross-Border Trade and Food Security in Africa in March 1995. Within the framework of the Treaty Establishing the AEC and CAAP, the legal, institutional, administrative, infrastructural and technical obstacles to cross-border agricultural trade in Africa were identified. They will form the basis for proposals for the facilitation of cross-border trade for food security in Africa. FAO's current work programme on trade policy includes assistance to member countries in assessing the impact of preferential trading blocs on their agricultural sectors and in the design of arrangements for sub-regional and regional harmonization of agricultural policies.

**Outcome of the 106th Session of the Council and its implications
for the present and future activities of FAO in the Region**

The Conference:

invited the Council to continue to monitor the implementation of its decisions and give guidance and support to the Organization in regard to present and future activities of FAO in the Region.

The Director-General presented progress reports on the Organization's restructuring, decentralization and Special Programmes to the 107th and 108th sessions of the Council indicating progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the 106th session. A further progress report is being presented to the 28th Session of the Conference (October 1995).

**Development of technologies in the context of an eco-regional approach
for sustainable agricultural production in Africa**

The Conference:

recommended that FAO support the efforts of Member Nations to develop farm irrigation and small dam programmes.

Under the conceptual umbrella of the Water and Sustainable Agriculture Development (WASAD) programme, FAO assisted several countries in reviewing their irrigation sector, promoting integrated river basin planning and identifying research priorities. The Regional Office also organized a consultation on irrigation extension. Training manuals for irrigation technicians have been developed and are being distributed. A major initiative has been launched under the Special Programme for Food Security, to assess irrigation potential and its contribution to food security in the LIFDCs participating in the Programme. Of the 15 countries selected in the first year of the Programme, ten are in Africa. Publications have been prepared to promote the issue of irrigation development for food security.

requested FAO to provide assistance to help countries develop efficient research and training facilities, and distribution networks for key inputs (high quality seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, etc.), with a view to increasing agricultural productivity.

FAO has developed a series of training programmes and workshops in Africa addressed to middle-level technicians and leading farmers in order to upgrade their capacity to produce high

quality and certified seeds and planting material. A network addressed to SADC countries has been identified and will be implemented during the next biennium to help smallholders preserve their local genetic resources and produce varieties suitable to their agricultural reality. Assistance was provided to Member Nations to review SARD issues related to the needs of small-scale farmers, and in designing of appropriate research and technology transfer programmes to improve their productivity.

**Follow-up to the International Scheme for the Conservation and Rehabilitation
of African Lands (ISCRAL) and the role of FAO in the implementation
of the "Urgent Action for Africa", in relation to the "International
Convention to Combat Desertification"**

The Conference:

recommended that FAO intensify its assistance to countries in the field of land and water conservation.

In addition to continued support for national soil and water conservation strategies, FAO is assisting in the implementation of sub-regional schemes for homogeneous and representative areas such as North Africa, Gulf of Guinea (where a reconnaissance mission took place in 1993) and the Great Lakes Area (with Malawi as a central reference area).

recommended that FAO continue its assistance to the International Scheme for Conservation and Rehabilitation of African Lands and called for a greater interest in long-term financial support from the donor community in the implementation of the programme.

FAO monitored and actively promoted ISCRAL in 12 African countries. In Morocco, official agreements and practical seminars and workshops have led to surveys identifying sets of special dryland "terres bour" soil conservation strategies and techniques and generated three main contributions: "Agro-ecological zoning", "Identification of constraints" and "Farmers' conditions for the adoption of adequate soil and water conservation schemes at community level". A supplementary programme to the ISCRAL programme was prepared on "Gender Analysis and Training in the Management of Natural Resources", using a methodology that focuses on local communities as the participants and beneficiaries of natural resource development efforts and highlights gender factors that are key to both equity and sustainable development issues.

Desert Locust Control in the Region and Preparation for Future Campaigns

The Conference:

requested the Director-General that an effort be made to extend EMPRES to include the west and northwest recession invasion areas and other similar afflicted areas.

The extension of EMPRES to include the west and northwest locust recession areas and other similar afflicted areas is currently being studied in order to establish such programmes in the most efficient and cost-effective manner.

recommended that FAO continue to provide assistance to the countries concerned in the preparation of future campaigns.

FAO continues to provide assistance in combating the desert locust in the form of: personnel to organize survey and control operations, assess the locust situation and resource needs of affected countries, and training; financial assistance within its means, through trust funds and

the TCP programme, and maintaining a centralized early warning system at FAO Headquarters which monitors locust and environmental conditions as well as forecasting potential locust breeding and migration in order to forewarn potentially to be affected countries.

Report on the follow-up to the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN)

The Conference:

recommended that FAO continue its support to countries to facilitate the preparation of National Plans of Action for Nutrition as well as foster inter-agency cooperation at the country level on implementing ICN follow-up activities.

Since the ICN, 37 African countries have been assisted by funding and organizing of national workshops, implementation of projects and other ICN-related activities. Twenty-eight countries have prepared final or draft National Plans of Action for Nutrition (NPAN), many with FAO assistance. FAO has fostered inter-agency cooperation in NPAN development through the support of multisectoral committees and national workshops. FAO and UNDP have provided over US\$1.5 million to countries worldwide toward developing and implementing ICN follow-up activities, such as the improvement of the quality of fish and fishery products, and the reduction of post-harvest losses. FAO, in collaboration with the International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI), has developed a manual on the preparation of agricultural and food-based projects and programmes for solving micronutrient deficiencies. Canada and the United States are providing assistance in the development of strategies and programmes to reduce deficiencies of vitamin A, iron and iodine. With financial support from FAO, the Geneva-based NGO Working Group developed guidelines for "Promoting the Role of NGOs in Nutrition: Follow-up to the ICN". In the SADC region, an FAO project for strengthening food security and nutrition surveillance is ongoing with initial activities focusing on Mozambique, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. FAO and WHO have collaborated at the regional and country level in joint missions to provide coordinated and complementary support for national follow-up efforts.

TWENTY-SECOND FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
(Manila, the Philippines, 3-7 October 1994)

The following is a brief summary of action taken on recommendations for the attention of FAO.

Report on FAO Activities in the Region 1992-93

The Conference:

recommended that FAO continue to give high priority to plant and animal genetic resources conservation activities. Regional expertise will be essential to the ongoing work of FAO's Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and to the Secretariat preparing for the 1996 International Technical Conference and Programme on Plant Genetic Resources.

In line with the recommendations of UNCED, FAO is strengthening its Global System for the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources through the World Information and Early Warning System, the Code of Conduct on Plant Germplasm Collecting and Transfer and the International Network of *ex situ* Collection as well as through the preparation of the report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources and the Global Plan of Action which will be presented to the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources scheduled for June 1996 in Leipzig, Germany. Negotiations for the revision of the International Undertaking (Conference Resolution 7/93), are also being organized through regular and extraordinary sessions of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. Twelve CGIAR Centres formally brought their *ex situ* plant collections under the auspices of FAO. The Commission on Plant Genetic Resources is discussing the regionalization of its tasks, and its subsidiary Working Group provides for balanced regional representation. The preparatory process for the Fourth International Technical Conference is country-driven and provides for several regional inputs.

A Comprehensive Global Programme for Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources was started and country-based National Focal Points have been designed. The Domestic Animal Diversity Information System assists in documentation, data collection and capacity building through technology research and training modules. The Global Programme also assists countries with the implementation of characterization and *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation activities, emphasizing indigenous livestock breeds.

urged FAO to devote attention and resources to effectively support existing regional networks, and to pursue promising new network opportunities such as the Regional Network on Agricultural Policy Analysis for Asia and the Pacific.

FAO has promoted and supported existing regional networks as effective means of sharing technical information among countries, and pursued promising new network opportunities through four FAO-supported associations in the Region. At present, there are 29 regional networks. FAO collaborated with the Regional Network on Agricultural Policy Analysis for Asia and the Pacific (NAPAAP) in country case-studies on the roles and contributions of policies, institutions and markets in transformation of Asian and Pacific agriculture in the 1980s and 1990s. Subject to availability of funds regional and sub-regional policy analysis institutions such as NAPAAP, will continue to be supported.

requested that a separate report on FAO activities carried out in the Pacific Island countries continue to be provided to future Regional Conferences.

A separate report on FAO activities in the Pacific Island countries will continue to be provided to future Regional Conferences. In view of the establishment of the new Sub-Regional Office for the South Pacific, a Task Force has been established in HQs with a view to technically backstop the elaboration of a sub-regional Programme for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries which will be discussed at a Workshop to be hosted by the Government of Samoa from 26 to 29 March 1996.

recommended that FAO take full advantage of newly established mechanisms for TCDC to foster and expand South-South cooperation within the region.

The newly established agreement concerning the Use of TCDC Experts has been signed so far by 13 countries of the region, namely Bangladesh, China, Comoros, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Korea (DPR), Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Western Samoa. Others are completing their internal clearance procedures to enable signature of the framework agreement.

In accordance with the Agreement, a signatory country may wish to provide experts for service in other developing countries and to benefit from the services of experts from the latter. A roster of TCDC experts is being built up to respond promptly to requests for their services. Candidates proposed by the countries are technically evaluated and those found suitable are included in the roster.

Requests received so far (from the Islamic Republic of Iran and India, for example) are being matched with available expertise and administrative and other arrangements are being completed to place the experts in the beneficiary countries.

encouraged continuation of FAO's close collaboration with ESCAP and other international institutions working in the region.

FAO has continued to strengthen collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and other international institutions in the region through appropriate committees, such as the Interagency Committee on Environment and Development and the Interagency Committee on Rural Development for Poverty Alleviation.

Outcome of the 106th Session of the Council and its implications for present and future activities of FAO in the Region

The Conference:

called for emphasis to be given to Southeast Asia through EMPRES to eradicate foot-and-mouth disease.

The thrust of EMPRES (Livestock Diseases Component) is on rinderpest and associated diseases, with particular emphasis on the Global Rinderpest Eradication Campaign (GREP). Action has been taken, through TCP funding, to contain rinderpest outbreaks in Pakistan and Sri Lanka, and to control foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in the Luzon Island of the Philippines. Thailand was assisted in strengthening its capacities for early warning, animal movement control and disease control measures. Assistance is being provided to the International Office of Epizootics (OIE) for the eradication of FMD in southeast Asia.

entrusted high priority to FAO's work on commodity policies and trade, food standards under Codex Alimentarius, the international harmonization of plant quarantine, plant and animal genetic resources, environment and sustainable development, and to the increase in allocations to forestry and fisheries.

FAO continues to give high priority to the monitoring of commodity markets and related policy developments and reports on such developments to its various Intergovernmental Commodity Groups (ICGs) which, following the CCP's decision at its 60th Session, will henceforth meet at least once each biennium. Of particular interest to the region are the ICGs on rice, grains, hard fibres, jute, kenaf and allied fibres, tea and oilseeds. Emphasis in the work of the ICGs has been placed on the assessment of the impact of the Uruguay Round on international trade of the commodities concerned, the fulfilment of a basic information exchange function, the improvement of market transparency and an analytical framework for the consideration of economic issues and the links between commodity trade, the environment and sustainable agricultural development. High priority continues to be placed on the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission for the development of food quality and safety standards relevant to the Uruguay Round Agreements on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and on Technical Barriers to Trade. Harmonization in plant quarantine has been facilitated by the development and approval of international standards for phytosanitary measures. A review of the International Plant Protection Convention is under consideration.

Sustainable Agriculture through Integrated Pest Management

The Conference:

urged FAO to expand support to IPM training activities for other crops.

Support to IPM training activities is expanding to crops other than rice. A regional project for the development and implementation of IPM for vegetables is being approved for a four-year duration and will be implemented in four countries: Bangladesh, Laos, the Philippines and Viet Nam. A document for a regional programme for IPM-cotton in Asia in six countries has been prepared and submitted to a potential donor.

requested FAO to explore the prospects for establishing a regional network for the exchange of information on pesticides and IPM, pesticide policies, and health and environmental impacts of pesticide use, as well as to facilitate exchange programmes and study tours among countries.

Efforts are being made to strengthen coordination of activities and resources of various agencies involved in IPM development and implementation. For this purpose the Global IPM Facility has been established, which will promote IPM and serve as a network for sharing information on IPM development and implementation, pesticide policies, pesticide usage, etc.

Sustainable fisheries through integrated Coastal Management

The Conference:

urged FAO to facilitate opportunities for exchanging and sharing experiences through TCDC within the region and with countries in other regions.

Seventeen countries of the Asia-Pacific Region, UNDP and FAO participated in December 1994 in the Capacities and Needs Matching (CNM) Exercise in sustainable coastal and inland fisheries and aquaculture management hosted by the Government of Myanmar. The intergovernmental Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) acted as the regional institutional adviser to the Government of Myanmar for this exercise. The meeting,

the first of its kind for fisheries in the Region, aimed at promoting, through TCDC, the sustainable development of coastal and inland fisheries and it gave the opportunity for the conclusion of a range of bilateral agreements between participating countries for the reciprocal training of technicians in various coastal management-related fields.

requested FAO to assist countries with land-use planning in protecting coastal resources and fisheries where needed.

FAO is developing the concept of Integrated Coastal Fisheries Management (ICFM) as a sectoral approach to facilitate the integration of fisheries into Control Areas Management Programmes. As a part of this and as a test for its suitability to local needs, FAO, through its regional fisheries body, APFIC (Asia Pacific Fisheries Commission), has been providing advice to Member Nations concerning the strengthening of coastal fisheries management. The Coastal Fisheries Management project in the Bay of Bengal focuses on coastal fisheries management, on promoting the concept and developing national capacities. As a follow-up to the APFIC Symposium on Socio-Economic Aspects of Coastal Fisheries Management (1993), several case-studies and workshops have been conducted in Indonesia (1994), Sri Lanka (1995) and Thailand (1995) to promote integrated coastal fisheries development with support from the regional project (GCP/RAS/138/JPN). With funding from UNDP, FAO is in the final year of implementation of an integrated coastal fisheries management project for which the Lingayan Gulf of the Philippines has been chosen as the study site in the Asia-Pacific Region.

recommended that FAO provide technical assistance and training for the implementation of Integrated Coastal Areas Management (ICAM) projects and coordinate activities with countries and other concerned international organizations.

Guidelines on the integration of agriculture, forestry and fisheries into integrated coastal management are under preparation, on the basis of which requests for technical assistance can be evaluated and implemented. FAO recognizing the multi-sectoral nature of ICAM projects is prepared to work with other UN agencies and other organizations on specific projects. At the broader level, FAO is supporting the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas Framework Programme on ICAM, for which UNEP is the lead agency.

Follow-up to UNCED and Agenda 21

The Conference:

requested FAO strengthen its regional efforts pertaining to preparatory activities for the 1996 International Conference and Programme on Plant Genetic Resources and requested an expansion of efforts under way on conserving domestic animal diversity.

A multi-donors Trust Fund project has been established. A secretariat, to prepare for the 4th International Technical Conference scheduled for 17 to 23 June 1996, has been established at Headquarters. Assistance has been given to a number of countries to prepare Country Reports, *inter alia* through the services of experts appointed from the regions concerned. It is anticipated that over 120 Country Reports will be formally submitted. Some 11 sub-regional meetings are planned as part of the preparatory process. Country reports and sub-regional meetings will constitute major inputs into the preparation of a Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources and the Global Plan of Action. The first regional focus of FAO's new programme for the Management of Global Animal Genetic Resources, has been activated in the form of the project "Conservation and Use of Animal Genetic Resources in Asia and the Pacific".

urged FAO to increase support to countries for the implementation of the Forest Principles.

The Regional Meeting organized in January 1995 by FAO and UNEP to discuss progress in implementation of the UNCED Forest Principles identified the outstanding issues that require attention by governments and the international community. These included: development of consensus-building mechanisms to promote a balance between conservation and sustainable use of forests, mobilization of adequate funding, development of transfer of appropriate technologies, improving human skills and institutional capacities, and ensuring political and material support to the implementation of national forest action programmes. Greater emphasis was placed on involving not only governments, but also the private sector, NGOs, peoples' organizations and other interested groups in implementing forestry conservation and development. The meeting recognized the importance of factors outside the forestry sector for continuing conservation and sustainability of forests and felt that more should be done to ensure intersectoral coordination.

Implications of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations on Food Security in the Asia and Pacific Region

The Conference:

called on donors to reinforce their efforts to improve the food security of Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDCs).

The Special Programme on Food Production in Support of Food Security in LIFDCs is being implemented in three countries of the Region (China, Nepal, Papua New Guinea). Donors have generally welcomed the Special Programme, and prospects for their contributions are very good. Efforts to firm up their funding commitments, are being pursued.

suggested that FAO assist developing countries with technical and policy advice and by conducting in-depth quantitative studies on the implications of the Uruguay Round.

FAO has undertaken a major study on the quantitative assessment of the Uruguay Round on world agriculture. The study covers all major agricultural commodities, including those of interest to the Region, and quantifies the overall impact of the Uruguay Round on regional production, consumption and trade flows. FAO also supported related national and regional initiatives. A round-table discussion has been organized in Pakistan on the implications of the Uruguay Round for Pakistan's domestic and trade policies. At the regional level, a workshop was organized in Thailand in January 1995, focusing on the implications of the Round for the oilseeds sector of the Region. FAO also participated in and presented a paper at a Conference organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in February 1994, on the implications of the Uruguay Round for the Region.

requested FAO to focus on the impact of the Uruguay Round on tropical products from developing countries, potential impact on food security, implementation of sanitary and phytosanitary measures in developing countries, regional and sub-regional foodgrain stocking in a liberalized trading environment, special problems of jute production and trade, and harmonization of policies to comply with the new agreement.

The global study referred to above, includes an assessment of the impact of the Uruguay Round on tropical products from developing countries. As regards the implications of the liberalized trading environment on foodgrain stocking, FAO's current work programme includes a study which will reconsider the minimum safe level of global cereal stocks, in the light of significantly changed national and global food policy regimes and improved transport and logistics infrastructure. FAO has also developed analytical tools for the reconsideration of

optimum national food security stock levels in the post-Uruguay Round world. Continued emphasis on the impact of the Agreement on the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures is assured by the Medium-term Plan 1996-2001.

recommended that FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) be strengthened to meet increased requests for assessing the food security situation and food aid needs of low-income food-deficit countries.

GIEWS has intensified the monitoring of the crop and food supply situation in the low-income food-deficit countries (LIFDCs) of the Region, particularly during the southwest monsoon season. A GIEWS Special Report on the 1994 monsoon and its effect on crop production and the food supply situation in the Region was issued in December 1994.

called on FAO to update the present paper on Implications of the Uruguay Round for Food Security in Asia and the Pacific in the light of findings of new studies based on schedules of commitments submitted by the signatories to the agreements, and suggested that the updated paper be discussed at the next session of the FAO Regional Commission on Food Security for Asia and the Pacific.

The implications of the Uruguay Round for food security in Asia and the Pacific have been examined in a much more quantitative way following FAO's assessment of the Uruguay Round referred to above. The update of the paper on Implications of the Uruguay Round for Food Security in Asia and the Pacific was prepared and fully discussed at the Seventh Session of the FAO Regional Commission on Food Security in Asia and the Pacific, 4 to 7 July 1995, in Bangkok.

Report on the follow-up to the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN)

The Conference:

recommended continuing FAO's assistance in integrating nutrition concerns into fisheries and forestry projects, as well as agricultural projects.

The Food Policy and Nutrition Division (ESN) participates with the Forestry Department (FO) in the Forests, Trees and People Programme (FTPP) activities with a view to improving the food security of the target population. Audiovisual materials on forestry and food security including nutrition have been developed and used in a regional workshop for training institutions which was held in Viet Nam in 1994. A field manual on incorporating nutritional concerns in forestry projects has been widely distributed.

Assistance is being provided by ESN for ICN follow-up activities, especially the development of National Plans of Action for Nutrition (NPANs), with emphasis on the integration of nutrition concerns in all agricultural development projects and programmes. In the Region, 17 countries have prepared NPANs, many with FAO assistance.

NINETEENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE
(Killarney, Ireland, 6-10 June 1994)

The following is a brief summary of action taken on recommendations for the attention of FAO.

Country Statements and General Debate

The Conference:

recommended that FAO continue to expand its activities and programmes in support of the process of transition to a market-oriented system of Central and Eastern European countries.

FAO activities in support of the process of transition to a market-oriented economy in the Central and Eastern European countries were expanded and carefully coordinated to provide a synergic and catalytic impact. An Agricultural Policy Network has been established, providing an institutional framework for cooperative research and review of policy options, addressing policy issues of key importance for the sub-region. FAO has supported the organization of annual Ministerial Consultations on agricultural policy and reforms in Central and Eastern Europe. These have evolved into principal fora for debate and for the elaboration of specific recommendations for future assistance. In response to requests from member nations of the sub-region, advice and assistance were provided to Governments undertaking reforms oriented to a market economy within an increasing number of national and regional projects. The Sub-Regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe (SEUR), which will be operational by the end of the biennium, will ensure the development and implementation of a coordinated and balanced programme of work in the sub-region.

requested enhanced FAO assistance in the fields of forestry and inland fisheries, particularly in the Action Programme.

Assistance to inland fisheries has continued to be provided to interested members of the Region. However, resource limitations will prevent this programme being widened in scope during the coming biennium. Implementation of the Mediterranean Forest Action Programme launched by the AFWC/EFC/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Question "Silva Mediterranea" in June 1994, is being pursued by FAO with financial support from France and Italy. So far three Mediterranean countries have requested assistance within the framework of the Plan.

called for FAO programmes to assist countries bordering the Mediterranean in facing problems of agricultural production in conditions of water shortages, salinity, soil erosion and desertification, in the protection of fragile ecosystems and in the preservation of specific breeds and varieties in accordance with an integrated approach to development.

The problems of Mediterranean agriculture, forestry and fisheries are dealt with within well-established regional structures: the European Commission on Agriculture, the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean and Silva Mediterranea, the Selected Fruits Inter-country Network (MESDIN) and the plant genetic resources groups in ESCORENA. FAO participated with the Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC) of the Mediterranean Action Plan, UNEP in the preparation of the "Guidelines for the application of

a common consolidated methodology for mapping of rainfall induced erosion processes in Mediterranean coastal areas". A pilot project on erosion mapping and measurement was implemented from 1991 to 1994, in three representative areas in Spain, Tunisia and Turkey. An International Resource Centre on Ewe's and Goat's Milk Production and Commercialization (CIRVAL) is being established with the support of a French Trust Fund, which would play a major role in strengthening local economies around the Mediterranean basin.

Report on FAO Activities in the Region 1992-93

The Conference:

recommended that FAO's basic priorities in Europe be the promotion of sustainable development in agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

FAO's basic priority in Europe is and will continue to be the promotion of sustainable agriculture and rural development. Regular and field programme activities are designed to serve this top priority, which is also reflected in the new staffing structure and programme of work of the Regional and Sub-Regional Offices for Europe.

recommended that FAO activities on UNCED be integrated in projects dealing with soil, water, forest protection and sustainable technologies.

FAO, in cooperation with the Government of the Netherlands, organized an International Workshop on Agenda 21 - Integrated Planning and Management of Land Resources, in Wageningen, in February 1995. Progress has been made in the development of tools and technology necessary for more productive land use, but much less progress has been made in creating the capacity to use these tools in all countries. Several TCP projects are being implemented for planning, rehabilitation and sustainable use of water resources/irrigation and forestry in Albania, Armenia, Bulgaria, Estonia, Lithuania and Turkey.

recommended that the ESCORENA network be further expanded in order to reflect changes in agricultural research and development, and to continue priority attention to the economies in transition.

During the biennium, the ESCORENA network was further expanded, now covering 450 national institutions in 86 countries in the European and other regions. Its structure was adjusted in accordance with the changing needs of Member Nations. A major effort was made to develop a sub-regional approach in the Central and Eastern European countries in transition, through the increased participation of their scientists and the organization of as many technical meetings as possible in these countries.

stressed that the important agricultural research and development potential existing in Central and Eastern European countries be incorporated in the networks where appropriate.

As a result of the priority attention given to this sub-region, the number of experts participating in the intergovernmental consultations within ESCORENA increased to 26 percent of the total for the region.

supported the initiative of the Intergovernmental Group on Citrus Fruits to create an integrated technical and economic network on citrus production in the Mediterranean basin.

At the initiative of the Intergovernmental Group on Citrus Fruits, the Mediterranean Citrus Network was inaugurated in Adana, Turkey in December 1993, with five working groups on

(i) Citrus Nursery Practices and Preventive Action Against Disease Incidence, (ii) Citrus Germplasm Collection/Conservation/Evaluation, (iii) Pre/post-Harvest Treatment and Storage, (iv) Citrus Cultural Practices, (v) Marketing and Economics. The activities of these groups will include: elaboration and implementation of joint applied research programmes, establishment of a network of germplasm collection, establishment of criteria for national and regional citrus policy development for nursery practices and planning material certification and implementation strategies.

strongly recommended that FAO continue to support the activities carried out by the European Forestry Commission

FAO continued to support the activities of the European Forestry Commission (EFC) and its subsidiary bodies and teams of specialists as indicated in its programme of work for 1995-98, endorsed at its 27th session in Antalya, Turkey, in January 1995. This programme, which is closely coordinated with that of the ECE Timber Committee, includes contribution to the follow-up of UNCED and of the Helsinki Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, outlook for the supply and demand of timber and non-wood goods and services, review of national forest policies, promotion of public awareness and understanding, including public relations, monitoring of the temperate and boreal forest resources within the framework of the FAO's Global Forest Resources Assessment Programme and collection and dissemination of forest products.

requested FAO to increase its support to activities related to women and the agricultural family in rural development considering their importance in rural life and environmentally friendly farming.

The Working Party on Women and the Agricultural Family in Rural Development carried out its regular activities and supported national preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women (China, 1995). A study commissioned by FAO to the Mikkeli Institute for Rural Research and Training, University of Helsinki was carried out in 1994-95 in selected Central and Eastern European countries, focusing on women's role in the farm and the family, women's participation in education, training, agricultural services and organizations, household technology and knowledge of home economics, social security systems and legal issues, as well as research projects and development programmes for rural women. A Consultative Meeting held in September 1994 in Herrsching, Germany, on emerging issues concerning the status of rural women in the region made recommendations on the required mechanisms and policies to address these issues, and presented the findings as a regional input to the UN/ECE High-Level Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women, in Vienna, Austria, in October 1994. In 1995, FAO began preparing national action plans to improve the situation of rural women in five Eastern and Central European countries. National resource experts identified priority areas requiring action from community to national level.

Introducing environmentally friendly production technologies for sustainable agriculture in Europe

The Conference:

urged that FAO, in cooperation with other organizations such as the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), assist in the development of environmental standards and indicators that would satisfy criteria of environmental sustainability, social acceptability and economic viability and their widespread adoption in the region.

FAO is developing a number of different types of indicators to assess and monitor various parameters of the environment. These include: land cover and use, and water quality. FAO is

collaborating with the United Nations Department for Policy Coordination and the Sustainable Development (UN/DPCSD) to further develop 28 global indicators related to agriculture, forestry and fisheries as follow-up to the Agenda 21. A computer-based agricultural policy analysis programme called K2 is being prepared by FAO composed of 16 modules, including those dealing with land resources, forestry and livestock. A module on sustainability analysis will consolidate the indicators generated by the other modules in K2 to develop scenarios for sustainable development. In line with needs specified in Chapter 11 of Agenda 21 on Combating Deforestation and in the UNCED Forest Principles, FAO plays a lead role in the development of indicators on sustainable forest management. Guidelines for countries are being prepared on the collection of statistical data on the environment.

recommended that FAO, in particular the new Department of Sustainable Development, play an active role in the area of applied research through developing environmentally friendly technologies, appropriate training of farmers and the education of both consumers and government policy-makers, in collaboration with governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Out of 20 case-studies conducted by FAO in 1993, on the integration of environmental and sustainable development themes into the agricultural education and extension programmes, two were commissioned to European countries, namely the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom. An Expert Consultation on this topic was held in Rome in December 1993, and was attended by three participants from European Member Nations. The report of the Consultation was published by FAO in 1994.

New Food Consumption Patterns and Quality Control in Europe and Adaptation of Agricultural Production

The Conference:

called for acceleration of the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission particularly on import and export food inspection, analysis and certification and emphasized the need for strong participation of consumer groups in Codex work.

The Codex Alimentarius Commission at its 21st Session, July 1995, adopted as final Codex texts, the "Principles of Food Export and Import Certification and Inspection" and harmonized protocols for the verification of laboratory analyses of foods. A new programme of consumer information about Codex Alimentarius is planned to commence in 1996.

called upon FAO to carry out further studies in the field of food consumption patterns and quality control requirements, including fish and fish products, and to organize appropriate seminars, workshops and other meetings to promote sharing of information between countries of the region on changing food consumption patterns and quality control requirements.

As part of the restructuring of FAO, a Food and Nutrition Officer post has been established in SEUR with specific responsibilities in the areas of food consumption patterns and food needs, and food quality.

requested FAO to continue to monitor food consumption patterns in relation to food production.

FAO has provided funding to the Daphne Workshop targeted to the Household Budget Expenditure Surveys and designed to develop cost-effective methodologies for obtaining food consumption data. Activities to strengthen and establish food composition programmes for measuring and monitoring the nutritional status of populations were implemented.

TWENTY-THIRD FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN
(San Salvador, El Salvador, 29 August - 2 September 1994)

The following is a brief summary of action taken on recommendations for the attention of FAO.

**Country Statements and General Debate on the State of Food
and Agriculture in the Region**

The Conference:

called for FAO support in the formulation of policies, strategies, programmes and mechanisms that would facilitate sustainable development which took into account institutional, technical, social and economic aspects, with special concern being given to the small-farm and more deprived rural sectors.

Under the current restructuring process, a Policy Assistance Branch has been established in the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (RLC) and policy assistance staff are being posted to the Sub-Regional Office for the Caribbean countries (SLAC). They will assist Member Nations in analysing the impact of macro-economic reforms such as Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) on agricultural development, incorporating environmental and sustainable development considerations into agricultural policies and planning and adjusting domestic policies to the rapidly changing international trade environment. FAO assistance in the Region also focuses on the effects of global agreements (Uruguay Round of GATT) and regional integration schemes (MERCOSUR, NAFTA, CARICOM, Andean Group, Central American Common Market, etc.) on agricultural and food production and the incorporation of equity and sustainability goals into countries' agricultural strategies and policies.

Report on the Activities of FAO in the Region 1992-93

The Conference:

expressed its satisfaction with the work carried out by FAO in the Region. It suggested that future reports on FAO activities include information on the resources earmarked for the region, the activities scheduled for the following biennium and an evaluation of the Technical Cooperation Networks.

An evaluation of the Technical Cooperation Networks is being finalized. Resources earmarked for the Region, as well as the main lines of action for the biennium, are presented in the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget for 1996-97 to the FAO Conference. It would, therefore, be a duplication to include the same in the Report on FAO Activities in the Region presented to the Regional Conference.

**Outcome of the 106th Session of the Council and its implications
for the present and future activities of FAO in the Region**

The Conference:

several delegations requested that a Sub-regional Office for Central America be established, emphasizing the specific nature of the problems that affected Central America.

The Director-General has been authorized by the 106th Council to establish five sub-regional offices. The Director-General, while recognizing the specific nature of problems affecting Central American countries has to evaluate the financial implications and cost effectiveness in establishing additional sub-regional offices under the current budgetary constraints and competing priorities for limited resources.

Preparations for the World Food Summit

The Conference:

expressed its full support for the convening of the World Food Summit. The delegation of Mexico offered to host the preparatory meeting of the Latin America and Caribbean countries.

The 108th Council recommended that the Conference approved the Director-General's initiative to convene a World Food Summit in Rome in November 1996. With regard to regional preparations, the Council considered that the Summit's plan of action should include a strong regional dimension. Mexico's offer to host the preparatory meeting of the Latin America and Caribbean countries should be seen in this context. For this purpose an item on substantive preparation of the Summit will be included in the agenda of each of the Regional Conferences in 1996.

New Arrangements for Agricultural and Rural Development in the Region

The Conference:

requested FAO to provide assistance to ensure that particular attention was paid to the least privileged sectors, particularly rural women, thus avoiding any negative impact of the institutional restructuring process.

Technical assistance to strengthen institutions and policy formulation enhancing participation of women in development has been provided through the Technical Cooperation Network (TCN). Three issues of the Bulletin of the TCN and a monograph on Rural Women have been published. National workshops on gender analysis have been held in eight countries, in collaboration with IICA. In preparation for the 1995 Beijing World Conference on Women, seminars and workshops were held in 11 countries during 1994. A Regional Data Base on Institutions, Organizations, Research Centres, NGOs and Peasant Organizations focusing on Rural Women issues is under preparation. FAO/RLC has participated in technical meetings on women in development (WID) with IICA, ECLAC, UNIFEM, Unesco and ILO and discussions are under way with these organizations for the joint production of technical material and the implementation of training activities.

called on FAO to identify modernization formats that would avoid distorting the vulnerable economies of the Region and to provide legal and administrative training with regard to the institutional restructuring process.

Several analyses were carried out by FAO on the subject and two reports were published: "La política agrícola en el nuevo estilo de desarrollo latinoamericano" and "El marco externo y el desarrollo de la agricultura en América Latina y el Caribe".

urged FAO to lead and promote consultation and training activities on administrative decentralization and programme and operational efficiency.

Through the regional training project PROCAPLAN, FAO has continued to provide support to the Region's network of training institutions in the areas of agricultural planning and policy analysis, including decentralization and peoples' participation in order to enhance growth and equity in agriculture. FAO has, under its regular programme "Food and Agricultural Policy Training", organized in-service training courses helping national and regional institutions to develop training programmes and producing and disseminating training materials.

Follow-up to the Uruguay Round and possible FAO assistance in the Region

The Conference:

recommended that FAO and other international organizations coordinate quantitative and qualitative studies on the impact of GATT on the Region so as to help shape national and regional agricultural policies and thus foster trade integration among countries.

FAO's Commodities and Trade Division in collaboration with the Policy Assistance Division (TCA), continued to provide Member Nations with commodity policy advice, particularly on developments arising out of the Uruguay Round, changes in regional economic groupings (NAFTA and other initiatives) and on export diversification. FAO has undertaken a major study on the quantitative assessment of the Uruguay Round on world agriculture. The study covered all major agricultural commodities, including those of interest to the Region, and quantified the overall impact of the Uruguay Round on regional production, consumption and trade flows. Related national and regional initiatives have also been supported, in particular national round-table discussions in Cuba and Brazil, where the implications of the Uruguay Round on national policies were discussed. FAO was also a co-organizer of a conference in Brazil in May 1994 focusing on issues of regional and sub-regional integration, following the Uruguay Round agreements.

requested the reinforcement of agricultural research in biotechnology and agro-industrial processing programmes and the provision of assistance for the setting up of reference laboratories to determine the safety of products for human and animal consumption.

FAO and WHO are jointly sponsoring a second Expert Consultation on Food Biotechnology, which is to take place in early 1996. It will focus on developing practical, scientifically based guidelines for the safety assessment of foods and food ingredients produced by modern biotechnology methods. Experts from developing and developed countries will participate and the consultation's proceedings and recommendations will be published and widely distributed.

Integrated Natural Resource Management for Sustainable Development: the Key Role of Land and Water

The Conference:

suggested that FAO examine new forms of agricultural research that considered land-use management for soil and water conservation. It requested assistance to establish and/or reinforce bodies governing land and water resource management and control policies.

Assistance on land-use management, with emphasis on soil and water conservation, is being provided to the region at both policy formulation and research levels within the framework of a Special Action Programme (SAP), aiming at promoting national soil policies and conservation strategies based on strengthened national institutions and effective participatory approaches. Specific soil and water conservation projects are being implemented in Costa Rica and El Salvador for sustainable agriculture in steep lands, and in Bolivia, Brazil, Mexico and Nicaragua for water management and fertilization issues. The Latin American Conservation Tillage Network (RELACO) brings together project teams responsible for conducting tillage research and technology transfer in nine Latin American countries and fosters collaboration in research and training to enhance capacities to manage soil degradation problems caused by improper tillage practices.

requested FAO to provide technical support in harmonizing existing legislation on natural resource management and conservation.

FAO, through three regional TCP projects, assisted countries in the region to harmonize procedures for the registration and control of pesticides, in line with the Code of Conduct for Distribution and Utilization of Pesticides. A project to assist in the harmonization of policies and legislation regarding water resources in three Central American countries is under preparation.

recommended that FAO review research policies and strategies regarding the use of inorganic fertilizers, with a view to rationalizing the supply of plant nutrients.

A TCP project based in Grenada was initiated in 1995 on behalf of the Organization of the Southern Caribbean States, to assist in formulating fertilizer policies and rationalize the procurement and distribution of mineral fertilizers, thus decreasing the costs of fertilizers at the farm gate.

Cooperation between FAO and Regional and Sub-Regional Organizations

The Conference:

requested FAO and IICA to develop their coordination to include areas such as: sustainable agricultural development, the management of domestic animal genetic resources, policy analysis and integration models and trade agreements.

Consultations have been held with IICA to coordinate activities in the above-mentioned areas. Joint activities on marketing development and the role of agricultural exchanges, as well as a joint programme on Eradication of *Amblyomma Variegatum* in the CARICOM Member Nations are being carried out. A Base Document for presentation to a joint FAO/IICA Workshop on Harmonization of Methodologies to Assess Competitiveness of Agricultural Products will be finalized in 1995. A Study of the Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Subsectors in Paraguay and one on Competitiveness of Selected Products in MERCOSUR and Chile will also be undertaken jointly.

asked that the positive coordination experience so far registered with IICA be gradually extended to other organizations. It requested that, at its next Regional Conference, FAO submit a similar document on FAO/IDB cooperation with regard to agricultural investment and the identification of priority areas for joint action.

FAO maintains close relation with a number of regional organizations and cooperates with them in the implementation of activities of common interest. For example FAO, jointly with SELA, is establishing a framework for cooperation, covering the Regional Programme on Vegetal Germplasm, the Project on Biotechnology and on Food Security. FAO developed a close cooperation with the CARICOM Secretariat in the fields of fisheries statistics, training in fish stock assessment, tropical forestry action programmes, improved seed production and strengthening food control capabilities. Following operational discussions held with IDB staff in Washington in April 1995, a programme of joint FAO Investment Centre/IDB activities will be initiated, as soon as possible, subject to availability of funds. Programme review and planning meetings should take place twice a year. The outposting of a TCI officer to IDB has also been envisaged.

requested FAO and IICA, together with other sub-regional organizations, to prepare a study on the outlook for agricultural development in Central America, for the meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture of the sub-region to be held in September 1995.

A report was prepared on "Trends in Agriculture and Agricultural Policy in Central America in the context of Economic Liberalization and Deregulation" and presented together with country case-studies in an international workshop co-sponsored by FAO and IICA on "Apertura Externa, Integración Económica y Políticas Agroalimentarias en América Central" held in July 1995. The workshop was attended by government officers and academics from Central American countries.

Report on the follow-up to the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN)

The Conference:

requested FAO to step up its technical assistance and identification of funds for the implementation of projects stemming from the plans of action in the areas of household food security and community development, food quality and safety, micronutrient deficiency, food and nutrition education, and monitoring and evaluation of food and nutritional status.

FAO continues to provide technical assistance on national food quality and safety programmes. A Regional Code of Hygienic Practice for Street Foods was adopted by the 21st Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in July 1995. Under the Regular Programme, technical assistance was provided to Member Nations in the field of Household Food Security and Community Development (to indigenous communities in Chile, and returnees and displaced people in Guatemala) and in Nutrition Education (Honduras and Argentina). Guidelines for the preparation of National Plans of Action for Nutrition (NPAN) were developed and distributed. Five countries have developed the NPANs and 14 more are in draft form. A project document was formulated to assist anglophone Caribbean countries, the Dominican Republic and Haiti in preparing, implementing and monitoring their NPANs. Sub-regional workshops were held in Honduras (October 1993) and Jamaica (April and December 1994) to exchange experiences in designing NPANs and to review the draft manual on food-based strategies for control and prevention of micronutrient deficiencies. As a result of discussions held with the European Union, a project for nutrition monitoring in Peru will be funded. The Regional Food and Nutrition Surveillance Network will discuss at its December 1995 meeting, an approach for monitoring the impact of the implementation of NPANs in the context of the FAO Global Nutrition Monitoring System. With the participation of national experts, Nutrition Country Profiles (NCP) have been completed for 32 countries in the LAC Region.

TWENTY-SECOND FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE NEAR EAST
(Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, 3-6 July 1994)

The following is a brief summary of action taken on recommendations for the attention of FAO.

Country Statements and General Debate

The Conference:

endorsed the recommendations reached by the Fifth Session of the Near East Regional Economic and Social Policy Commission on the Impact of Structural Adjustment Programmes on agricultural development in the Near East Region and called upon FAO to follow up on these recommendations.

Following the recommendation of the Regional Economic and Social Policy Commission, FAO, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment of Cyprus, held an Expert Consultation in Nicosia on "The Impact of Structural Adjustment Programmes on Agricultural Development in the Near East Region". Assistance was provided to Morocco in analysing the impact of its Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) on the agricultural sector and to the Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade of Egypt in developing medium/long-term food and agricultural strategies under free market conditions. Technical assistance is being provided to Syria in developing "A Policy Framework for Agricultural Development Strategy".

requested that the impact of the GATT negotiations on agricultural development policies and planning be included as a major agenda item in the forthcoming session of the Near East Regional Economic and Social Policy Commission.

The issue of "The Impacts of the Recent World Changes on Agricultural Development in the Near East Region", was selected as one of the items for discussion at the Sixth Session of the Near East Regional Economic and Social Policy Commission. FAO prepared a technical paper on the subject, stressing the impact of the GATT negotiations on agricultural development policies and planning.

requested FAO's assistance in strengthening coordination arrangements in the exchange of information between countries of the region concerning desert locust and disease outbreaks in any country of the region.

In order to strengthen the exchange of locust information between countries of the Region, FAO/ECLO (Emergency Centre for Locust Operations) has undertaken a number of national training courses on locust survey and reporting within the Region. FAO/ECLO has developed a multi-language standardized reporting form to be used by affected countries.

requested FAO to strengthen its cooperation with IGOs and NGOs in the region.

FAO, through the Regional Office for the Near East (RNE), organized workshops, training, seminars and expert consultations with regional organizations and specialized centres, such as CARDNE in the fields of agricultural extension, food policy analysis and planning,

INFOSAMAK in the field of fish marketing information, AFMANENA and NENARACA in the field of agricultural marketing and agricultural credit and AARINENA in the field of agricultural research.

requested FAO to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience among member countries in the area of wastewater treatment and use for agriculture.

Activities in this field included the publication and wide distribution of a set of seven, simple but practical, extension bulletins on various aspects of wastewater treatment and re-use in Arabic and English. A more detailed technical document on wastewater re-use in the region was published for a target readership of water policy, irrigation and agriculture professionals. FAO, together with UNDP, sponsored a regional TCDC workshop on water management in arid climatic conditions at which the subject of wastewater re-use was discussed in detail. FAO/RNE conducted a study on "Water Management for Agricultural Production and Environmental Protection in the Near East Region", which is now being finalized. Several technical bulletins (seven in English and two in Arabic), have been distributed to the Near East countries.

recommended that FAO improve on the Early Warning System for the timely delivery of pertinent information such as that on International Trade and World Marketing.

The FAO Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) has continued to closely monitor the crop and food supply situation, particularly following drought-reduced harvests in some countries of the region. The assessments of the System are disseminated through regular monthly reports "Foodcrops and Shortages" and "Food Outlook".

suggested that FAO continue close collaboration with Member Nations in providing technical assistance and advice in agricultural policy and planning and enhance training activities in this field.

FAO continued assisting Member Nations in the Region in this field through expert consultations, case-studies and specific projects. National capacities have been strengthened through seminars and workshops, and the preparation and distribution of training materials dealing with agricultural price policy, agricultural policy analysis. Specific publications dealt with "The Use of Ecozone in Environment Impact Assessment" and the "Characterization and Analysis of Livestock Farming Systems in the Near East Region".

expressed appreciation for the various activities performed by RNEA during 1992-93 and requested FAO to develop criteria for accountability.

The report on FAO activities carried out in the Region during the biennium, presented to the Regional Conference includes elements permitting to judge the effectiveness of such activities. Continued efforts are being made to make this document increasingly synthetic and result-oriented. Consideration will be given to providing quantitative information in tabular form which would permit a fuller appreciation of the impact of FAO programmes in the Region.

recommended that FAO expand studies in marketing of fruits and vegetables in the Region and requested FAO to collaborate with other concerned regional organizations in this effort.

The Expert Consultation on the Impact of a Changing International Trade Environment on Agricultural Trade in the Near East Region, held in Cyprus in December 1994, was presented with two reports on "Implications of the Uruguay Round for European Union Trade with Third World Countries with Specific Reference to Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Trade with the

Near East Region" and on "Review of Agricultural Trade in the Near East" which focused on the marketing of fruits and vegetables in the Near East Region and trade prospects with the EU.

suggested that FAO explore possibilities of expanding research in the use of solar energy and artificial rain in agriculture with relevant international organizations.

Exploratory contacts are taking place with European research centres to undertake work related to solar energy. The Environment and Sustainable Development Coordinating Unit is collaborating with the International Solar Energy Society (ISES) and the Government of Zimbabwe in organizing a Special Panel on Energy and Agriculture to be held in conjunction with the 1995 Solar Energy Congress to take place in Harare in September 1995. Collaboration is also being discussed with GTZ-Germany on the use of solar cookers.

proposed opening an FAO Sub-regional Office to cater for the needs of the Mashrek countries and invited the Director-General to pursue consultation with member countries in this regard.

The Council at its 106th Session has authorized the Director-General to establish five sub-regional offices, one of which will serve the North African countries. Before any proposal for additional offices is made, the financial implications have to be carefully estimated and evaluated against the expected increased efficiency therefrom.

Strategy for sustainable dryland development in the Near East

The Conference:

requested FAO to assist member countries in reviewing and assessing their strategies and action plans for dryland development, developing better drought strategies and increasing food security.

requested FAO to support efforts in carrying out socio-economic assessments of relevant past and present experiences in dryland development and facilitate the exchange of their results among countries of the region.

FAO is developing a programme on Sustainable Farming/Small Ruminants Range-dependent Production Systems in the Near East Region. An Expert Consultation was held in 1994 to investigate the sustainability of these production systems, with the participation of experts from the region and other international experts. A training manual on the "System Approach and Analysis on the Small Ruminants Production Systems", is currently being prepared for use by national institutions in training workshops.

requested FAO to coordinate efforts made by regional and international organizations and enhance bilateral arrangements in the area of range management.

A Joint Expert Consultation on the Management and Sustainable Dryland Development, was organized at the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) in Aleppo, Syria (November 1994), in cooperation between FAO and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), the Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). The purpose of the consultation was to coordinate efforts among regional organizations/centres, in strengthening regional cooperation and in proposing policies for proper use of dryland, including rangelands.

recommended that FAO facilitate the relevant training and the exchange of genetic material, technology and development experience in these fields among interested countries within and outside the region.

FAO places great importance in the exchange of genetic materials for rangelands and pasture development and conservation and the related training. This is a continuous activity carried out jointly with the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI), ICARDA and the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (ICAMAS) within the framework of the West Asia and North Africa Plant Genetic Resources Network (WANANET) and the Inter-Regional Cooperative Research and Development Network on Pasture and Fodder Crops.

**Impact of Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAP) on Agricultural
Development and Performance in the Near East Region:
Framework and Lessons Learned**

The Conference:

requested FAO to promote the exchange of agricultural policy analysis experiences among countries of the region through establishing a Near East Regional Network for Agricultural Policies.

Two documents were prepared by FAO on the technical, institutional and organizational aspects of establishing the Network with the view to facilitating the exchange of information and experience on agricultural planning and policy analysis among countries of the Near East. A regional meeting will be held in 1996 to launch the establishment of the Network.

suggested that FAO continue providing policy advice to countries of the region in the design, implementation and evaluation of agricultural structural adjustment measures, with a view to achieving the goals of food security and reducing adverse social impacts on vulnerable groups.

FAO conducted relevant studies on the "Impact of Structural Adjustment Programmes on Agricultural Development", in Turkey, and on "The New Role of Government in Food and Agricultural Policy and Planning", in four selected countries in the region: Egypt, Pakistan, Tunisia and Yemen. The findings will be discussed in a workshop in early 1996 with the objective of designing agricultural structural adjustment measures and providing policy advice to member countries.

requested FAO to continue providing policy advice and analytical support to governments in formulating policy packages, which improve agricultural price policies, and protect investment in rural infrastructure and human resources.

Policy advice was provided to the Sultanate of Oman, under a joint mission with ESCWA to advise on reform of the agriculture prices subsidy system; to Egypt in developing a framework for a long-term strategy under the prevailing market liberalization conditions and the ongoing structural adjustment programme; to Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey, in preparing case-studies on "Water Policy Reform Review in the Near East Region", with the aim of stressing the social and economic value of irrigation water and other economic and legislative aspects.

recommended FAO to strengthen the technical capabilities of national policy analysts, through enhancing training activities in project analysis, agricultural structural adjustment policies and reform needs.

FAO continued to provide support to training institutions in the field of agricultural policy and planning, in particular through regional training of trainers seminars and courses at national level. FAO also collaborated with ESCWA, UNDP, GTZ and IGOS, NGOs and national institutions in organizing six regional and two national training workshops in 1994 and 1995, on various subjects of food and agricultural policy analysis, stressing sustainable development and environment considerations.

Representation of the Region in the Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research (CGIAR)

The Conference:

requested FAO to compile and appraise future country nominations to CGIAR to ensure the matching of candidates' qualifications with recommended criteria and to bring this to the attention of the Regional Conference.

FAO will, in the future collect Member Nations' nominations to CGIAR and proceed with compilation and appraisal, and bring the results to the attention of the Regional Conference under the relevant agenda item.

requested FAO to brief regional representatives to CGIAR and assist them in improving their interaction with countries of the region by channelling their demands for information and circulating their reports after each CGIAR meeting.

Briefing of regional representatives takes place on a regular basis and relevant documentation that may be of interest is also made available to them. Furthermore, reports of regional representatives at CGIAR meetings are circulated to member countries through the Regional Office. Similarly, FAO, through the Regional Office, has made several attempts to bring to the attention of member countries the need to include regional representatives as part of their delegation to Regional Conferences. So far, this has proved unsuccessful.

Follow-up to the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN)

The Conference:

proposed that FAO organize a special workshop on the topic of food consumption in countries of the region to update information available and discuss related matters on food consumption and nutrition.

The organization of a workshop on this topic requires the countries of the region to conduct national food consumption surveys, which are presently lacking. Therefore, it was not possible to organize the proposed workshop. Collection of food consumption data is dependent upon the use of appropriate data collection methodologies. FAO has funded and supported an international workshop (the Daphne Workshop) designed to address issues of the development of food consumption methodologies. Once these methodologies are in place, more comprehensive efforts can be made to collect food consumption data in countries where such information is currently lacking.

In a related area, FAO is contributing funds and expertise, in conjunction with the United Nations University, to a regional meeting (to be held in the United Arab Emirates) on food composition activities.

Review and Assessment of the Near East Cooperation Programme (NECP)

The Conference:

requested FAO to provide, through RNEA, secretariat services to the newly established NECP Committee and facilitate its functioning.

FAO/RNE is providing the secretariat of the high-level commission for the preparatory work and launching of the newly established NECP Committee. RNE is facilitating its functioning by initiating the necessary contacts, in cooperation with FAO/HQ concerned services and the Near East Member Nations.

Desert Locust Control in the Region and Preparation for Future Campaign

The Conference:

requested FAO's further assistance in combating the present desert locust upsurge.

FAO continues to provide assistance in combating the present desert locust upsurge in the form of personnel, by maintaining a centralized early warning service at FAO Headquarters which monitors locust and environmental conditions as well as forecasting potential locust breeding and migration, by organizing control campaigns, assessing the current situation and resource needs and by organizing training courses.