

conference

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IMPLEMENTATION OF 1988 REGIONAL CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS

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FIFTEENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

Mauritius, 26 April - 4 May 1988

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

Country Statements and General Debate

The Conference:

called for the strengthening of FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme.

The Director-General has included in his proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91 a net programme increase of US\$ 1.75 million for the TCP.

reaffirmed the crucial and unique role of the FAO Regional Office for Africa as the regional arm of FAO in promoting regional and sub-regional integration and development through African inter-governmental organizations, regional projects, technical cooperation networks and other TCDC mechanisms.

Through the Regional Office for Africa (RAFR), FAO continued its support to African intergovernmental organizations which promote economic integration and technical cooperation among countries in the region.

RAFR assisted the ECOWAS Secretariat to present a study on Agricultural Price Policy Experience in the ECOWAS Region to the first Meeting of Directors of ECOWAS Members States held in Cotonou, Benin, from 19 to 21 December 1988. The study was designed to harmonize agricultural pricing policy and promote subregional economic cooperation. RAFR assisted ECOWAS in incorporating the recommendations of the study into a proposal for a West African Common Agricultural Policy, which was discussed at the 13th Meeting of the ECOWAS Industry, Agriculture and Natural Resources Commission held in Lome, Togo from 1 to 9 May 1989.

Thirteen operational and institutional development projects were formulated by RAFR in 1988-89 for implementation during the 1990-91 biennium under the Technical Cooperation Network on Agricultural Project Management. A regional project on "Wildlife Utilization in Sub-Saharan Africa" has been prepared for imminent implementation. A series of actions has been launched to implement the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, such as the Regional Cooperative Programme on Fuel-Wood for Rural Development and the Regional Network on Arid Zone Forestry Desertification Control. Activities have been initiated by RAFR to establish Technical Cooperation Networks on: the Production of Small Ruminants in Six UDEAC Member Countries; Agricultural Research and Extension Systems in Africa (NAREXSA); Regional Technological Transfer of the Chorkor Smoker (for fish); Soil Correlation Committees for West, Central and Southern Africa; and Wetland Development and Management (WEDEM).

urged FAO to expand its promotional activities for economic and technical cooperation among African countries through the Regional Office for Africa, including in the field of farm mechanization.

RAFR has increased the share of its 1988-89 resources devoted to the promotion of activities on technical cooperation among African countries, through technical cooperation networks. As a result, 10 technical cooperation networks were initiated during the 1988-89 biennium, while RAFR continued its cooperation with African inter-governmental organizations in the fields of economic integration, plant production and protection, animal diseases control, fisheries, forestry, rural development, land and water development, science and technology, nutrition and agricultural statistics. RAFR also cooperated in the establishment or operation of networks sponsored by other organizations notably those of the UNEP African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), CILSS and IITA.

FAO is promoting ECDC and TCDC in Africa in the field of farm mechanization through support to national governments in preparing national agricultural mechanization strategies which will form the basis for determining the type and scope for economic and technical cooperation. Among others, Ethiopia, Kenya and Malawi have indicated strong interest in preparing a national mechanization strategy.

requested FAO to monitor more closely the implementation by Member Nations of the UN-PAAERD and the recommendations stemming from the FAO Study on African Agriculture.

Close monitoring of the implementation of the UN-PAAERD was effected through, inter-alia, participation in the work of the Inter-Agency Task Force on UN-PAAERD, policy guidance and support services to the Joint ECA/FAO Agriculture Division and the execution of complementary studies, notably on the implementation and impact of Structural Adjustment Programmes in the region. FAO has also been guided in its programming and work budgeting for 1988-89 and 1990-91 by the recommendations stemming from the FAO study on African Agriculture: The Next 25 Years. In particular RAFR activities have emphasized improvements in agricultural incentives, inputs, institutions and infrastructure. RAFR efforts have given special attention to activities bearing on conservation-based development, such as limiting soil erosion, safeguarding communal grazing; overcoming the fuelwood crisis; raising management levels for existing large-scale irrigation and introducing small-scale village and farm-level irrigation. In general, FAO has been assisting Member Nations, on request, in the implementation of policies, programmes and projects to meet these development objectives as recommended by African Agriculture: The Next 25 Years and UN-PAAERD;

supported fully FAO's focus on small farmers, youth and women in food production.

Under the People's Participation Programme FAO has implemented pilot projects in eight countries of Africa, helping to form hundreds of small informal groups and benefiting tens of thousands of people. These field efforts are supported by corresponding regular programme activities, aimed at the development of appropriate operational

methodologies for the incorporation of participatory approaches and elements into larger scale rural development projects and programmes.

In 1988-89, country projects related to this recommendation were approved and implementation commenced in Malawi and in Sierra Leone. A new project on women, population and agricultural development was started in Uganda, and projects in Lesotho, Tanzania and Zimbabwe, after the successful results obtained from tripartite reviews missions, were also extended for second phase implementation. In addition, a series of studies was carried out on "Analysis of Credit Schemes in Benefiting Rural Women" in Kenya, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and subsequently published as an FAO publication.

Workshops were organized in Zambia (August 1988) and in Congo (December 1988) on regional mechanisms relating to agrarian policies which were intended to support small scale peasant farmers. In 1989 a regional Round Table was organized in Arusha, dealing with specific issues concerning small farmers such as impact of changes in land tenure on common property resources with emphasis on Structural Adjustment Programmes.

Action on improving the level of agricultural extension service support for rural women continued in 1989. Using trust funds, follow-up workshops to the multicountry workshop held in Harare, Zimbabwe, in October 1987, were organized in Malawi and Zambia, while preparatory assistance work was undertaken for Burkina Faso and Senegal. In response to the Conference recommendations, it is planned that future assistance in agricultural extension and training focused on small farmers, youth and women in food production will include policies on resource commitment and cost-effectiveness improvements, strategies extension planning and programming and testing of low-cost multi-media extension materials and active participation of small farmers, women and rural youth. Specific programmes for rural women and youth will be geared towards integrating population education into the extension programme, agricultural production and environmental protection and production of materials for training extension workers on participatory methods of work with women farmers, small farmers and rural youth.

called for additional resources for programmes and projects dealing with pre- and post-harvest losses.

Under the Regular Programme activities for the prevention of food losses, which is primarily concerned with the post-harvest sector, the resources dedicated to Africa in 1986 were 21.4 percent of the total resources allocated. The percentage has increased to 28.5 percent in 1989. A similar reflection is seen in the extra-budgetary resources generated by the Special Action Programme for the Prevention of Food Losses, i.e. African projects amounted to 35 percent of the operational resources in 1986. This has risen to 65 percent in 1989.

called on FAO to step up its support to Member Nations in the field of irrigation and further assist them in the design and implementation of irrigation projects suitable to local conditions and development needs.

The number of field projects has increased, especially in support of small-scale irrigation schemes. Socio-economic studies have been carried out in order to better assess local conditions and development needs and to develop appropriate methodologies for this purpose. To the extent resources have permitted, government requests have been followed-up, projects formulated and TCP projects initiated for preparation of large follow-up irrigation projects. Further collaboration with NGOs has been initiated and case studies on NGO participation in small-scale irrigation development have been completed.

FAO Activities in the Region

The Conference:

welcomed FAO's increased emphasis to the production of roots and tubers, plantains and leguminous and horticultural crops, without sacrificing cereal crops.

Emphasis has been placed on elaborating and implementing horticultural development programmes aimed at supporting small farmers and rural communities in increasing food security, intensifying production of nutritious fruits and vegetables (as dietary sources of sugars, vitamins and minerals) and improving income-earning capacity (Uganda, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique).

Programmes have been formulated for promoting and supporting technical cooperation among African countries on: i) improvement of roots, tubers, bananas and plantains; and ii) improved production of traditional and underexploited horticultural crops.

The cultivation of mushrooms - both as a nutritious food crop, and as a means of generating extra income for urban and rural households - has been promoted in interested countries of East Africa (Mauritius, Uganda, Zambia), through the formulation of national programmes of intervention, emphasizing the potential importance of this crop in improving the role and status of women in agricultural production.

In Africa, several TCP projects have assisted the Government of Ethiopia in the intensification of production in mixed cropping systems. Assistance was rendered to the Government of Angola for the rehabilitation of banana production in the Cavacs Valley, in areas most affected by drought. A multi-disciplinary mission funded jointly by the Working Group on roots, tubers and plantains-bananas visited Togo and Rwanda and three projects were formulated. One project is currently operational and is being funded by UNDP. Consultancy missions were also sent to Guinea, Benin, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Tanzania to assist in the improvement and utilization of root crop production.

With financial support from the Italian Government, FAO has initiated a food crop production/demonstration programme in five countries in Africa with a view to stimulating inter-country information exchanges.

FAO organized two consulting missions to five countries in Africa to explore and formulate projects on introducing small-farmer based soyabean production coupled with village level processing; when model systems are established, the production/processing system will be further promoted through TCDC activities.

A new pigeon pea project is getting underway in Malawi. Selection and/or identification of improved food legumes is an important part of the FAO/UNDP research support project in Mozambique; two cowpea varieties are being multiplied and distributed by the national seed company. Legume improvement has recently been incorporated into the Maize Improvement Programme in Zambia. Collaboration has been initiated with CIAT to promote bean production in Eastern and Southern Africa. FAO is exploring the establishment of soyabean research and production/processing (village and home level) networks in Africa with primary focus on small farmer systems. Zambia, Nigeria and to some lesser degree Cameroon, Zaire and Rwanda are making significant progress.

urged FAO to declare that the desert locust situation in the Sahelian Zone was critical, as a means of focusing the attention of the international community on the problem.

The desert locust situation in West, North-west Africa and the Sahelian zone was brought to the attention of the international community through a special media operation involving press releases (17), and radio and television programmes (20). An Information Officer was assigned to organize a media campaign in collaboration with ECLO. The Information Division arranged special briefings and interviews for over 100 journalists.

urged the expansion of FAO activities in the livestock sector.

Assistance continued for the Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign and the two Regional Vaccine Quality Control and Training Centres in Ethiopia and Senegal. Since 1980 TCP projects amounting to US\$ 11 million have been implemented. FAO cooperated with WHO in an emergency preparedness programme on Rift Valley fever. Recently prompt and extensive action has been taken in relation to the appearance of the American screwworm fly in North Africa and a related action programme has been elaborated. Additional activities have been implemented in regard to the control of ticks and tick-borne diseases. Action for the control of African animal trypanosomiasis is continuing and research contracts have been granted to African institutions and a number of training activities implemented.

Action has been taken to introduce the manufacture and utilization of molasses urea blocks and on urea treatment of cereal straws or maize and sorghum stovers through the establishment of regional task forces. TCP projects have also been implemented in order to introduce these new technologies in selected countries. Comprehensive training aids on sheep and goat meat production in the humid tropics of West Africa have been prepared in addition to training manuals in both French and English. Training manuals were also produced on duck and rabbit production and guinea pigs. The first of a series of training courses on draught animal power was held in Benin. TCP projects have been

implemented on small-scale milk processing and a TCDC network established on traditional meat preservation methods.

requested FAO to mobilize from present and potential donors the funds necessary for reopening of the Bobo-Dioulasso Regional Training Centre in Burkina Faso.

FAO has approached a number of potential donors in order to secure further financing of the Regional Training Centre and it appears that EEC may allocate the necessary funds.

urged FAO to evaluate the impact of Structural Adjustment Programmes on the agricultural sector and on vulnerable populations, and recommended the continuation of FAO's assistance in the development of planning capabilities in African countries.

At the request of the Governments of African member countries and in close collaboration with international financial institutions, notably the World Bank and UNDP, FAO has begun to help the parties concerned undertake analyses of measures to be included in Structural Adjustment Programmes. For those countries which have been implementing Structural Adjustment Programmes for the last few years, the work also includes a priori analyses of the effects and impacts of policy measures actually applied. Work is on-going in Senegal and Guinea, is being started in the Congo and is envisaged for Benin and Togo.

Other activities related to structural adjustment issues are underway in Comoros, Uganda, Ghana and Tanzania. These activities are primarily designed to strengthen national capacities to monitor and assess the impact of policy measures, including those undertaken as part of Structural Adjustment Programmes.

With regard to assistance in developing planning capabilities of African countries, FAO has continued to help through planning assistance projects, of which there are about 50 on-going. In addition an effort is being made to improve the analytical capacity of decentralized planning units in regions within countries. Preliminary work is underway with Regular Programme resources to design and establish sound decentralized planning systems that would foster grass-root participation in the design and implementation of projects/programmes at the local level. Initial work will be launched soon in Zambia, Ethiopia and Uganda.

In the biennium 1988-89, FAO has continued to provide training to strengthen planning capabilities in African countries. The Training Group has been involved in 17 projects and organized 37 training activities. Negotiations are underway for the formulation of a regional training project in agricultural planning and policy analysis with UNDP funding.

called for more assistance for artisanal fisheries improvement, the evaluation of the resources of Exclusive Economic Zones, the development of fish feeds for aquaculture and appropriate fishing gear to exploit previously unexploited species, as well as increased training of middle-level personnel in various fisheries disciplines.

In the field of resources assessment, the research vessel FRIDTJOF NANSEN is continuing and expanding its activities worldwide and a cooperative programme to use national research vessels is being developed.

The proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91 includes a proposal to establish a new post in aquaculture for a fish feed specialist. As such expertise has only been available hitherto through consultancies, or through the Field Programme, the new post should now allow FAO to develop a longer-term programme on fish feeds, with special emphasis on utilization of locally available feedstuffs for use in tropical aquaculture systems.

Both the Regular and Field Programmes give a high priority to assisting artisanal fisheries. The integrated and national development projects are directed towards improving living standards and methods of fishing. Similarly, all training projects for fishermen cater for the small-scale sector and some of these also include training for industrial fisheries. Regular Programme initiatives include support to other UN agencies and bilateral programmes directed towards similar ends and there is a substantial list of pipeline projects. Much of the technology transfer to artisanal fishermen is aimed at under-utilized stocks.

recommended the increased use of regional experts for consultancy and other assignments within the region.

Within the limits of technical and administrative constraints, most of the consultants and institutions used by the Regional Office for Africa (RAFR) in the 1988-89 biennium were African. Future consultancy assignments will, to the extent possible, remain responsive to this recommendation.

requested FAO to carry out the study on the negative effects of the aggressions of the South African apartheid regime on food production and food security of the Frontline States.

The financial constraints and programme reductions have not permitted a comprehensive study. However, in the context of follow-up to the UN-PAAERD, a contribution was submitted to the ECA on the effects of South Africa's destabilization policies on food and agriculture in the Frontline States.

requested FAO to continue and, wherever feasible, strengthen its training across the various sub-sectors and programme areas, and to continue to take into account the special needs of Lusophone countries in the areas of vital importance for the rural and agricultural development of the African Portuguese-speaking countries.

A project in Cape Verde: "Formation des cadres en préparation, suivie et évaluation d'opérations de développement rural" has been successfully carried out. Assistance to training in sector, policy and project analysis is being provided to Mozambique. A request is expected from Angola to improve its capability to formulate an agricultural investment project.

Due to resource constraints, few training activities were undertaken by RAFR in 1988-89 and no special programmes could be organized for the Lusophone countries. In the 1990-91 biennium, it is hoped to supplement regular budgetary resources through the mobilization of donor support for increased training on a TCDC basis. Renewed efforts will be made to address the special needs of Lusophone countries.

Support to training centres for agricultural and rural development in Mozambique has continued to expand with UNDP funding. The Agrarian Training Centre in Maputo is adopting innovative training programmes for heads and assistant heads of provincial and district departments of agriculture, agricultural and rural development technicians, trainers and extension workers. In recognition of the innovative and successful training programme of the Maputo Agrarian Training Centre, and in response to this Conference recommendation, future efforts will include TCDC-type of assistance whereby leaders from other Portuguese-speaking countries could receive training and an opportunity to observe the successful training work of the centres for agricultural and rural development in Mozambique.

recommended that consideration be given to the special needs of island states in technical assistance in managing natural disasters such as cyclones.

Limited Regular Programme resources available in 1988-89 did not permit a full response to this recommendation. As part of future RAFR activities, and subject to resource possibilities, training and advisory assistance in the design and management of emergency preparedness programmes and institutions relating to natural disasters such as cyclones may be offered, on request, to island and other vulnerable states.

Desert Locust Plague

The Conference:

adopted Resolution 2/88 on the Desert Locust Plague.

FAO continued to coordinate the activities against the desert locust. A full-scale campaign was launched in 1988-89 by affected countries with the assistance of the international community. 10 million ha of infestations were treated since the Fifteenth Regional Conference for Africa, and control operations largely contributed to the decline of the plague in 1989. Survey and control operations against residual populations are continuing in the Sahelian countries and in other regions in order to terminate the plague in 1989. Phase I of the Programme of the International Task Force in West Africa is being implemented.

Information on Aid-in-kind

The Conference:

requested FAO to provide maximum technical assistance in the specification and selection of aid-in-kind inputs and in ensuring their appropriateness in each individual case.

FAO assistance to Member Nations is continuing with a view to the establishment of suitable policy and planning frameworks for input assistance, analysis of technological choices, identification of input needs, operation of input data systems, and coordination of action at the sectoral level. Particular emphasis has been placed on the need for technical assistance and training to improve national capabilities for input policy analysis and identification of appropriate input requirements.

Farm Mechanization in Africa: Status and Prospects

The Conference:

urged FAO to consider a closer integration of credit with farm mechanization in future programmes.

Action has been initiated to review selected mechanization projects with special emphasis on arrangements for availability of credit for purchasing agricultural machinery and equipment. Findings and recommendations are expected to be available in late 1989. Initial findings are already being included in projects under preparation.

stressed that future FAO work in farm mechanization should include: assistance to governments in the formulation of national policies in this sector; longer-term training programmes that will target artisanal, technical and professional level trainees involved in mechanization; studies to provide additional basic data on farm mechanization in order to identify problem areas and highlight potential opportunities for improvement.

FAO continues to encourage African countries to formulate national agricultural mechanization strategies and has indicated its willingness to assist governments in this action. In 1989 action has been initiated to develop the basis for overall guidance in the development of manpower in agricultural engineering at all levels. This action will be pursued in an expert consultation on manpower development for agricultural engineering/mechanization during the biennium 1990-91.

requested that FAO continue to provide assistance in the various areas of village blacksmith technology, rehabilitation and maintenance of serviceable equipment, upgrading and selection of the most suitable forms of farm mechanization.

FAO continues to provide assistance to Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Niger and Zambia in the field of village technology, including all types of artisanal activities relating to mechanization. The rehabilitation of agricultural machinery is the topic for the Ninth Session of the FAO Panel of Experts on Agricultural Mechanization. The results of that Session will form the basis for assistance to African countries in the field of rehabilitation of equipment.

Fisheries in Africa: Their Status and Potential for Development

The Conference:

requested the strengthening of FAO regional projects whose work was commendable and called for a continuation of the kind of assistance provided by the project for the development and management of fisheries in the Eastern-Central Atlantic (CECAF).

A number of new or rephased proposals for continued support for regional or sub-regional technical assistance projects in fisheries management and development have been prepared and submitted to donors. Denmark, for example, has agreed to fund the extension of the Programme for the Integrated Development of Artisanal Fisheries in West Africa (IDAF) until the end of 1993. Preparatory assistance funds for preliminary activities toward the formulation of main phase programmes have been provided by Finland (Lake Tanganyika), the Netherlands (food security in West African fishing communities) and Sweden (aquaculture for local community development). The UNDP-funded project, "Regional Fisheries Development and Management for the Southwest Indian Ocean" (SWIO) will be continued under Phase III up to the end of 1990. The new FAO/UNDP Inland Fisheries Planning, Development and Management in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa started operations in January 1989 for a period of four years. The preparatory phase of the UNDP-funded project Planning and Policy Formulation for the Fisheries of West Africa has been initiated. The reactions of UNDP are awaited to two proposals for further support to the CECAF project. Trust fund projects have been established to channel assistance from Spain and to receive voluntary contributions from CECAF member countries.

called on FAO to assist Member Nations in the formulation of appropriate environmental protection programmes.

The Second Session of the CIFA Working Party on Pollution and Fisheries will be held in October 1989, in Nairobi, and will devote attention to the problem of organizing wastes and eutrophication. Phase II of the project "Monitoring of Pollution in the Marine Environment of the West and Central African Region", to be executed by FAO in collaboration with UNEP, IOC, WHO and IAEA, is scheduled to begin in September 1989. A similar project for Eastern Africa is to be initiated in the second half of 1989.

urged FAO to continue its assistance to countries in obtaining increased benefits from their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ), particularly regarding the surveillance, monitoring and control of their EEZs.

The Eighteenth Session of the Committee on Fisheries supported, in principle, the endorsement and adoption, on a voluntary basis, of an international standard for the marking and identification of fishing vessels, operating or likely to operate in waters of States other than those of the flag States; this is expected to benefit coastal States by facilitating compliance with national fishing regulations by foreign fishing vessels. The problem of identification of foreign fishing vessels was first noted in 1981 and to date, through financial assistance provided by Norway, draft regulations for the requirement

that foreign vessels adopt the international standard for marking fishing vessels have been prepared and adopted by Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea Bissau and Mauritania.

requested FAO to increase its assistance in solving the problem of fish post-harvest losses which was particularly critical in the traditional sector.

Priority attention will continue to be given to FAO actions designed to reduce both the physical and economic losses incurred in the production, utilization and marketing of fish, especially in the artisanal fisheries. Such on-going or planned activities include the network "Cooperative Research Programme of Fish Technology in Africa"; demonstration/tests of insulated containers (Guinea, Sierra Leone, Benin, Togo, Nigeria); acceptability testing of triggerfish, an under-utilized species often avoided or discarded (Burkina Faso); development of insulated containers (Tanzania); extension of the Tunisian concept of an insulated tricycle for fresh fish marketing; improvement of fish smoking and other processing in Ghana in collaboration with a Dutch bilateral regional training project; packing of fish in Ghana; a National Training Course in Fish Technology and Quality Control in Mozambique and a study on water activity and stability of dried and smoked products in Nigeria; project activities in the post-harvest sector will be supported in many countries in Africa.

urged that the FAO/UNDP African Regional Aquaculture Centre (ARAC) in Nigeria be strengthened to continue its commendable role in training senior aquaculturists from the region.

The concept of ARAC has been reviewed during the UNDP/FAO preparatory assistance project entitled "Integrated approach to aquaculture development in Africa". This project prepared a new regional initiative integrating all international and national efforts over the next ten years, in order to make more cost-effective use of the international assistance directed toward aquaculture development in Africa. A draft project document for Phase I of this regional project which includes training of senior government officials and practical aquaculturists, for a period of four years, at a cost of about US\$7 million, has been submitted to UNDP for consideration.

requested FAO to give increased priority to training for the African fisheries sector.

High priority is being given, under both the Regular and Field Programmes, to providing training in many aspects of the fishery sector, in conjunction with regional and national institutions. In October 1988, FAO made a major contribution to the SADCC/FAO Regional Workshop on Fisheries Development, held in Zimbabwe, providing training on aspects of fishery sector planning and fishery project identification, design, analysis, monitoring and evaluation. A senior officer of the Fisheries Department will be available to the forestry, fisheries and wildlife training course on project planning which is planned to be held in conjunction with SADCC in the latter half of 1989. It is also planned for the regional project "Programme for the Integrated Development of Artisanal Fisheries in West Africa", to hold

a training course on selected issues of fishery project planning in late 1989/early 1990. In 1990, preparations will commence for a West Africa sub-regional training course on fishery project formulation, to be held in conjunction with an academic institution within the region. Training in fishing technologies is provided by many African field projects, supported by Regular Programme assistance; such training ranges from boat-building, engine and workshop practices, on-the-job training of fishermen, pole-and-line tuna fishing methods, fish processing and marketing. Training in fish stock assessment and hydro-acoustic survey methods is provided, on board, for national scientists on the RV DR FRIDTJOF NANSEN. Regular Programme work plans also provide for the elaboration of standards and guidelines for fishermen's training and the safety of fishermen and fishing vessels. The production of training manuals will continue and work is envisaged on the improvement of sailing techniques and energy conservation.

suggested that the proposed in-depth study regarding the opportunities and constraints facing the industrial fisheries sector be carried out by FAO in cooperation with multilateral financial institutions, on a sub-regional basis.

Work on this study has been focused initially on the CEEAC sub-region where there is the largest concentration of foreign fishing and the greatest potential for the development of industrial fisheries. FAO has undertaken a pilot study on the opportunities and constraints on the development of industrial fisheries on a sub-regional basis and is cooperating with UNIDO on other studies being carried out at the national level. Discussions have also been held with the World Bank on this issue.

called upon FAO to assist Member Nations in formulating appropriate national fisheries development policies, plans and projects.

Assistance in the formulation of fisheries development and management plans has been provided through multi-disciplinary team missions to Mauritania, Tanzania, Seychelles and Madagascar. Significant contributions have been made to a national aquaculture and inland waters planning seminar in Ghana and to a regional seminar in Chad for the member countries of the Lake Chad Basin Commission. In addition, basic planning studies and publications issued in 1988 included guidelines for fisheries development planning in Africa, a socio-economic data base on African fisheries, a study on the role of subsidies in the development of the fisheries sector in Africa and a study of the socio-economic effects of the expansion of the Nile perch fishery.

Development of an Indigenous African Food Industry

The Conference:

requested FAO's assistance to undertake studies to generate more information on potential finished product markets.

FAO continues to make its assistance available to interested governments to undertake studies and related activities aimed at generating

and disseminating information on potential markets for their indigenous finished food products. Efforts have been made to improve the processing technology, particularly of the traditional crops and to utilize the cereal flour to produce products with an extended shelf life. Emphasis has been placed on processing of fruit and tubers and on the promotion of apiculture and the subsequent processing of honey and other hive products for the local and export markets. Sericulture is being encouraged in African countries to take advantage of the growing demand in the European markets for raw silk and yarn.

urged FAO to continue its work on a full compendium on traditional African food products to facilitate the use of local raw materials.

The Compendium on Post-harvest Processing Technologies of African Staple Food will be printed by the later part of 1989.

To promote the production and consumption of under-exploited traditional food crops, two national project formulation workshops were held in Somalia and Uganda, and a recipe competition to popularize their use was held in conjunction with World Food Day in Sierra Leone during 1988. Also two studies to determine the nutritional importance of under-exploited traditional food crops are in progress in Zambia and Nigeria.

requested FAO to increase work in the area of quality control within the context of indigenous food industry development.

Most of the FAO-implemented projects in the agroindustry sector, have a quality control component. Related activities are geared towards quality assurance for the manufactured food products.

Assistance to strengthen national food control programmes has continued to be provided to Member Nations in Africa. TCP, trust fund and UNDP projects were implemented in the region, as well as training activities directed to strengthen capabilities of food control staff. Advisory services through projects, consultancies and seminars have been used to assist countries in establishing or strengthening national food control programmes. This included the holding of national seminars to design national food control strategy; projects and consultancies to update food regulations and to develop an effective and adequate food control infrastructure. Emphasis has been given on quality control to assist the development of the local food industry. Food exports and import substitution have been actively promoted. Assistance continues to be provided to support these objectives by improving quality of food for exports and establishing systems for food import/export control. For example, a regional workshop on this subject was held in Cairo in 1988 and a national strategy will be drafted in Senegal in 1989, following a national workshop on the same subject.

requested FAO to act as a forum in convening agro-industrialists from developed countries and African countries to fully discuss all the major issues in integrated agro-industrial development.

An Expert Consultation on Small-scale Rural Enterprises in Africa is scheduled to be held in December 1989. Its main purpose is to shift

the focus of farmers from a subsistence to a market economy, by processing agricultural production, so that it can enter the major marketing channels of the semi-urban and urban areas. Entrepreneurs from developing countries will be invited to share their experience, both successes and failures, with experts from developed countries.

requested that FAO, in cooperation with interested governments and industry, organize a Regional Food Processing Exhibition or Exhibitions to demonstrate the commercial possibilities of the region's food products.

Such a suggested exhibition is yet to be organized, and FAO is continuing efforts to mobilize financial resources to make such an exhibition possible.

requested FAO to assist in expanding diffusion and applying the more significant results of relevant research and development work, such as bread-making from locally available food products and the "Chorkor Smoker".

FAO has developed the technology for bread-making, using 100 percent locally available cereals, roots and tubers. Demonstrations in a number of African countries are being arranged to interest local bakers in wheatless bread.

requested continuing FAO assistance in the development of appropriate measures to be taken by governments and agro-industrial concerns to safeguard the environment.

FAO's assistance to governments to safeguard the environment is not only continuing but being strengthened according to the principles of sustainable development and, in particular, in implementation of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. In the context of the development of indigenous African agroindustries, the FAO publication "Hides and Skins Improvement in Developing Countries" is now being revised to exclude the use of chemicals found to be harmful to the environment.

Forestry in Support of Agriculture: The Tropical Forestry Action Plan

The Conference:

requested that the work of regionalizing the Tropical Forestry Action Plan be pursued in order to produce sub-regional and regional cooperation programmes for Africa as soon as possible.

Action is pursued to adapt the Tropical Forestry Action Plan to the specific problems and potentials of the African region, and a document entitled "Tropical Forestry Action Plan: Implementation in Africa" was submitted to and endorsed by the Eighth Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission. Implementation of the TFAP in Africa at regional and sub-regional levels is being actively pursued along the lines recommended by the Commission.

NINETEENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Bangkok, Thailand, 11 - 15 July 1988

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

FAO's Activities in the Region

The Conference:

requested the FAO Secretariat to take due account of and reflect the views expressed by the Member Nations, while formulating the priorities and programmes for 1990-91.

The major issues on which Member Nations expressed views include environmental problems for agricultural development, land degradation, deforestation, rainfed agriculture, role of biotechnology in development of crops and livestock, disease control and quarantine management for livestock, nutritional guidelines for food and agricultural planning, wildlife conservation and national park management, community forestry, forestry education and research. Member Nations' views have duly been taken into account in formulating the priorities and programmes proposed in the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91.

suggested that at its future sessions, the priorities for the biennium immediately succeeding should be considered by the Conference.

As in the past, Member Nations will be invited to express at the Regional Conference their views on the priorities to be considered for the succeeding biennium, when reviewing FAO action in the region.

suggested that regional cooperation in the management of problem soils be strengthened, and welcomed FAO's proposal to hold an expert consultation on problem soils.

An Expert Consultation on the Management of Problem Soils is under preparation and is expected to be held in Bangkok in October 1989. A publication has been issued on efficient fertilizer use in a specific category of problem soils, namely the acid upland soils of the humid tropics. A further publication on management of specific problem soils covers improved practices for tropical peat areas.

suggested that increased assistance should be provided to traditionally rice-producing countries to establish and strengthen wheat production programme, while noting the need for them to take cognizance of comparative advantages.

Wheat production programmes have been strengthened particularly in Vietnam and Thailand. Wheat production in Bangladesh has been declining due to depressed prices.

suggested that additional research and development support be given to crops such as pulses, oilseed crops, minor export crops and roots and tubers to improve their production and that FAO should collaborate closely with relevant organizations of the UN system in the Region.

Strategies for regionally coordinated research and development activities have been prepared for different ecological sub-regions:

- improved production and post-harvest of exportable high value, minor tropical fruits in humid and sub-humid regions of Southeast Asia;
- development of easily transported and marketed temperate fruit and nut crops in poor, hilly and mountainous zones of Asia;
- increased production of tropical fruits in the South Pacific region for local consumption and processing, in order to improve diets.

FAO is presently operating a regional project RAS/82/002 - TCDC for Research and Development of Food Legumes and Coarse Grains in the Tropics and Sub-Tropics of Asia. Phase III of the project, with emphasis on technology transfer and post-harvest handling of secondary crops, including pulses, soybean, groundnut (major oilseed crops) and coarse grains has been prepared and UNDP has in principle agreed to finance it. A regional project on roots and tubers is operational in the Pacific Island countries and will continue to operate for at least the next couple of years. Several of the countries, such as Indonesia and China, will continue to receive FAO support for intensification of soybean production and its diversifying food uses.

FAO has collaborated closely with ESCAP CGPRT Center in analysing socio-economic aspects of production of coarse grains and legumes. FAO has sub-contracted a part of the above-mentioned regional project to CGPRT Center to analyse production constraints and marketing of selected grain legumes and coarse grains in a few countries of the region.

supported FAO's programme of work on analysis of problems and prospects of oilseed production and the establishment of a regional network to promote TCDC in this sector. It was suggested that similar networks for cotton and vegetables also be established.

Two regional expert consultations, one on cotton and the other one on vegetables were organized. Pursuant to the recommendations of these consultations, regional TCDC networks both on cotton and vegetables have been established. More than a dozen national leading institutions on both these crops in the region have joined the networks. Under the auspices of the Network on Cotton, a meeting on hybrid cotton production has been planned. Successful experiences of cotton production under humid condition are being documented.

The Regional Network on Vegetables provides the forum for TCDC activities for a UNDP/FAO regional project operating in the region. An expanded regional project on vegetables to encompass most of the major vegetable producing countries has been prepared and submitted to

UNDP for funding support. A project on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in vegetables has also been prepared and submitted for UNDP support.

suggested that attention be given to promoting all aspects of horticulture development including production, harvesting, processing and marketing.

Horticultural crop diversification for smallholdings and homesteads has been promoted, particularly with a view to upgrading the role and status of women in agricultural production, through the adoption of crop options giving the possibility of earning higher incomes (mushrooms in Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Vietnam, Nepal, Bhutan; spices and aromatic herbs etc., in Sri Lanka, Indonesia).

suggested greater information dissemination and strengthening of institutional capabilities in biotechnology.

The proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91 includes a new post of Agricultural Industries Officer to handle additional activities in the field of biotechnology. This will permit enhancing FAO assistance to member countries in the region in information dissemination and strengthening of institutional capabilities in biotechnology in food and agro-industrial processing and specifically fermentation. A regional expert consultation on the role of biotechnology in crop production and protection will be organized in the 1990-91 biennium. In the field of livestock, the Regional Network on Biotechnology will continue to provide member countries with information on innovative biotechnologies directly applicable to enhance livestock production.

urged FAO to take special cognizance of problems faced by small farmers in the formulation of programmes and projects such as access to factors of production, markets information and training.

FAO continues to take special cognizance of the problems of the small farmers. When new projects are formulated, small farmers' problems are highlighted in the proposal under a separate item called Special Considerations. This is now also being followed in UNDP/FAO projects. Such projects containing these Special Considerations include the following:

- a) Improving Small Farmers Access to Markets by Strengthening the Rural Primary Networks in Developing Asian Countries (for Japanese funding);
- b) Improving National Food Security Planning and Implementing in South Asian Countries within the Framework of Collective Self-Reliance;
- c) Agrarian Settlement for Landless Agricultural Workers in the Philippines (in cooperation with ANGOC).

Apart from the projects, small farmers' problems are addressed under Regular Programme activities. Small farmers' access to agricultural inputs, credit, extension services, marketing, income generating activities, etc. are included in the proposed Regular Programme activities for 1990-91.

urged FAO to maintain priority support to the integration of women in its future programme of work.

FAO has further intensified its efforts in the Asia and the Pacific Region in support of women in development activities. In this regard, new projects were approved in the following countries: China, Nepal and Viet Nam. Upon requests received from respective governments, FAO launched project formulation missions to Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan and the Philippines. In addition to the country level activities, FAO also organized a regional workshop in Thailand, with participants from Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. The workshop was planned in order to review planning and implementation aspects of programmes and projects assisting women farmers in ASEAN countries.

Two studies were carried out to analyse the land rights of women in the countries of Asia and the Pacific.

Studies indicate that, in agricultural extension work, the highest proportion of women workers are in the Asia and Pacific Region, particularly in the Philippines, Thailand and Sri Lanka. FAO is interested in the experience of some countries in the region for the Global Consultation on Agricultural Extension and for future plans of action in this field of work. Consequently, in 1989 case studies were conducted by FAO in the Philippines and Thailand on women agricultural extension workers as an approach to increasing women's participation in extension sponsored activities. A training guide for extension workers on integrating rural women into the agricultural extension clientele will be produced by FAO during the next biennium.

supported FAO's initiative in establishing the Asian network for food and nutrition as a means for promoting TCDC in this area and suggested that activities such as determining dietary energy requirements, preparation of dietary guidelines, use of nutrition indicators and nutrition education and awareness be undertaken by the network.

A TCP project has been implemented for establishing an Asian network for South East Asian countries, with its headquarters in Indonesia, to promote TCDC approach for prevention of Vitamin A deficiency through exchange of information and technology. Also it is expected that a network of institutions will be formed for promotion of underexploited traditional food crops after the regional workshop, to be held in Nepal in September 1989. Both these networks will work in close collaboration with Asian networks on nutrition and support their activities. Activities related to determining dietary energy requirements, preparing dietary guidelines, use of nutrition indicators and nutrition education have been undertaken, and technical assistance will continue in countries of the region. A manual detailing the practical application of human energy requirements has been developed and is to be published in the final months of the present biennium and used in country-level workshop training for agricultural planners in the 1990-91 biennium. A project for the field trial of specific nutrition indicators is operational in Indonesia (TCP/INS/8954(A)) and a project proposal for the identification of nutritionally at risk communities and geographical areas using selected nutrition indicators is being considered for the Philippines. In addition, assistance in

the use of nutrition indicators have been provided to planners in Vietnam and further work will be undertaken in Nepal, Bangladesh and Laos.

suggested that FAO provide policy guidance and technical assistance in marketing and related post-harvest activities and export promotion to ease the Region's transition into the nineties.

The Prevention of Food Losses Programme (PFL) has eight operational projects in the region at a total cost of US\$ 3.5 million. Those projects related to export promotion are largely connected with rice parboiling in Myanmar, Thailand and the Philippines. Policy assistance and technical assistance in marketing is provided by FAO and the Asian Food Marketing Associations (AFMA). PFL is presently looking at possibilities of linking its UNDP-supported regional network RAS/86/180 - inter-country cooperation in post-harvest technology and quality control for food grains - with AFMA so as to better link marketing and related post-harvest activities in the region.

suggested intensification of efforts in the marine fisheries development particularly in the areas of comprehensive stock assessment and improved fisheries management.

An agreement has been reached with ICLARM for the preparation of a tropical fish data base and a common software for stock assessment using methods adapted to the tropical stocks. In addition a special software package has been elaborated for bio-economic analysis of shrimp fisheries, a major item for Southeast Asian fisheries. Reviews of the state of stocks in Southeast Asia have been prepared covering multi-species fisheries and research in Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. A Symposium on Artificial Reefs and Fish-attracting Devices (FADs) as Resource Management and Enhancement Tools in IPFC will take place in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in May 1990.

called on FAO, as the coordinating agency, to accelerate the implementation of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Implementation of the TFAP in the Asia-Pacific Region is actively pursued and a document entitled "Tropical Forestry Action Plan in the Asia-Pacific Region" prepared for consideration by the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission at its Fourteenth Session in December 1989.

Food Production for Nutritional Adequacy in Asia-Pacific Region

The Conference:

suggested that FAO provide technical backstopping to country level workshops comprising agricultural planners and nutritionists. The proposed Asian Network for Food and Nutrition should coordinate the work on dietary guidelines.

Country level workshops to train agricultural planners and nutritionists regarding the integration of nutrition objectives into agricultural and rural development planning have been held in countries of the region (Philippines and Indonesia). Based on these experiences a

training package for use in other countries of the region has been developed and will be used in the training workshop planned for later this year in Bangladesh. The training package will be published during the 1990-91 biennium.

Progress and Problems of Livestock Development in the Region

The Conference:

suggested that the proposal of Pakistan to establish a Regional Centre for Buffalo Research and Training be considered.

FAO has kept this recommendation under review with a view to mobilizing necessary financial resources as well as other requirements. Consultations with interested governments will continue in this respect. In the meantime, support to buffalo development continues through the existing regional network and the Buffalo Development Centre.

requested FAO to help countries develop programmes for genetic improvement of indigenous resources, based on exotic breeds, adapted to local conditions.

A Workshop on the Application of Open Nucleus Breeding Systems (ONBS) to Dairy Cattle and Buffalo in Developing Countries was held in June 1989. The aim was to apply new methods of genetic selection and improvement, especially in situations where progeny testing could not be used. Participants from China, India and Pakistan took part. Proceedings are to be published.

Seeds funds and technical advice have been supplied for the application of Open Nucleus Breeding Systems for the improvement of indigenous breeds of pigs in China.

A Workshop on Livestock/Tree-Cropping Systems of Production was held in Malaysia in December 1988. One of the issues addressed was the genetic improvement of indigenous sheep breeds. A project proposal has been prepared and submitted to UNDP for funding. A second project proposal aimed at the genetic improvement of indigenous sheep breeds in Pakistan is currently under preparation to be submitted for UNDP funding.

requested FAO to accord priority to biotechnology, especially animal reproduction, disease diagnosis and control.

The application of biotechnology to animal reproduction, disease diagnosis and control is being supported by FAO in the region by: a) survey and report of national activities on research resources, opportunities and needs; b) expert consultation of specialists from the region in October 1988; c) FAO/UNDP Regional Project for Application of Biotechnology to Animal Production and Health (RAS/89/001). The first activity will be a workshop to draw up a regional workplan.

suggested that FAO assist countries, upon request, in preparing comprehensive studies and in organizing national training courses on livestock pricing and marketing policies.

FAO is yet to receive such requests from member countries to assist them in the preparation of comprehensive studies and organization of national training courses on livestock pricing and marketing policies. FAO continues to keep under review livestock pricing and marketing policies in the region.

suggested that FAO assist Member Nations in improving the data base in the livestock sector.

FAO continues to provide technical assistance to Member Nations in improving the data base in the livestock sector, through the promotion of agricultural censuses and surveys, the formulation and backstopping of agricultural statistics' projects, the conduct of national training centres, one of which was organized in collaboration with the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific in July/August 1988 and through the convening of meetings of the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics, the last of which was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in August 1988. A technical manual on collecting livestock statistics will be published in the 1990-91 biennium.

Agroforestry for Improved Land Husbandry

The Conference:

emphasized that Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) has a key role to play in promoting agroforestry. International organizations like FAO and International Council for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) should facilitate the process of sharing of knowledge and expertise on agroforestry among developing countries.

A preparatory assistance document for agroforestry system research and development in the region has been prepared. By fostering technical cooperation between the 13 member countries through a regional network of institutions, this project will contribute to the exchange of information and expertise and promote adapted training in the field of land use and agroforestry. Studies underway in Nepal, Indonesia and the Philippines will provide information on successful agro-silvo-pastoral projects emphasizing potentials and constraints in planning and implementation. In the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91, preparatory activities are envisaged for the establishment of a regional network on agroforestry.

suggested that FAO should also consider organizing a regional meeting on agroforestry.

A regional meeting on agroforestry will be organized in Bangkok by the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. Project profiles and proposals will be prepared on the basis of the findings and recommendations of this expert consultation, to be held in late 1989.

suggested that FAO continue to give high priority to developing extension organization and methods.

The FAO Forestry Department has published FAO Forestry Paper No. 80 "Forestry Extension Methods", the second in a series of three dealing with forestry extension. The preceding publication, "Forestry Extension Organization" (FAO Forestry Paper No. 66) dealt with the establishment and organization of forestry extension activities, and the most recently published one (1988) is Forestry Paper No. 85 "Forestry Extension Curricula".

SIXTEENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE

Cracow, Poland, 23 - 26 August 1988

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

FAO Programme in the Region

The Conference:

suggested that ESCORENA continue keeping itself under constant review in order to allow for its own evolution, and to monitor advances in technology and changes in world economic realities.

Structures, programmes and activities of ESCORENA have been periodically reviewed by the European Research Networks Advisory Committee (ERNAC), the Coordination Board of each network, the Regional Office for Europe and also by some participating countries, and adjusted in accordance with the established priorities.

recommended concentration of activities on selected priority areas of European agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and stressed the need for cooperation with the UN/ECE and other international organizations.

The following topics had been selected as priority areas of European agriculture: research on crop improvement in less favourable environments, non-food agricultural production and land use, environmentally sound low-input farming, biotechnology, agricultural economics and policy, farm income, cost-reducing and energy saving technologies, rural development and protection of agricultural environment. Research cooperation on flax production, biological farming, agricultural economics and policy and socio-economic programmes were initiated in the 1988-89 biennium.

All new activities are undertaken in cooperation with the ECE Committee on Agricultural Problems and interested non-governmental international organizations, as a common working or study group, experts meeting/consultation or other joint activities.

suggested that networks be evaluated on the basis of the criteria set out by the European Research Networks Advisory Committee (ERNAC) and those networks no longer necessary be phased out in order to allow for new activities within ESCORENA and CNRE.

The European Research Networks Advisory Committee (ERNAC), at its first meeting in April 1989, overviewed both ESCORENA and CNRE and evaluated the activities of the Olive Research Network. ERNAC agreed with the phasing out of the Maize Network and reducing the activities of CNRE with the exception of the solar energy and bio-mass networks.

welcomed initiative of the FAO Regional Office for Europe to transform the project on Development of Integrated Farm Energy Systems into a fully self-sustaining activity.

During the second semester of 1988, a business development plan was formulated for the creation of a mixed international company, the REDC (Renewable Energy Development Corporation). The Sixth Technical Consultation of the UNDP Project (Rome, 27-28 February 1989) decided that marketing of the proposal with potential industrial investors should start immediately.

The 26th Session of the FAO European Commission on Agriculture (Porto, Portugal 23-26 May 1989), established the Steering Committee of the REDC and approved its terms of reference. Seven countries (Greece, France, Israel, Italy, Poland, Portugal and Yugoslavia) decided to participate in the activities of the Steering Committee directly, or through public enterprises. The Federal Republic of Germany and Hungary expressed their interest in participating in the Steering Committee, but were not yet in a position, at the time of the meeting, to come out in favour of REDC.

It was recommended that the Steering Committee meet at the earliest possible date and that UNITAR/UNDP Centre on Small Energy Resources, the UNSTD/UNDP Technological Information Pilot System, as well as UNDP and FAO be invited to attend the meeting. Subsequently, Italy and France indicated that they were willing to jointly take the lead, on a European cooperative basis, in the preparation of the Company. The meeting of the REDC Steering Committee will take place during the first week of November 1989.

supported fully the socio-economic programmes in the region and proposed the establishment of a network in this field.

The Technical Consultation on Research in Agricultural Economics and Policy in Europe will be held at Nielborow (Poland) 16-20 October 1989. The Consultation will analyse the basic economic problems facing European agriculture in order to define the need for joint research, adopt the rules of the Working Group and prepare a programme of work for 1990-91. The Consultation will discuss some selected topics relevant to European agricultural policies, such as agricultural policy costs, investment in agriculture and rural development aspects within agricultural policies.

recommended continuation of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control Programme.

At the 28th Session of the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease held in Rome in May 1989, it was unanimously agreed that the activities promoted by the Commission should be continued and further strengthened through new activities.

expressed satisfaction with the forestry activities in the region and underlined the need for strengthening these activities.

Close collaboration was continued with the FAO/ECE Joint Timber Committee and the ad hoc Working Group on Impact of Air Pollution on Forests of the European Forestry Commission. In this connection, work

was carried out by an Expert Panel, established within the framework of the ad hoc Working Group, on improving the comparability of large-scale surveys on increment and standing volume, under the overall coordination of the Federal Research Centre for Forestry and Forest Products in Hamburg, Federal Republic of Germany. FAO's Forestry Department also gave expert advice at the German Government Hearing on the issue in June 1989. An FAO officer visited Poland, at the request of the Government, to assist in drawing up programmes and action plans in this field. A training course in forest fire management and control was organized for participants in the Mediterranean Region in collaboration with ICONA, Spain and CIHEAM (the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies). Arrangements were made for continuing this cooperation on a permanent, yearly basis. Fire prevention and control continued to be one of the priority areas in the work programme of Silva Mediterranea.

In the framework of Silva Mediterranea, increased attention is given to stimulating regional cooperation for the prevention and control of forest fire in the Mediterranean Region through the strengthening of the research network of forest fire management and training of trainers.

During the Sixteenth Session of the EFC Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds held in Aix-en-Provence, June 1988, a joint FAO/IUFRO Symposium was held on the "Effects of Dying Forests on Watershed Management and Torrent and Avalanche Control".

Integration of Environmental Aspects in Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery Policies in Europe

The Conference:

suggested that FAO could play a particularly important role in improving cooperation on environmental problems since it provides a meeting place for all interested countries; and

expressed the wish that higher priority be given to environmental matters in FAO. This should be reflected in more comprehensive methods and increased inter-disciplinary action.

FAO has progressively given higher priority to environmental issues and has continued working with all its member countries on environmental issues, especially as related to sustainable agriculture, conservation, maintenance of biological diversity, environmental impact assessment and integration of environment and development planning. Sustainable development is a programme priority in the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91.

suggested that environmental issues be included on the agenda of the next Regional Conference.

"Socio-Economic Aspects of Environmental Policies on European Agriculture" will be proposed as a main topic for the Seventeenth FAO Regional Conference for Europe (Venice, Italy, 3-7 April 1990).

adopted unanimously a Declaration on agriculture, environment and cooperation and concluded that FAO activities in the Region should, as far as possible, be further strengthened and broadened along the lines set out in the Declaration.

A number of steps have been taken to improve the exchange of information and co-ordination of activities between FAO, ECE and other international governmental and non-governmental organizations: (i) all new activities in the European region are organized jointly between FAO and the organizations concerned (EEC, SMEA and professional NGO's); (ii) it was agreed that the chairman and vice-chairman of the ECE Committee on Agricultural Problems participate regularly in the FAO/ECE Sessions and the meetings of the Executive Committee; the chairman of ECA will be invited to take part in the annual sessions of ECE/CAP; (iii) the problems and conditions facing future joint or back-to-back sessions of the two bodies were discussed; (iv) the scientific coordinators of ESCORENA networks and other working groups established working contacts with the representatives of the European NGO's.

TWENTIETH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Recife, Brazil, 2 - 7 October 1988

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

Food and Agriculture Situation and Outlook in the Region

The Conference:

requested FAO to update the study on tobacco made by the Organization in 1982.

In response to requests that the study on the economic significance of tobacco (ESC: Misc. 83/1) be updated, work was undertaken to assess the economic impact of the crop, both in developing and developed countries. The findings were summarized in a document entitled "The Economic Significance of Tobacco" (CCP: 89/17) of February 1989, which was submitted to the Fifty-seventh Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (12-16 June 1989). The full study is being finalized and, as recommended by the CCP, will be published in due course.

Potentials for Agricultural and Rural Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Conference:

suggested that the background documents (the Main Report and the five Annexes) be widely distributed, as they had been well prepared and contained a wealth of information.

The Study on "Potentials for agricultural and rural development in Latin America and the Caribbean" has been widely distributed to all the Governments of the region, to concerned sub-regional, regional and international institutions, to institutes and universities in the region, to selected individuals, organizations and universities located outside the region, and to other UN bodies' representatives stationed in the region.

urged FAO to provide assistance to Member Nations, at their request, in the formulation and execution of agricultural and rural development strategies and plans. This should be done in cooperation with other governmental and non-governmental organizations working in the Region, especially those with a mandate similar to that conferred on FAO two years ago.

Technical missions were fielded to assist over ten countries in their efforts to integrate macroeconomic policies and guidelines of the Regional Plan of Action into their agricultural planning procedures and methodologies. Upon specific request from four countries, TCP projects have been formulated to assist them. During 1989 the Regional Office has organized two international round tables as a

follow-up to the Plan of Action, one dealing with national experiences within the framework of the Plan and the other dealing with the integration of its guidelines into the programmes of higher agricultural education.

The objectives, recommendations and guidelines of the Regional Plan of Action have been incorporated into the regional, sub-regional and national courses in agricultural planning given by the regional project PROCAPLAN (GCP/RLA/082/ITA). Similarly, they were introduced in the advanced international courses sponsored by the project and offered by universities in Brazil and Italy.

In five countries of the region, FAO has contracted the services of national non-governmental organizations to study and advise on planning methodologies and techniques related to specific aspects of the recommended strategies and policies. Technicians, specialists and officials from planning units and non-governmental organizations of six countries of the region have participated in TCDC activities related to agricultural and rural development planning.

Special efforts and increased resources are being allocated to meet member countries' requests in the above mentioned fields. In particular, TCP projects were approved in 1989 to collaborate with Jamaica, Mexico and Nicaragua, and others in Argentina and Venezuela, are expected to be approved during the second half of 1989 in the area of agricultural strategies and policies. Short-term missions were fielded to Ecuador, Mexico (with IICA's participation) and Venezuela in the same areas. In the field of rural development, advice was given to the Andean Initiative Against Rural Poverty, and discussions with countries were maintained, in the Fifth Latin American and Caribbean Government Consultation on the WCARRD Follow-up (August 1989), and a High-level WCARRD Inter-Agency Follow-up Missions were fielded to Surinam and Ecuador in the second half of 1989. On project analysis and investment, TCP assistance will be provided to Colombia (Rehabilitation Plan) and Argentina (Arid Zones).

requested the Director-General to make every possible effort to assist Governments in the region that so request to put into effect the proposals contained in the Plan of Action.

The Regular and Field Programme activities in the region are guided by the priorities and policy recommendations contained in the Regional Plan of Action (RPA) and background documents. Since the RPA is sufficiently broad to cover essentially all substantive activities, the Organization's entire programme of work for the region should be considered as a follow-up to the RPA. Most of current FAO regional programmes, ECDC and TCDC activities are well in line with the recommendations of the RPA and will be strengthened and adapted, in so far as possible, to meet the objectives of the national plans of action.

Assistance has been offered to member countries in formulating national agriculture and rural development plans of action, policies and projects providing technical assistance, information and advice. The Organization will also cooperate with member countries in assessing the possible harmful effects of the external debt and economic adjustment measures on food security, agricultural production and

trade, rural areas and people, and in formulating programmes and projects to counter adverse consequences.

The Director-General has offered governments collaboration in their efforts to mobilize additional resources from the international community or bilateral programmes. Missions have been fielded, TCP projects funded, special assistance provided in the identification and formulation of projects for internal or international financing, and agencies from the donor community and technical assistance institutions have been addressed regarding the importance of increasing the allocation of resources in support of the RPA.

Recognizing the need for a broad based coordinating body to monitor the execution of all FAO's follow-up actions to the RPA, the Director-General established a Task Force entrusted with these functions.

requested that FAO, as the United Nations technical agency specialized in food and agriculture, allot sufficient resources in its Regular Programme to help mobilize external funds from the international community to carry out the proposals and measures spelt out in the Plan of Action.

Within the restricted resources, provision is made in the 1990-91 biennium for the mobilization of external funds from the international community to implement the proposals and measures contemplated in the Regional Plan of Action. It is expected, for instance, that the level of TCP allocations in support of the promotion of investment projects in the Latin America and Caribbean countries will represent a higher percentage than those allocated in previous biennia. In addition, the Organization, through its Investment Centre, will continue to mobilize external and domestic investment for agricultural and rural development in the countries of the region, in line with the proposals made in the Regional Plan.

RLAC and JLAC have apportioned special resources related to the mobilization of external funds in support of the RPA. Among them: a) assistance to member countries in formulation of project proposals; b) creation of a Task Force for the preparation of project proposals for submission to external international financing; c) request to Regional Officers to include in mission reports project profiles amenable to external funding; d) funding of case studies on the enhancement of Governments' institutional capacity for sectoral development, including negotiating for external assistance; e) funding and organization of follow-up activities, specially through international round tables, meetings and consultancies, and f) training and TCDC activities in financial management of agricultural and rural development plans and projects.

suggested that FAO intensify its activities in support of agroindustry in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Ongoing activities in the region are apiculture (4 projects), food processing (6 projects), and wool preparation (one project). In addition, there are three projects in the planning stage on wheatless bread.

suggested an increase in FAO technical assistance in identifying, designing, formulating and executing development projects financed by international institutions.

The Investment Centre has been successfully providing assistance to the countries of the Latin America and Caribbean region for improving their capacity to identify, formulate and execute sound investment projects. At the request of member countries as well as of international financing institutions, FAO will continue providing a wide range of investment support services, to generate external and domestic resources for investment in agriculture and rural development in the region.

suggested that efforts be continued for incorporating into the development strategy considerations derived from the analysis of relations between the State and the private sector as well as of the role of transnational enterprises.

Instructions in this respect were sent to FAO officers working in this fields in the region. Special studies on the relations between the State and the private sector and the new role of agricultural planning in the region (with emphasis on decentralization and participation of farmers' organizations) are being prepared. As regards the role of transnational enterprises, the host developing countries can improve their share of gains in their dealings with transnational enterprises. To this end, developing countries receive assistance, upon request, from the UN Centre for Transnational Corporations which is the lead agency on this subject, and with which FAO collaborates closely. Moreover, in the Central American banana producing countries, where transnational enterprises play an important role, the relationship between transnational enterprises, national banana growers and host country governments is continuously being redefined according to changing economic and political factors affecting various parties.

requested the substantiation of the specific recommendations and the technical assistance to detain the alarming loss of the region's phyto-genetic resources.

With regard to the substantiation of specific recommendations, FAO has played a crucial role in the establishment of the "Regional Cooperation and Conservation Programme on Plant Germplasm" for the region, and is contributing, through the implementation of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, to improve the situation of forest genetic resources in the region.

FAO is assisting member countries in the region to conserve and maintain their plant genetic resources by: (i) raising public awareness; (ii) strengthening national and regional capabilities and structures; and (iii) providing support to carry out projects for the collection, management, storage, evaluation, documentation and use of their plant genetic resources. Through the International Fund for Plant Genetic Resources, FAO has financed in 1989 three regional post-graduate training courses on the subject.

recommended that consideration be given, within the strategy of the Plan of Action, to a regional programme for aquacultural development with the support of FAO.

In implementation of this recommendation, the Italian-funded AQUILA project has held six national training courses, six regional training courses, seven regional workshops, 29 research projects with national institutions, 18 country sectorial reviews, and has published and distributed 14 papers; 15 others are in press. Six countries are involved in the System of Reference on Research in Aquaculture. These activities have been supported by inputs from the Regular Programme and through the work of the COPESCAL Working Party on Aquaculture. FAO also supported the Sixth Symposium of the Asociación Latinoamericana de Acuicultura.

FAO Activities in the Region

The Conference:

reiterated its request for an expanded emergency assistance to the countries seriously affected by Hurricane Gilbert.

To rehabilitate and restore cash crops of small farmers of Jamaica in areas most severely affected by Hurricane Gilbert, a TCP project "Hurricane Emergency Rehabilitation Assistance" was approved on 24 October 1988 with a total budget of US\$ 25,000. Three tons of vegetable seeds were provided to replant farmers' holdings.

In view of the magnitude of losses incurred by the agricultural sector of Jamaica, additional emergency assistance was provided of some of the most urgently required agricultural inputs to restore food production as rapidly as possible. On 6 January 1989, another TCP project "Rehabilitation of Agriculture Following Hurricane Gilbert" was approved with an allocation of US\$ 150,000 for the purchase of planting and crop protection materials, supplies and small equipment.

Although Hurricane Gilbert also struck Cuba, Haiti, Mexico and the Dominican Republic, no assistance was requested from FAO.

emphasized the urgent need for Latin America and the Caribbean to receive a larger share in the distribution of the Organization's resources and the allocation of UNDP funds.

8.5 percent of the estimated total resources, i.e. both Regular Budget and extra-budgetary, to be made available to the Organization in the 1988-89 biennium was allocated to the region. In the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91, this percentage increases to 9.6 percent. The level of approvals under the Technical Cooperation Programme to support priority activities in the countries of the region has increased during 1988 and it is expected to continue to grow during the 1990-91 biennium, depending on the eventual level of the Programme of Work and Budget to be approved by the FAO Conference in November 1989. With respect to a larger share in the allocation of UNDP resources, the issue has been put forward for the consideration of UNDP, and it is expected that it will be taken into consideration when preparing the Fifth UNDP Programme. However, it is worth observing that during the present Fourth Cycle, the share of UNDP resources allocated to Latin America and the Caribbean for agriculture and natural resources has reached a level of 34 percent as against the 32 percent allocated during the Third Cycle.

requested that the Regional Office, with the assistance of the countries themselves, continue to identify and prepare regional and subregional projects that would meet the present needs of the region and coincide with the priorities of some donor countries, in order to secure their financing.

The Regional Office has established an interdisciplinary Task Force on Regional Development Projects to prepare project proposals in line with the priorities of member countries. Thirteen project proposals have been prepared by the Task Force, covering aspects from all major programmes, aimed at solving problems shared by most member countries. External financing required to make these projects operational is estimated in excess of US\$ 27 million.

FAO was invited to participate and submitted proposals to be integrated into the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America. The Regional Office identified, prepared and submitted 20 project proposals, of which 19 were incorporated in the list of projects integrating the Special Plan. The Plan is to be implemented with UNDP assistance in concert with Central American governments, donor countries and Specialized Agencies. Total funding needed for completion of the 19 projects reaches US\$ 28.5 million.

The Regional Office maintains as an ongoing activity an inventory with an increasing number of regional, sub-regional and TCP projects which are constantly discussed regarding their design, priority and technical aspects with relevant Headquarters units. Currently, three projects are being considered for Funds in Trust financing and eight TCP projects have been identified and prepared for future consultation.

Promoting Agroforestry for Improved Land Husbandry

The Conference:

requested FAO to increase its assistance to countries introducing viable agri-silvi-pastoral models as the most effective way of ensuring sustained use of the natural resources.

It has not been possible to undertake further action in response to the recommendation due to restricted budget resources in the 1988-89 biennium. FAO is keeping this recommendation under review with a view to its implementation in the next biennium.

recommended that the Technical Cooperation Network on Agroforestry be reinforced so that it could carry out its task even more effectively, and that FAO submit to UNDP a proposal for a regional project to promote agroforestry systems.

To comply with this recommendation, a consultant was engaged for review and updating of a previous regional project document. The proposed regional project "Agroforestry training and demonstration in Latin America and the Caribbean" will be operated through the national focal points of the Regional Technical Cooperation Network on Agroforestry and through different institutions involved in the promotion of agroforestry. The objectives are to make a regional inventory of

traditional and modern agroforestry systems, to set up an information system on agroforestry, to establish a network of pilot demonstration projects, to organize training activities at different levels, to assist participating countries in the formulation and implementation of agroforestry programmes and projects and to promote exchange of information and expertise in the field of agroforestry.

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

The Conference:

suggested that the FAO Regional Office provide an effective channel for communication between representatives of the Region on CGIAR and countries.

The Regional Office actively collaborates with Headquarters in promoting relationships with the international agricultural research centres (IARCs) of the region and the national agricultural research systems (NARS). Following the suggestion of the Conference, the Regional Office proposed that representatives of the CGIAR attend selected regional meetings relevant to agricultural research and with assured ample representation of member countries.

On a continuous basis, the Regional Office provides representatives with information and relevant documentation regarding agricultural research activities in the Region. This facilitates dissemination to member countries and helps the spreading abroad of findings, on the occasion of the representatives attendance at the bi-annual CGIAR meetings.

To foster communication between the representatives on CGIAR and member countries of the region, the Regional Office has also supported the proposal that the outgoing representative report to the Regional Conference on research activities and results obtained during his term.

requested that FAO, in consultation with countries' Permanent Representatives in Rome, study ways of organizing future Regional Conferences for Latin America and the Caribbean so as to make possible the organizations of debates that would enable Ministers of Agriculture to participate more for a short period of time.

The Director-General is taking measures to streamline the organization of Regional Conferences, and will consult the member countries' Permanent Representatives in Rome in due course.

NINETEENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE NEAR EAST

Muscat, Oman, 13 - 17 March 1988

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

Country Statements and General Debate

The Conference:

expressed its desire that the FAO Regional Office for the Near East be returned to the region in order that the Office may carry out its activities from within the region. The Conference therefore called upon the Director-General to include this issue in the Agenda for the forthcoming Conference of FAO (Twenty-fifth Session, 1989) for the necessary action to be taken.

This issue, after being discussed at the 94th Session of the Council, has been included in the provisional agenda of the 96th Session of the Council and of the Twenty-fifth Session of the FAO Conference, for decision.

Programme in the Region

The Conference requested FAO to:

continue providing advice on techniques for improved water management, including control of salinity and drainage problems.

FAO continued to provide advice to several governments in policy and technical aspects of planning the development and management of land and water resources for agricultural development in the region. Advice on techniques for improved water management was provided through regional, sub-regional training courses and seminars. A regional project for the promotion of the reclamation and re-use of wastewater for irrigation was launched in Cyprus, Egypt and Jordan in early 1988 and a sub-regional training course on reclamation and management of salt-affected soils is under preparation.

An expert consultation on water, soil and crop management relating to the use of marginal quality water will be held in Rome in October 1989. The agenda of the Tenth Session of the Regional Commission on Land and Water Use in the Near East which will be held in Amman, Jordan, 10-14 December 1989 includes several documents on the topic of efficient use of land and water resources in the Near East region.

continue its support to regional, sub-regional and intra-regional cooperation in seed and crop improvement, training and information.

FAO continued to assist regional, sub-regional and intra-regional cooperation in seed and crop improvement and training. Financial

support was provided to the University of Mohammed V, Rabat, Morocco to organize an "International Course on Advances in Plant Cell Culture and Biotechnology" for training junior scientists of the region to master the new techniques in the area of plant biotechnology and tissue culture. Technical assistance in helping develop healthier and superior plant material for farmers was also provided to several member countries in the region.

Preparatory work is under way for the organization of: (i) an Expert Consultation on Promotion of Cooperative Research and Development Activities on Nut Production to discuss possibilities of cooperation on research and formulation of recommendations for cooperative programmes; and (ii) a training course on Cereal Crop Improvement to assist national programmes in strengthening their capabilities both in research and production of major cereal crops in the region.

continue its cooperation programmes with ICARDA (International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas), ACSAD (Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands) and AOAD (Arab Organization for Agricultural Development) on seed development.

FAO's cooperation with AOAD, ACSAD and ICARDA was further strengthened. Two visits to these centres were made to explore the possibilities of undertaking joint activities on seed development and crop improvement. In cooperation with ICARDA and the Government of Turkey, a "Travelling Workshop on Cereals" was organized with the objective of bringing together cereal scientists to share Turkish experience in seed development for wheat and barley production in rainfed areas, particularly high altitude lands.

continue its assistance in promoting rational and safe use of pesticides and in adopting integrated pest management techniques.

Based on a baseline study carried out by national scientists in Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey, a regional study on integrated pest management of vegetables grown under cover was initiated with a view to developing a regional project. A full-scale regional project document on control of virus and virus-like diseases was prepared for submission to UNDP. FAO's assistance on various crop protection disciplines continued during the biennium.

A survey on the implementation of the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, which was intended to assist member countries in the region in implementing this Code, had to be postponed due to lack of funds.

continue its efforts in the establishment of a Regional Network of National Institutes for Agro-Industries Development in the Near East.

FAO has continued its efforts in the establishment of the Regional Network. In 1985 all Near East member countries were invited to participate in the network but, to date, out of the 26 member countries of the region, only ten expressed interest in joining the network, five countries indicated that they did not wish to participate and the remaining 11 countries did not respond. An Expert Consultation meeting to discuss the terms and conditions for the formation of the

network was originally planned for 1986 but has had to be postponed due to prevailing budgetary constraints. Efforts are being made to hold the Expert Consultation meeting in 1990 for the establishment of the network.

continue its support and assistance to member countries in improving and developing grassland, forage and feed resources.

Despite financial difficulties, direct support was provided to four member countries to assist them in evaluating native and introduced plant material for the improvement of range production and the rehabilitation of natural resources, and a training course to help trainees focus their attention on the merits of sound range management and forage production techniques was organized. Technical backstopping to the Regional Rangeland Development Project (RAB/84/025) was provided, covering Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Syria and Tunisia.

continue its support to the Near East Regional Cooperative Research and Development Network on Small Ruminants, the Regional Trust Fund projects (MINEADEP) and the Near East Regional Poultry Training and Development Centre.

FAO continued to provide support to the Small Ruminants Network including research, training and information exchange activities. A Network workshop on research and a regional training course on reproduction were held. Two publications were issued.

The Regional Animal Production and Health Project (MINEADEP) faced serious financial constraints due to the lack of contributions by a majority of member countries. However, the animal health activities on foot-and-mouth disease and on disease information systems have recently been strengthened.

The UNDP-assisted regional project on rinderpest eradication has been initiated with the coordination unit located in Baghdad, Iraq. Necessary support was also provided to the Near East Poultry Training and Development Centre at Amman, Jordan, which continued its training activities and advisory services to member countries. Technical reports on camels and on dairy cattle breeding have been published.

continue its support and technical advice to the Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (AARINENA).

FAO continued to provide support and technical advice to AARINENA and is also providing the Secretariat of this Association until AARINENA becomes fully operational. Support and technical assistance will also be provided to the Third General Conference of the Association which will be organized in Cairo, Egypt, 17-20 December 1989.

continue its efforts in supporting TCDC and ECDC activities, and to strengthen its cooperation with regional and international institutions such as ACSAD; AQAD; ICARDA; ICRISAT (International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics); and ISNAR (International Service for National Agricultural Research).

FAO continued its efforts in supporting TCDC and ECDC activities. The cooperation with international institutions and aid-giving agencies was further strengthened in spite of budgetary constraints. Significant progress was achieved at country level in strengthening national agricultural research and in promoting cooperative agricultural research network in priority areas as a suitable mechanism for the exchange of experience, information and strengthening TCDC.

Major achievements were recorded with the regional institutions concerned to focus countries' attention on the need to give higher priority in their development plans and programmes to agricultural research, and to embark on strengthening cross-linkages between national, regional and international institutions concerned.

In order to identify an action programme in support of ECDC, an Expert Consultation was held in Rome in December 1988. FAO's assistance focussed on harmonization of agricultural policies, sub-regional food security and agricultural trade, management of common resources and agricultural research. Several regional studies of direct relevance to TCDC and ECDC were published.

continue its efforts in promoting countries' participation in the utilization of AGRIS and CARIS systems.

The AGRIS/CARIS Classification Scheme, including the Manual for Data Collection and Manual Processing Data in the multilingual AGROVOC were translated and adopted into Arabic. Training tools/material in Arabic were prepared and training nationals at Arab AGRIS and CARIS Centres in the collection and indexing of data and use of the two systems continued. The Third Technical Consultation of Arab AGRIS and CARIS Centres, held in Cairo, Egypt 8-11 October 1989 was supported.

continue its assistance in strengthening remote sensing capabilities within the Region.

To improve and accelerate the Near East region's natural resources surveys and management, the FAO Remote Sensing Centre is providing technical assistance to eight projects (Algeria, Egypt (2), Iran, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan), funded by UNDP (3), TCP (3) and trust funds (2). Most of the projects are aimed at creating a level of self-sufficiency in the analysis and application of remotely sensed data through a programme of institution strengthening, thus developing the inherent country capability at the national level. It is anticipated that through the establishment of the new satellite receiving and dissemination facility being installed in Saudi Arabia, a greater regional capacity and level of cooperation will be developed.

continue its assistance to member countries in rural development by promoting agricultural education training and extension.

A significant portion of activities of assistance to member countries in the field of agricultural education, extension and training has been geared to the organization of and the participation in meetings, seminars, consultations, etc. A national workshop on Curriculum Development and Orientation for Rural Development was organized in

Khartoum, Sudan. Technical and financial assistance was provided and a paper was prepared and delivered. A similar national workshop was conducted in Syria, and workshops are planned in two other countries in the next biennium. National workshops on strategic extension campaign methodology were held in Algeria and Tunisia.

Ten monitoring, backstopping and project formulation missions were conducted in Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, Yemen Arab Republic and People's Democratic Republic of Yemen in the fields of agricultural education, agricultural extension, in-service training and related subjects. Projects on agricultural extension and education were formulated for Iraq, Pakistan, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen Arab Republic.

A number of case studies on agricultural extension approaches in the Near East region were undertaken in preparation for the Global Consultation on Agricultural Extension held in 1989.

continue its efforts in securing other governments' responses to the agreement of the Regional Centre on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in the Near East (CARDNE).

FAO has continued its efforts in securing other governments' responses to join the Regional Centre. So far, six Member Nations have already ratified the Agreement. The other States of the region, which were invited to the Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the establishment of the Centre, have not yet adhered to or ratified the Agreement. These Member Nations, however, were invited to send observers to participate in the First Session of the Governing Council that FAO organized in Amman, Jordan, 28 February - 2 March 1989, in order to launch the operation of the Centre.

continue its support to NENARACA.

FAO continued to give technical backstopping to NENARACA through the FAO Regional Marketing and Credit Officer stationed in Amman, Jordan and participated in their seminars and workshops presenting technical papers on selected topics. Assistance was provided in the formulation of a project document for financing the NENARACA future five years programme of work for submission to IFAD and other donors.

continue providing technical assistance to national food and nutrition institutions in the Region and promoting TCDC for regional and inter-country training activities in this field.

FAO provided direct technical assistance in various aspects of food and nutrition through staff visits and consultancies to Egypt, Iraq, Mauritania, Pakistan, Syria, Yemen Arab Republic and People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and to national food and nutrition institutions in the region.

A National Conference on Food and Nutrition Policies and Programmes was organized in Syria with the participation of a large number of governmental and non-governmental institutions concerned. National programmes/activities which aimed at strengthening nutrition-related programmes and/or promoting food control activities were respectively

launched in Iraq, Mauritania, Pakistan, and in Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Yemen Arab Republic and People's Democratic Republic of Yemen with the collaboration of national and regional institutions.

Four sub-regional studies on traditional foods in the Middle East, Egypt/Sudan, the Gulf States, and the Maghreb countries respectively, were carried out in cooperation with selected institutions in these sub-regions.

An inter-country meeting on nutrition surveillance was organized in November 1988 with the participation of nutritionists and food planners from 12 countries of the region to discuss the nutrition surveillance activities and recommend an action plan to strengthen these activities and to enhance cooperation in this field among countries of the region.

continue providing technical assistance to member countries in the analysis and monitoring of agricultural planning and policies, especially price policies, and continue its efforts in analyzing the impact of structural adjustment programmes on agricultural and rural development in the Region.

FAO provided assistance to several member countries in the analysis of agricultural planning and policies, mainly through field projects, e.g. Cyprus, Djibouti, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco and Sudan. A paper on "Economic Framework for Agricultural Adjustment Programmes: Options for Dealing with Deficits and Disequilibria" was prepared and presented at a seminar on "Structural Adjustment and Agriculture". Country case studies (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey) are being prepared for a regional workshop on "Selected Issues in Agricultural Policy Analysis in the Near East" aiming at deriving a set of problem-oriented recommendations to assist the Governments in dealing with the main issues in agricultural policy analysis.

provide further assistance to member countries in establishing and/or strengthening national early warning systems.

FAO, through the Food Security Assistance Scheme, is providing assistance to Afghanistan for setting up a crop forecasting and early warning system. A project formulation mission was mounted and a draft project document prepared, awaiting final approval by UNDP. A project for the development of national early warning system in Mauritania has been operational since January 1987.

Field activities for a project for the development of a crop forecasting and early warning system in Pakistan have been completed and follow-up work is being undertaken within the framework of overall support to statistical services. A project for assistance in strengthening remote sensing component of the early warning department in Somalia, operational since September 1986, is providing support to the early warning unit for acquisition and interpretation of remote sensing data for crop forecasting.

strengthen regional training activities and network arrangements among specialized institutions by providing training curricula, teaching materials and computer packages.

FAO's efforts in enhancing regional training programmes in agricultural planning and project analysis continued, particularly those in cooperation with regional and national institutions in the region, such as the SESRTCIC in Ankara, INP in Egypt and API in Kuwait.

Training institutes were assisted in organizing their activities, in providing trainers, in disseminating training material, etc. In 1988-89 more than 15 training workshops/seminars in project analysis were organized both at national and regional level, using the FAO-developed computer software "Project Data Analysis and Simulation Programme (DASI)" and "Agricultural and Population Planning Assistance and Training (CAPPA)". A pilot training course in policy analysis to be attended by participants from various training institutions in the region is planned to be held towards the end of 1989 in Cairo, Egypt.

continue its support to the Near East Network on Arid Land, Forest Restoration and Desertification Control, and to continue its assistance to countries on watershed management, afforestation, fuelwood production, sand-dune stabilization and conservation and management of forest resources.

FAO continued to support the Near East Network on Arid Land, Forest Restoration and Desertification Control within the frame of the regional project RAB/86/034 "Dune Mapping, Stabilization and Afforestation". A regional synthesis on dune vegetation and the state-of-the-art report on dune stabilization and afforestation techniques were produced and translated into Arabic.

An inter-country project on sand dune stabilization and afforestation for the Maghreb Arab Union was formulated for UNDP funding and is presently under finalization for implementation. The formulation of two other sub-regional projects, one for the Arab peninsula region and one for the other Near East countries, was initiated.

In the field of watershed management, guidance was given to the Governments of Iran, Morocco, Pakistan and Yemen Arab Republic, for the identification and formulation of specific projects on integrated management of mountain watersheds. Three FAO Conservation Guides were published, namely: Road Design and Construction in Sensitive Watersheds; Landslide Prevention Measures; and Slope Treatment Measures and Practices.

In the field of afforestation cum desertification control, three publications were completed: Arid Zone Forestry - a guide for field technicians; Role of Forestry in Combatting Desertification; and Field Manual and Technical Notes for Training Trainers on Dune Stabilization and Afforestation. A reference manual on forestry and nutrition which reviews the literature on relations between forest resources and food security was published. Work on nutritional indicators to be used in designing and implementing forestry projects has advanced considerably, and a guideline on this topic is forthcoming.

Intra-Regional Labour Mobility and Agricultural Development in the Near East Region

The Conference requested FAO to:

assist member countries in the formulation of national agricultural manpower plans, taking into consideration intra-regional labour mobility.

Assistance was provided, on request, to the Sudan in the assessment of manpower availability and needs and the impact of intra-regional labour mobility on the availability of skills for agricultural planning and policy analysis. Assistance was also provided to Iraq and Jordan on a similar subject. A field investigation is being conducted in collaboration with national researchers on the socio-economic conditions of pastoral groups affected by drought and their propensity to migrate out of pastoral life in search of alternative income-generating opportunities.

collaborate with other concerned international, regional and national agencies in collecting and disseminating agricultural labour market information and data and in conducting relevant in-depth case studies on labour mobility to assist member countries in improving the functioning and performance of their labour market.

FAO collaborated with concerned international, regional and national agencies in the preparation of worldwide estimates and projections of the economically active population in agriculture (agricultural labour force). This work has always been undertaken in close collaboration with the ILO Bureau of Statistics which, within the UN system, is responsible for collecting and disseminating agricultural labour market information and data.

An in-depth case study was conducted on "Selected Issues in Agricultural Policy Analysis" in Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey which, inter-alia, deals with improving the performance of labour markets in each country. A series of studies on the socio-economic aspects of the traditional "Hema" system of arid land management with emphasis on land tenure, access to resources, migration and employment by different social groups in the pastoral community, are being conducted in Jordan, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

continue to provide sound agricultural policy advice to ensure that migration and remittances promote agricultural development.

FAO continued to provide agricultural policy advice to countries of the region to ensure that remittances from migrants were invested in infrastructures capable of promoting agricultural development. Employment and migration were also analyzed in line with the recommendation of the Governmental Consultation on WCARRD Follow-up, held in Rabat, Morocco, July 1989.

advise agricultural banks and other financial institutions on designing rural credit and savings schemes and programmes, which would be instrumental in providing incentives for investment in agriculture and short-term credit facilities for farm inputs and in applicable agricultural technology.

FAO, in close collaboration with NENARACA, provided support to agricultural banks and other financial institutions in the region. Agricultural planning and policy advice were also provided under field projects to Cyprus, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Sudan, which covered analytical work on these recommendations, in particular: provision of incentives for investment in agriculture, expansion of credit facilities for farm inputs and promotion of rural savings.

assist member countries in the formulation of development programmes that encourage returning migrants to undertake agricultural productive activities utilizing their remittances.

FAO assisted member countries in the formulation of development programmes aiming at undertaking agricultural productive activities utilizing the migrants' remittances for agricultural investments with a view to encouraging the return of these migrants to their country of origin.

continue its efforts to assist member countries in promoting women's integration in agricultural development programmes.

FAO continued to assist member governments of the region in strengthening national efforts in reaching and assisting rural women more effectively.

A document on Rural Women and the Changing Socio-economic Conditions in the Near East was prepared and presented to the WCARRD Roundtable in Amman, Jordan, May 1989. Efforts were made towards reorientation of the women's programmes from the classical home economics approach into prevailing agriculture-rural development programmes. Two policy papers have been prepared as a support to national women in development efforts and assistance to different national institutions.

Studies on migration and changing women's roles in agricultural production in Djibouti, Mauritania, Somalia, Sudan have been initiated and will be discussed in a sub-regional workshop to be held in Somalia.

A policy document on women in forestry "Restoring the Balance: Women and Forest Resources" was published and is being followed by a manual on how to incorporate women's concerns in forestry projects. A film strip on women in forestry in Sudan was translated into Arabic and made into a video. It was based on one of a series of case studies on women in forestry which are being developed.

continue to assist in indigenous development and local adaptation of improved agricultural technologies, in particular in the introduction of economically-viable crops with different harvesting calendars, to accommodate labour shortages and to be compatible with the "seasonality", age and gender of returning migrants.

Technical assistance for economic and technical cooperation among developing countries in the region is being provided in developing regional and country-specific approaches for the formulation of manpower plans and strategies related to this complex issue. Support is being given for the adaptation and development of indigenous appro-

priate technologies which could provide the necessary opportunities for agricultural investment and growth.

A Round Table of Experts in Rural Development for the Near East, attended by a large number of experts and representatives from UN organizations was held in Amman, Jordan, 14-18 May 1989. Four background papers on important topics of priority to the region, among which "Rural Migration and its Impact on Agricultural Production and Rural Development in the Near East" were discussed, focussing on various recommendations made by the Nineteenth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East.

assist member countries in the organization and implementation of training programmes to enhance the required skills needed for intra-regional labour mobility and to meet the adjustment needs of returning migrants.

FAO organized several national and regional training courses with the aim of improving skills needed for the preparation and selection of agricultural investment projects and programmes. The enhanced capabilities of member countries in this respect will also be useful to returning migrants in guiding their investment decisions.

Energy for Rural and Agricultural Development in the Near East Region

The Conference requested FAO to:

promote practical regional training programmes for policy makers, economists and engineers in the economic analysis of energy requirements for the agricultural and rural sectors.

Due to budgetary constraints, regional training programmes for policy makers, economists and engineers for energy assessment and requirements in the agriculture and rural sectors could not be undertaken as desired. These regional training programmes will be promoted during 1990-91 within available resources.

promote integration of rural energy requirements in agricultural plans, in the application of proven technologies to new and renewable sources of energy in agriculture, and in training in related fields.

Resource constraints prevented the initiation of planned national studies on integration of rural energy requirements in agricultural plans and in the development and utilization of energy technologies in agriculture and rural areas based upon the appropriate use of new and renewable energy sources. These planned national studies will be initiated in 1990-91.

promote the utilization of new and renewable sources of energy in cooperative agro-processing activities at regional and sub-regional levels through the FAO Regional Network of National Institutes for Agro-Industrial Development in the Near East.

This request could not be satisfied inasmuch as the Regional Network has not been established as yet, despite all efforts made by FAO. FAO, however, continued to assist member countries of the region in

promoting the utilization of new and renewable sources of energy in the agro-industries sector.

Through a TCP funded project, assistance in the utilization of solar energy for cooking and baking was provided to the National Union of Women in Djibouti. This project introduced, for the first time, practical solar cooking and baking to the region and demonstrated that this simple technology can actually reduce imported energy and deforestation. A mobile demonstration workshop on the construction and use of solar box cookers was organized in Egypt, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen Arab Republic and People's Democratic Republic of Yemen in connection with the World Food Day observation.

assist member countries in carrying out a detailed assessment of energy resources and utilization in rural areas to provide an adequate data base for rural and agricultural energy planning.

FAO's programme to assist member countries of the Near East Region in carrying out detailed assessment of energy resources and utilization in rural areas was not fully implemented owing to resource constraints. However, during 1990-91 rural energy assessment and planning activities will be started drawing on the experience from other regions.

continue assisting member countries to strengthen their cooperative activities at regional and sub-regional levels by promoting networks and TCDC activities.

FAO continued to assist member countries of the region in strengthening their cooperative activities at regional and sub-regional levels. In this regard, during 1990-91, cooperation will be sought with the ESCWA energy programmes and member countries assisted in their efforts to strengthen cooperation activities, including TCDC at the regional and sub-regional level.

Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture

The Conference requested FAO to:

continue providing advice to member countries on site identification and feasibility of aquaculture projects in the region.

Advice on site identification and feasibility of aquaculture project in Libya was provided. Aquaculture being a programme priority in the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91, assistance in this field will be enhanced during the next biennium.

continue its support to member countries in the preparation of national plans for development and management of inland fisheries, aquaculture and, in particular, for the culture of high value species such as shrimp and sea bass.

Technical assistance and support were provided either through FAO missions to countries, or by visits made by national fisheries experts, or directly by the field based projects dealing with the

subject. Some national fish culture projects were identified in Afghanistan, Libya, Turkey and Saudi Arabia, which assist these countries in developing local technology and training of national staff in planning for the development of fish culture practices and the attraction of investment to the sub-sector.

identify and prepare regional and sub-regional projects for implementation, with the objectives of strengthening cooperation among member countries, promoting fisheries research and facilitating transfer of technologies in aquaculture.

Two major regional aquaculture projects are being implemented in the Mediterranean area. These projects (MEDRAP and AQUAMED), respectively financed by UNDP and Italy, would assist member countries in strengthening their cooperation in fish culture research, training, information, technology, and planning.

continue its efforts in establishing a Regional Network of National Research Institutes for the Development of Capture Fisheries and Aquaculture.

The long-term objective of the two regional aquaculture projects MEDRAP and AQUAMED is to establish the mentioned regional network. Two sub-regional centres are to be established by MEDRAP in Egypt and Algeria with this objective in mind, and would service the Eastern and Western Mediterranean areas respectively.

continue its support for the establishment of a sub-regional arrangement for the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden bordering countries within the framework of the Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (IOFC).

FAO continued supporting the establishment of such a sub-regional arrangement. During the 18th Session of the Commission of Fisheries (COFI), held in Rome in April 1989, many countries expressed the wish to see the sub-regional arrangement set up. The matter is to be discussed further during the IOFC Session in Seychelles in October 1989. FAO will follow-up.

continue to provide up-to-date information on fish markets through its Globefish Network and INFOSAMAK projects.

These two projects are providing the necessary assistance to the countries of the region. Fish trade among these countries, and between them and the major fish importers/exporters have been promoted. Continuing to provide such services will depend on the availability of funds.

include comprehensive training activities for national staff in various fields of inland fisheries and aquaculture when formulating and implementing projects and programmes designed for the development of this sector.

The training aspects of fisheries development has always been a key issue of fisheries projects executed by FAO, particularly after the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development held in 1984. This aspect of the development receives special attention in the new projects identified and formulated by FAO.

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

The Conference requested FAO to:

keep up its efforts to ensure effective representation of the region at CGIAR and to facilitate feed-back of the proceedings to member countries.

FAO continues its efforts to ensure effective representation of the region at CGIAR and facilitates feed-back of the proceedings to member countries. As high government officials appointed by governments cannot always attend CGIAR meetings because of their other obligations, FAO is studying alternative approaches to pursuit in this endeavour. The reports of the proceedings are circulated to member countries through the Regional Office as soon as they are received by the representatives.

include in the document on the regional representation to the CGIAR a statement on the status of research and technology development in the region.

A statement on the status of research and technology development in the region is included in the document on the regional representation to the CGIAR.

Date and Place of the Twentieth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East

The Conference requested the Director-General of FAO to take into consideration the kind invitation extended by the Republic of Tunisia to hold the Twentieth Session of the FAO Near East Regional Conference in Tunisia.

The Director-General expresses appreciation for this kind invitation and the Twentieth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East will be held in Tunis, Tunisia during the period 12-16 March 1990.