

conference

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IMPLEMENTATION OF 1990 REGIONAL CONFERENCE
RECOMMENDATIONS

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Sixteenth FAO Regional Conference for Africa	1 - 7
Twentieth FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific	8 - 14
Seventeenth FAO Regional Conference for Europe	15 - 18
Twenty-first FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean	19 - 29
Twentieth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East	30 - 42

SIXTEENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

Marakech, Morocco, 11 - 15 June 1990

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

Country Statements and General Debate

The Conference:

acclaimed the measures taken by the Director-General of FAO to control the screwworm fly, including the establishment of a Screwworm Emergency Centre for North Africa and of a trust fund, and asked that the efforts coordinated by FAO be pursued with the support of the donor community in collaboration with the other international organizations concerned.

Following the establishment of the Screwworm Emergency Centre for North Africa (SECNA) and related trust fund, FAO successfully mustered support from and the collaboration of the donor community and international organizations for the eradication of the New World screwworm. The implementation of a preparatory phase of the programme involved the transport and release of from 3.5 to 7 million sterile flies per week, for eight weeks, over the 6 600 km² infected area.

The main phase then commenced in February 1991 with operations being scaled up for the release of 40 million sterile insects weekly over the entire infested area, including an extension into Tunisia to provide a safety barrier. The good results obtained, up to the time of reporting, indicate the feasibility of total eradication, with only six cases of screwworm myiasis being detected in livestock over the first five months of the year compared to 1 046 in the same period in 1990 and no cases since. It is estimated that, provided present progress is maintained, total eradication may be declared by December 1991.

supported the efforts of the Director-General for increased FAO participation and involvement in the formation of structural adjustment strategies.

FAO will continue to provide assistance to member countries upon request for the preparation of Sectoral Structural Adjustment Programmes (SSAP), e.g. Senegal, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Mali. Priority accorded to this assistance is underscored by the establishment of a high level in-house Steering Committee and a Central Task Force.

Training activities will also continue following those initiated in Botswana, Chad, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda to build up capabilities for the formulation of food and agricultural policies, as well as analysis of the impact of macro, and sector policies on food and

agriculture production, consumption, trade and access to food. Moreover, a Regional Project for Training in Policy Analysis for sub-Saharan Africa is under consideration for UNDP funding.

The development by countries of comprehensive data for adjustment programmes and of relevant analytical tools is also given attention. For instance, the Department of Statistics of the University of Dar-es-Salaam was contracted to prepare a manual for the collection of data. A document dealing with: "Agricultural Policy Analysis: An Introductory Guide for Sub-Saharan Africa" was also prepared.

acknowledged the importance of maintaining and reinforcing FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), which allowed FAO to cope with both the needs of Member Nations and emergency situations.

An increase of US\$ 9.6 million for the TCP is included in the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for the 1992-93 biennium.

FAO Activities in the Region

The Conference:

recommended that the FAO Regional Office in Africa be strengthened and more responsibility delegated to it in order to effectively promote regional and sub-regional cooperation, in close partnership with the various regional and sub-regional bodies. It likewise recommended that the FAO country offices be strengthened.

Through the filling of a number of vacant posts in 1991, the substantive capacity of RAFR has been brought back to normal. The Regional Office also assumed full focal point responsibilities towards the Organization of African Unity (OAU). In this capacity, RAFR coordinated assistance to OAU in the establishment of the African Economic Community (AEC), including assistance in the formulation of a Common African Agricultural Programme (CAAP). This programme is expected to be a determining factor in shaping economic and technical cooperation in the agricultural sector among African States, directly and through the OAU and other Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs), over the coming decades. Meetings involving FAO Headquarters Units, the Regional Office and the Joint ECA/FAO Agricultural Division, JAFR - re-instituted in 1990 - will aim at ensuring close programme consultations.

Overall budgetary constraints, however, do not permit an increase in the Regular Programme allocation to RAFR and JAFR in the 1992-93 biennium and have effectively led to a decrease. This is to be offset by the planned strengthening of FAO country offices in the region, which forms part of budgetary proposals to the FAO Conference for 1992-93.

appealed to the Director-General to explore ways and means to increase cooperation with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in the analysis and formulation of future structural adjustment programmes.

FAO continues to work closely with both the World Bank and the IMF in the framework of the preparation of structural adjustment programmes (SAPs). Consultations between FAO and these institutions are taking place at Headquarters and at country levels. FAO technical staff routinely assist countries during discussions of critical issues between government representatives and international partners, notably the World Bank. Moreover, formal links have been established between FAO and IMF to ensure continuing dialogue on aspects falling within FAO's mandate and for which the Organization can provide useful contributions (e.g. Policy Framework Papers, Public Investment Programmes, etc.).

recommended that a comprehensive follow-up programme of the various studies, field investigations and recommendations emanating from the various activities be prepared and that FAO intensify its support to research at the national, regional and international levels.

Effective follow-up to past activities is given due prominence in the formulation of successive Programmes of Work and Budgets and field projects in cooperation with recipient governments. Support to research (including fisheries and forestry research) is an ongoing priority.

Strategies for Combatting Malnutrition in Africa

The Conference:

approved the incorporation of a nutritional component into early warning programmes; it also approved the utilization of nutritional indicators as part of a proposed global nutrition surveillance system.

Within the framework of the Inter-agency Food and Nutrition Surveillance Programme and jointly with UNICEF and WHO, as well as within the food security projects which are implemented by FAO, due attention is paid to training of professionals responsible for food and nutrition related programmes.

In this context, particular emphasis is given to the effective use of available data on food consumption/food expenditure or to collect anthropometric data (body height/weight) of adults in order to better assess the food and nutrition situation. Training activities were performed through regional workshops, for instance in Mozambique and Zaire. Project proposals were submitted to donors (e.g. incorporation of food and nutrition concerns into food security projects in SADCC), projects implemented (Ethiopia, IGADD Food Security Regional Project) and nutrition components were introduced in national food security projects (Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Niger, Tanzania, Zambia).

An indicator of nutritional status, (Body Mass Index, or Quetelet Index, i.e. height(m)/weight (kg)), has been tested for its use in

the assessment of the nutritional status of adult populations, and has been applied in several African countries (Burundi, Congo, Ethiopia, Morocco, Senegal).

National Early Warning Units supported by FAO projects are progressively incorporating information related to people's access to food in their assessment of food security situations. Consultancies and workshops have laid the basis for collecting, processing and analysing socio-economic and nutritional information (Senegal, Niger, Benin). A nutritionist is now in post in the IGADD Regional Early Warning Unit. The HQ-based GIEWS is undertaking vulnerability mapping pilot studies, based not only on food availability but also on its distribution, using available socio-economic and nutritional information (e.g. Angola, Ethiopia, Mali, Niger and Sudan).

recommended that its conclusions and recommendations on strategies to improve the food and nutrition situation in Africa be duly taken into account in the preparatory work for the International Conference on Nutrition.

The recommendations made at the Africa Conference have been taken into account in shaping preparatory work underway for the International Conference on Nutrition. A key recommendation was that importance be given to genuine multisectorial action to address nutrition concerns within the region. "Country Papers" are being prepared under the coordination of an ICN Focal Point. With inputs from various government ministries as well as the NGO and private sector community, these papers are to stimulate national level discussions to address the multisectorial nature of food and nutrition problems.

To make use of existing mechanisms in Africa, as also recommended by the Conference, plans are underway to hold two regional ICN meetings to facilitate regional discussions and to synthesize common country level concerns. In addition, several theme papers and case studies are being commissioned for the ICN, which are to contribute to the Plan of Action to be adopted at the ICN. Several of the recommendations made at the Africa Conference will be addressed in these papers for discussion at these regional meetings. In particular, the incorporation of nutrition concerns into economic development plans as well as into agriculture, fisheries, and forestry development projects will be the focus of one of the papers. The key role of women, the need for trained manpower, and the impact of various national policies on households will also be addressed.

In relation to food quality control and consumer protection, FAO continues to provide technical assistance to member countries. Four regional training courses were held in 1990-91 on such subjects as food sampling, mycotoxin analysis, food control laboratory management and maintenance of food control laboratory equipment. A regional workshop on street foods has been convened with the participation of representatives of fifteen African countries, to discuss ways and means of promoting the nutritional quality and safety of these foods.

Direct technical assistance was also provided to member countries (Algeria, Burkina Faso, Morocco, Egypt, Rwanda, Tanzania, Malawi, Guinea, Togo, Ghana) in the formulation of appropriate policies and programmes in the field of food quality and consumer protection.

**The Conservation and Rehabilitation of African Lands:
an International Scheme**

The Conference:

endorsed the Scheme as a whole while asking FAO to take the necessary steps to implement it.

Steps have been taken to put the International Scheme for the Conservation and Rehabilitation of African Lands into action. In particular, arrangements have been made to assist the first five countries which applied to join the Scheme (Central African Republic, Ghana, Madagascar, Mali and Togo). Consultants are to visit the concerned countries to develop concrete programmes.

Training courses in the field of soil conservation and evaluation of land potential were organized for extension workers and technicians from Burkina Faso, Benin, Central African Republic, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo; and consultancy missions were also fielded to Botswana, Cape Verde, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal and Tanzania with a view to ascertain government interest in the programme.

hoped that FAO would provide leadership and coordination in the field of land conservation and rehabilitation in Africa, given the fact that the problems of land degradation transcend national boundaries.

Broad publicity was given to the Scheme by providing background documents to national soil institutions, universities, development agencies, regional and non-governmental organizations. FAO has also started consultations to ensure close coordination of action with other agencies and organizations involved in soil conservation activities.

expressed the wish for an international conference to provide the opportunity to review these problems and arrive at the necessary solutions.

The call by the Regional Conference for an international conference will be considered after the UNCED Conference in June 1992, and after preparatory work has been done on developing similar conservation and rehabilitation schemes for the Asia and the Pacific and the Latin America and the Caribbean Regions.

Follow-up on Aid-in-Kind

The Conference:

requested that FAO strengthen its efforts to gain donor acceptance for expanded aid-in-kind under the conditions recommended by the Study, and

for expansion of the relevant training programmes, and requested that FAO continue to keep the Conference informed of progress and in due course undertake a more detailed evaluation of donor and recipient responses.

FAO has centred its follow-up efforts on two lines of action. Firstly, contacts are being pursued with donors for both an expansion of aid-in-kind and an improvement of the methods and conditions for the provision of aid-in-kind. Secondly, a study has been launched to examine the impact of structural adjustment policies on input availability and use, and particularly on the price and profitability of mineral fertilizers to farmers. Further progress will be duly reported to the concerned bodies.

Report on the Locust Control Campaign

The Conference:

expressed satisfaction with FAO's various operations and actions in the area of locust control, undertaken in close cooperation with the countries concerned and the international community. It called upon FAO to pursue its collaboration with the countries concerned and with IFAD for the purpose of finalizing the regional project for long-term prevention and control, and coordinating the mobilization of the financial resources necessary to execute the project.

It may be noted that the desert locust situation has, in general, remained calm since the end of the recent plague in early 1989. Populations have remained at low levels and only limited control operations have been necessary. Small-scale control operations were carried out in 1990 in Oman, Pakistan, India and Iran and also in Tunisia.

In 1991, no significant breeding and multiplication has been reported. However, routine monitoring and surveillance is being continued. The situation in relation to other locust species in Africa has also remained calm, and no significant populations of red locusts, or African migratory locusts, have been reported.

In respect of locust research, FAO has continued its support in several areas. A second edition of the desert locust research register was published in 1990 and a third edition will be published in August 1991. Research on the environmental effects of locust and grasshopper spraying is also continuing. Support has been given to research on the potential of insect growth regulators for effective and less environmentally hazardous control and to the use of remote sensing for early detection of desert locust outbreaks.

FAO has continued to collaborate with individual countries, regional and international organizations to put in place an effective preventive control strategy for the desert locust. In March 1991, FAO assumed full responsibility for the regional preventive control project for west and north-west Africa and convened a technical meeting in Rome in early May 1991. In view of the difficulties in obtaining both donor funding and government

inputs during a recession period, the meeting requested FAO to reformulate the project with emphasis on establishing a preventive control capability in the front line countries. FAO is in the process of reformulating the project and, in the meantime, has also formulated an interim proposal to ensure surveillance in the region during 1991.

TWENTIETH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Beijing, China, 23 - 27 April 1990

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 that further information on FAO's Regular Programme activities, as presented in the report, be included in the future.

This recommendation will be duly taken into account in the preparation of relevant documentation of future Regional Conferences.

Recognized the nine priority areas of FAO's work as approved by the FAO Conference in November 1989, and underscored that activities relating to biotechnology, sustainable development, crop protection and the Tropical Forestry Action Programme, as well as fisheries development, be given special priority in the region.

The document on FAO activities in the region in 1990-91 will provide concrete information on activities relating to biotechnology, sustainable development, crop protection, the Tropical Forestry Action Programme and fisheries development for the benefit of the region.

For instance, a regional expert consultation on the role of biotechnology in crop production and protection was convened leading to the establishment of a regional network and the formulation of a regional project.

Under sustainable development, emphasis is being given to improved land use planning, sustainable and environmentally sound soil fertility management, improved irrigation management and water conservation, and strategies to arrest land degradation.

Land use planning activities incorporate land resource inventory, land evaluation, agro-ecological zonation and assessment of potential population supporting capacity through support to national programmes in Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand. Technical inputs were provided to a UNDP-funded agro-ecological zones project in China and to a TCP project on land use planning in Papua New Guinea. Projects were formulated for a Geographical Information System (GIS) and land resource inventory and appraisal in Bangladesh and Laos, respectively.

With regard to the Tropical Forestry Action Programme (TFAP), assistance was provided to Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Laos, Nepal and Sri Lanka in preparing and implementing Master Plans or

National Forestry Action Plans. Until mid-1991, 17 countries in the region had undertaken TFAP or Master Plan exercises.

In respect of aquaculture development, an analysis was prepared of the environmental issues of aquaculture development in the developing countries of the region. RAPA also closely monitored the fast growing shrimp industry, giving special attention to marketing aspects and the socio-economic impact of continuing expansion.

A major fisheries development project was also initiated in Bangladesh. RAPA supported the fledgling aquaculture sub-sector in Bhutan and promoted freshwater fish, shrimp and seaweed culture in Viet Nam. Preliminary actions were initiated to explore sectoral development needs in Cambodia. Thailand also received assistance in developing farm-made aquafeeds, based on the use of locally available ingredients.

emphasized that FAO should give priority attention in its programmes to policy analysis and planning, with particular focus on sector and sub-sector reviews and structural adjustment work.

As recalled above, both the Regular and Field Programmes are giving high priority to policy analysis and planning, with particular focus on sector and sub-sector reviews and structural adjustment work.

As a matter of illustration, several Regular Programme activities aim at the identification of areas where an expanded private sector role would be desirable and policy reforms may be necessary to promote it. Also, the macro-economic linkages of the agriculture sector are analysed so that sectoral policies are compatible with the macro-economic framework.

For market-oriented economies which are implementing structural adjustment programmes the main thrust of technical assistance is on methodologies to assess the impact of these programmes on the agriculture sector and the rural poor, e.g. in the Philippines.

In centrally planned economies, technical assistance is mainly geared to the orderly transition to a mixed economy, e.g. in Viet Nam, based on the experiences of other market-oriented countries in the region. Technical assistance is being provided in promoting dialogue between policy-makers in the country and a group of distinguished international experts on specific policy issues in this transition.

Among other examples, planning assistance is being provided to Indonesia for a comprehensive review and analysis of food and estate crops, livestock and fisheries. This will lead to sub-sector policies and strategies taking into account the domestic resource base, regional comparative advantage, domestic and international demand, and changing macro-economic and international market situations. This technical assistance will also contribute to the mid-term review of the Repelita V programme and the formulation of agricultural strategies with greater emphasis on market liberalization and reliance on the private sector during Repelita VI.

FAO's regional in-service training programme, including national in-service training programmes and projects in China, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam, focused on agricultural sector analysis, investment project planning, food and agriculture policy analysis and decentralized planning. Furthermore, new training activities have been initiated in the field of agri-business policy formulation and planning, in response to specific requests from member countries.

urged FAO to continue integrating environmental issues into its programmes and field activities to evolve a strategy for sustainable agricultural development.

The integration of environmental issues into FAO's Regular Programme and field activities is being vigorously pursued.

For instance, a strategy paper on Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development (SARD) for the Asia-Pacific Region was prepared and discussed at the FAO-Netherlands Conference on SARD held in April 1991. Meetings of the Asian Bio- and Organic Fertilizer and Problem Soils Networks were held and generated published reports on Asian Experiences in Integrated Plant Nutrition and Environmental Issues in Land and Water Development.

A Regional Workshop on Improved Irrigation Systems Performance for Sustainable Agriculture has raised awareness on the need to assess the performance of irrigated agriculture, while a regional TCP project provided training in improved irrigation management with farmers participation. A meeting of the Asian Network on Water Lifting Devices for Irrigation addressed energy issues and groundwater exploitation.

Technical support was provided to a UNDP-funded regional project to promote an Asian Soil Conservation Network (ASOCON). Other activities included regional training programmes in conservation farming systems and project design, and a workshop on indigenous conservation practices in Papua New Guinea. Ongoing research on the effects of erosion-induced soil productivity loss is being supported in Indonesia and Thailand and a global meeting of collaborators was held in Indonesia.

stressed the importance of making problem soils more productive and suggested that FAO attach increased priority to this area, including soil conservation and watershed management.

The priority areas of soil conservation and watershed management will receive increased resources in the 1992-93 biennium. In addition, it is planned to initiate work on a Scheme for the Conservation and Rehabilitation of Lands in the Asia and Pacific Region.

urged FAO to continue promoting and strengthening its programme on integrated pest management.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) has reached excellent implementation results in Asia. IPM projects emphasize farmers

training and participation in project implementation. These projects also work at the policy making level to change old structures which in some countries still support over-dependence on chemical pest control through various forms of pesticide subsidies.

Ongoing projects include the Regional IPM Programme for Rice in South and Southeast Asia, and the Indonesia IPM Project for Rice and Rotational Crops.

New projects are in the phase of preparation:

- IPM for Vegetable Crops in Southeast Asia (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam): a Dutch Trust Fund Project for five years, possibly starting in January 1992. A Regional Network will coordinate development and implementation of national IPM strategies at field level.
- IPM for Irrigated Farming Systems in Bangladesh: a five-year UNDP Project will carry out verification and extension on IPM in the country.
- IPM for Cotton in Asia: a workshop has been conducted in Pakistan and a project idea formulated for a regional programme for implementation of IPM for cotton.
- IPM for Vegetable Crops in South Asia: a UNDP project is under preparation for four countries in South Asia.
- IPM in India: UNDP project under preparation.

endorsed FAO's approach in promoting TCDC through regional networks and suggested that TCDC activities be further expanded and strengthened.

Currently, 16 technical networks are operational in the region. In addition to these networks, seven regional commissions and three FAO-sponsored regional bodies have been actively promoting TCDC activities. Furthermore, it is expected that by end 1991, four new networks (Asian Plant Biotechnology Network, Asia-Pacific Network on Animal Health Information Exchange, Asian Network on Small Ruminants and Network for Development of Agricultural Co-operatives (NEDAC)) will become operational. TCDC on improved production of cotton, vegetables and rainfed agriculture were also promoted through regional networks.

Action Programmes to Overcome Specific Nutritional Deficiencies in the Asia Pacific Region

The Conference:

recommended that the conclusions of the Regional Conference on nutritional issues be duly taken into account in preparing for the proposed International Conference on Nutrition.

Concerning food and nutrition surveillance, studies have been made to assess the use of the Body Mass Index (Quetelet Index) as a precise and inexpensive indicator of the nutritional status of

adult populations. This indicator has been applied to various sets of data (China, India and Malaysia) and the preliminary results are quite promising. In Viet Nam, a project proposal to strengthen the use of food consumption data for planning and monitoring purposes has been prepared. In Indonesia, through a TCP project, a methodology has been developed to collate simple data (height and weight of school children as well as some qualitative information on food consumption behaviour) to identify districts at risk and prepare related nutrition interventions. These positive country experiences will provide inputs to preparatory work for the ICN.

Progress and Prospects of Biotechnology for Crop and Livestock Production in Asia and the Pacific Region

The Conference:

requested FAO to document and disseminate successful experiences of commercial exploitation of in vitro micropropagation.

Successful experiences of commercial exploitation of in vitro micropropagation in Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, India, Philippines, China and Republic of Korea were documented and the experiences shared through a regional meeting on biotechnology.

suggested that FAO assist Member Nations in strengthening national capacities in germplasm conservation and that, in order to promote international transfer of germplasm using in vitro cultures, develop suitable quarantine guidelines.

Through more than 50 crop improvement projects operational in the region, conservation of indigenous variability of important crop plants is being strengthened in several countries. Links between IBPGR and FAO were strengthened on country level activities for germplasm conservation. In association with UNEP and other concerned international UN and non-UN agencies, FAO is preparing a comprehensive code of conduct on the use of biotechnology, including in vitro culture, for conservation, exchange and utilization of plant genetic resources.

A revised version of the recommended measures for regulating the importation and movement of 45 crops, plants, and related materials was published under the form of a Technical Document of the Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC). This document also contains recommended measures for the movement of Plant Tissue Culture, as virus and virus-like organisms and some other pathogens can easily be carried in the culture. The Pest Risk Assessment (PRA) Working Group of the APPPC's Standing Committee on Plant Quarantine will look into the matter during 1992-93, to develop quarantine guidelines for use of in vitro cultured materials.

suggested that TCDC and North-South cooperation be increased for judicious exploitation of resources and for maximizing benefits from biotechnology.

A regional expert consultation under Project RAS/89/003 - "Asian Plant Biotechnology Programme" was held to critically analyse the current situation and future prospects of plant biotechnology

in Asian countries. Arrangements for cooperation and related priority activities were identified. A Regional Project on Plant Biotechnology encompassing eight countries, namely: China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Thailand was prepared for consideration by UNDP. The project is demand-driven and has identified the following priority commodities/areas of work: (i) development of pest- and disease-resistant varieties, especially of cotton and oilseed crops; (ii) development of *in vitro* propagation techniques for date-palm; and (iii) data base and exchange of information on plant biotechnology in the region.

supported FAO's initiatives in establishing the regional networks on animal biotechnology and plant biotechnology. It emphasized that the networks should help national governments to plan and coordinate research, develop priorities and strategies, promote exchange of planting materials and germplasm, and streamline linkages with other relevant regional and international organizations.

The expert consultation held in 1990, emphasized the establishment of a regional network on plant biotechnology. The objectives are to help national governments to plan and coordinate research, develop strategies, promote exchange of planting materials and germplasm, and to establish links with relevant regional and international organizations.

The Asian Network for Biotechnology in Animal Production and Health (ANBAPH) was formally established in September 1990 with the Institute of Animal Science, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Beijing, China as Regional Coordination Unit. This network of eight participating countries, funded by UNDP and executed by FAO, has been active in sharing responsibilities for research, training and information exchange. Innovative technologies such as embryo transfer, mono-clonal antibody production, genetic manipulation, etc. which are relevant to livestock development in the region, will be progressively promoted through this network.

suggested that FAO assist in holding a seminar for the countries of the region in 1991 and noted the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the seminar.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is a member of the proposed regional network on plant biotechnology and has participated in meetings held in 1990. In launching the project, the first regional coordination committee meeting is planned to be held in Iran. The modalities are being discussed with the Iranian Government.

suggested that FAO assist Member Nations in strengthening national capabilities in applying biotechnology for germplasm conservation.

TCDC activities are being promoted for sharing of information, germplasm and expertise, particularly through the regional project RAS/89/040 - "Regional Cooperative Programme for Improvement of Food Legumes and Coarse Grains in Asia", in which 14 countries are participating.

A Regional Plant Biotechnology Project to establish a regional network has been prepared and submitted to UNDP in January 1991 for funding. This project covers China, India, Indonesia, Iran, D.P.R. of Korea, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand. UNDP approval is awaited.

SEVENTEENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE

Venice, Italy, 3 - 7 April 1990

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

General Debate on the Food and Agriculture Situation in Europe

The Conference:

considered that FAO, in close cooperation with ECE, could play an active role in supporting reforms underway in East European countries and recommended that the subject be included in the agenda of the Ninety-eighth Session of the FAO Council in November 1990.

The Ninety-eighth Session of the FAO Council (November 1990) discussed reforms underway in Eastern Europe under the agenda item "Policy Changes Affecting European Agriculture".

expressed its hope that, for this Council session, FAO in cooperation with ECE could provide an updated analysis of the situation of agriculture in Europe as a whole.

An updated analysis of the situation of agriculture in Europe as a whole was prepared in cooperation with ECE. The Council document CL 98/20 "Policy Changes Affecting European Agriculture" contained information and analysis on developments within the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations in agriculture, recent developments in aggregate support to agriculture in the OECD countries and developments and issues in agricultural policy in Eastern Europe and the USSR. The Council suggested that the document be discussed at the Twenty-seventh Session of the European Commission on Agriculture (Herrsching, Germany, 1-5 July 1991).

concurred in principle with the ideas concerning FAO's role in the policy analysis area, in promoting policy dialogue among European countries, channelling policy advice where this was requested and contributing to build up the policy analysis capabilities in the countries undertaking reforms.

FAO is assisting Albania in analysing the state of food and agriculture, existing agricultural policies and planning and the transition to a market-oriented economy. A TCP project in Bulgaria is assisting in the identification of constraints to agricultural development and of priority areas for development. TCP is also assisting Malta and Cyprus in preparing reforms in their agricultural policies in the light of their future trading relations with the EEC.

Trainees from Yugoslavia and Hungary were trained in Rome on the CAPP software for agriculture sector analysis. Support was also provided to research staff of the Ministry of Agriculture in Hungary on the use of CAPP in policy analysis and agriculture sector projection work.

stressed that the existing cooperation and coordination arrangements with ECE should be utilized to the maximum and strengthened in support of an enhanced role for FAO/ECE in the ongoing reform process in East Europe.

Cooperation with ECE has been further enhanced. ECE is represented on the FAO Task Force established to monitor agricultural policy developments in the countries of Eastern Europe and the USSR. The task force has built up the necessary information base and initiated analytical assessments of such policy developments, including possible options for the future, with the purpose of supporting the process of change in the food and agriculture sector. In addition, the Joint ECE/FAO Joint Agriculture and Timber Division (JEUR) prepared a document on marketing of agricultural products in Europe, with particular emphasis on problems and needs of economies in transition.

FAO Programme in the Region

The Conference:

requested that the ETTS studies which had made a valuable contribution to forestry policies continue to receive priority support of FAO and ECE.

Active preparations have continued for the fifth FAO/ECE Study of European Timber Trends and Prospects (ETTS V). These preparations were discussed by the co-sponsor, the ECE Timber Committee, in October 1990 and the Joint Meeting of the EFC Executive Committee and the Timber Committee office-holders in April 1991. A team of specialists on methodology and data base for long-term outlook studies met in May 1991. The European Forestry Commission at its Twenty-fifth Session in June 1991 discussed and approved the terms of reference and timetable for the study. There have been, in addition, numerous consultations and a workshop on roundwood supply forecasting in Sweden in March 1990.

welcomed the establishment of an ad-hoc Working Group to examine programmes of work of the FAO European Commission on Agriculture and ECE Committee on Agricultural Problems with a view to strengthening cooperation and complementarity and to providing countries with the opportunity of communicating views concerning orientation, programme priorities and proposals for the agenda of the Regional Conference.

The proposals of the ad-hoc Working Group on ECE-FAO Cooperation which examined the respective programmes of the FAO European Commission on Agriculture and the ECE Committee on Agricultural Problems have been taken into account in the preparation of the Programme of Work for the 1992-93 biennium. The 1991-95 Programme of Work of the ECE Committee on Agricultural Problems, which was approved at its Forty-second Session (Geneva, 4-7 March 1991), also contains reference to the proposals of the ad hoc Working Group. In addition, the Committee has proposed the establishment of a joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Relations between Agriculture and the Environment. The proposal has been forwarded to the FAO European Commission on Agriculture for comments and approval.

requested that the recommendations of the XVIIth Conference concerning the future FAO Programme of Work in the region be reported to the FAO Council for conveyance to the Director-General for consideration in his proposals for the Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93.

Recommendations of the Seventeenth ERC concerning the future FAO Programme of Work in the region have been reported to the FAO Council and reflected in the Summary and full Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93.

Socio-economic Aspects of Environmental Policies in European Agriculture

The Conference:

recommended that FAO undertake or promote, as appropriate, more systematic research on socio-economic aspects of various environmental regulations and controls on European agriculture including their differential impacts on various social groups, and the overall effect on regional and inter-regional competitiveness. Also ESCORENA should pay more attention to these aspects.

ESCORENA is paying more attention to socio-economic aspects of environmental regulations and controls on European agriculture. These aspects were covered, for instance, at the Consultation of the European Cooperative Research Network on Animal Waste Utilization. Within its field of activities and competence, the consultation agreed to form a working group on safe and efficient utilization of manure/slurry in agriculture with minimal environmental effects.

The European Cooperative Research Network on Trace Elements also considered the formation of a new working group on "trace elements in the environment".

encouraged FAO to collect information and promote exchange of experience regarding development of appropriate regulations of agricultural practices for environmental protection.

A new post in REUR to deal with environmental issues and sustainable agriculture is included in the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93 and will cover information collection and promotion of exchange of experience.

A Balanced Diet - A Way to Good Nutrition

The Conference:

noted with satisfaction that food and nutrition were appearing on the agendas of all FAO Regional Conferences in 1990 as an initial contribution to the preparatory work for the International Conference on Nutrition to be held in Rome in December 1992 under the joint sponsorship of FAO and WHO.

The first Regional Conference on Food and Nutrition Planning, co-sponsored jointly by FAO and WHO, was held in Budapest in September 1991. Of particular interest was the inclusion of food and nutrition concerns into agricultural research, aiming at

decreasing intake of fatty acids or cholesterol in foods and, thus, in the diet. The Food Policy and Nutrition Division is continuing to support WHO's activities through collaborative centres (Rome, Athens) for the promotion of health and safe diets. Such issues are of particular relevance for those countries where non-communicable diseases are mainly due to new food habits and lifestyles.

TWENTY-FIRST FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Santiago, Chile, 9 - 13 July 1990

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

Situation and Outlook of Food and Agriculture in the Region

The Conference:

requested FAO technical collaboration, in the fields within its competence, to obtain financial resources from the international community to remedy the critical financial situation suffered by countries of the region.

This type of assistance will continue to be provided through the usual channels available to FAO: investment promotion with multilateral financial institutions, contacts with donors, etc.

requested FAO to expand its programmes in relation to the problems of undernutrition and malnutrition.

In order to assess the magnitude of malnutrition and its related causes, further efforts are being made to analyse already collected data on anthropometry. In this area, emphasis is given to adult populations classified by gender groups and other socio-economic and geographical variables, in order to provide policy decision makers with elements for the design of field-oriented projects and plans.

sought the support of FAO and, through that Organization, the active collaboration of agencies in the United Nations System with national bodies responsible for formulating and executing rural development programmes.

FAO is actively involved in the preparation of the Sixth Intergovernmental Consultation on WCARRD Follow-up, which is scheduled to take place in Cochabamba, Bolivia, from 7 to 10 October 1991.

In respect of Women-in-Development (WID) two gender analysis workshops for governmental staff of the Agricultural and Planning Ministries were undertaken in Honduras. The Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (RLAC) carried out two sub-regional workshops in 1991, one for English-speaking countries in the Caribbean Region and the other for Central American Spanish-speaking countries, on the Women-in-Development Plan of Action and to identify technical assistance needs and mechanisms for its implementation at national and sub-regional levels.

The Governments of Chile, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua also received assistance in strengthening projects and programmes for women in agricultural and rural development.

requested FAO technical collaboration for those countries that had resolved to strengthen their agrarian reform programmes.

FAO is currently implementing a survey of agrarian reform settlements in Brazil, following a request from the government.

recommended that FAO expand its assistance to countries by actions to promote decentralization, based on regionalization and the development and strengthening of local authorities.

In close collaboration with the Policy Analysis Division (ESP), during 1990-91 RLAC/JLAC have been carrying out three regional seminars on agricultural planning, rural development and macro-economic policies. Decentralization of the State is a central subject discussed at the seminars. Similarly, decentralization will be an important item in the Round Table for Central American countries and Panama on the Role of the State in New Export and Trade Strategies, sponsored by RLAC.

Decentralization to and strengthening of local authorities will also be discussed at the Round Table for Central America on the Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development. The same topics will be examined at two seminars on Credit Schemes for Small Farmers. The FAO-supported Technical Cooperation Network on Food and Nutrition Surveillance Systems, carried out an international workshop on Food and Nutrition Surveillance at the Local Level and Community Participation. Since this event, the network is actively promoting the development of food and nutrition surveillance systems at community level.

The strengthening of local authorities within rural communities has been examined at the International Round Table on Peasant Participation. For attaining effective peasant participation, three elements were emphasized: organization, training and decentralization of power structures. Related subjects will be discussed at the Round Table on New Institutionalality for Agricultural and Rural Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in October 1991 in Brazil. Decentralized local systems, non-governmental organizations and private institutions will be analysed in their new role vis-à-vis highly centralized public sector structures. In Central America, a technical meeting will discuss participatory methods in the organization of rural communities.

These activities are generating more than 30 case studies, documents and proceedings which will be published. In addition, RLAC jointly with the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) is preparing a document on local power and the rural municipalities in Latin America. Likewise, JLAC, jointly with the Latin American Centre for Development Management (CLAD) published a document on local power and food security. JLAC is also preparing a book on the political aspects of food security, in which participatory and decentralized frameworks are being proposed for formulating food policies and improving local delivery.

requested the strengthening of existing mechanisms for coordinating agricultural and rural development technical cooperation and financing organizations in the region, particularly the World Bank, IDB and IMF.

An FAO/World Bank mission assisted the Government of Chile in the identification of an irrigating development programme suitable for World Bank financing. During a technical assistance mission on water and irrigation legislation, the legal aspects of irrigation programmes were discussed with technicians and governmental officials as well as their relationship to the requirements of international financing organizations.

Exchange of letters and mutual visits from high-level officials to Rome and Washington have intensified the FAO-IDB relationship. FAO maintains close contact with IDB Representatives in the countries of the region, as well as with officials from other development institutions. Closer relationship with the Caribbean Development Bank is being sought. Possible areas of collaboration could include fisheries development and support to governments in their adjustment policies, including the new trade situation.

The IDB has received funds in trust from the Government of Japan to follow-up on activities initiated by the FAO project: Prevention of Land Degradation in Agricultural Development Involving Irrigation and Drainage Schemes in Latin America, also financed by Japan. The funds should benefit five countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Peru).

recommended the extension of experiences such as the PROCAPLAN and AQUILA regional projects and the implementation, at national level, of tripartite projects in which governments, FAO as executing agency and UNDP or other donor bodies worked hand in hand.

The two regional projects: AQUILA and PROCAPLAN, have been extended with funding provided by the Government of Italy. The second phase of AQUILA will be initiated during the second semester of 1991. The project benefitted from bridging TCP assistance to ensure continuity of activities. The emphasis on training, research and the development of information systems for aquaculture planning will continue.

PROCAPLAN (Programme on Training in Planning, Policies and Projects in Agricultural and Rural Development) completed its first phase on 31 December 1990. The second phase will aim at strengthening technical financial and administrative capabilities of national training institutions.

Examples of other regional undertakings which have been initiated or extended include the project on prevention of land degradation through irrigation and drainage schemes supported by Japan which will be completed on December 1991. A new project: Support for Sustainable Agriculture, Land Production Capacity from Improvement Measures against Erosion for the Western Part of Latin American Countries, will continue activities for another four years.

Denmark is supporting training in fish technology, fisheries planning and resource evaluation, while the Netherlands is supporting the project: Participative Forestry Development in the Andes. A project for strengthening OLDEPESCA and activities in Central American countries, has been extended for an additional two years with support from Norway. Other projects include the fisheries management and law advisory programme, assistance for the alleviation of undernutrition and promoting the integration of women in artisanal fisheries. The United Kingdom has provided funding for the preparation of Tropical Forestry Action Programme exercises in several English-speaking Caribbean countries. INFOPESCA has been strengthened by a project funded from multilateral sources.

The FAO/UNEP Project on Wildland, Protected Areas and Wildlife Management for Latin America and the Caribbean, hosted at RLAC, has been extended. Regional seminars, workshops and training courses, publications including its bulletin, will continue. During 1991, the activities of the RLAC-hosted project, funded by UNFPA, on Development of Information, Education and Support Communication to Population Activities in the Rural Sector will be completed. A new inter-agency project on population, which should also receive financing from UNFPA, is being formulated.

Report on FAO Activities in the Region

The Conference:

requested that FAO continue to provide assistance in the field of multilateral trade negotiations, especially at the Uruguay Round and GATT.

FAO will continue to provide support to interested developing countries participating in the Uruguay Round, in the form of provision of information and technical assistance, particularly to enable these countries to prepare their own negotiating proposals and for the subsequent consultations on such proposals regarding both agriculture and tropical products. In particular, assistance has been provided to the group of net food-importing developing countries and members of the Central American Common Market in these areas.

recognized the assistance provided by FAO under the Tropical Forestry Action Programme (TFAP), drawing attention to the support that could be provided by TFAP in the area of natural resource conservation.

To date, 11 countries have completed National Forestry Action Plans, each of which has a major component addressing natural resource conservation. The implementation of these components is underway in several countries. An environmental officer has started work in the coordinating unit of the TFAP. His responsibilities cover the integration of environmental concerns into TFAP, in particular the preparation of guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment and Review of TFAP Country Documents. He also liaises with international organizations and institutions dealing with conservation of natural resources.

pointed out the need to give maximum dissemination to the Plan of Action adopted by the Twentieth Regional Conference, in particular to potential donors and development financing bodies.

The Plan of Action has been widely disseminated to a broad range of international institutions active in the region, including to their local offices.

recognized the value and effectiveness of the Technical Cooperation Networks and the desirability of strengthening their activities through extra-budgetary resources.

On average, it is estimated that participating countries are currently covering 50 to 60 percent of each network's operational expenses. This proportion, shows the growing interest of participating countries in the FAO-sponsored regional system of Technical Cooperation Networks. Nevertheless, extra-budgetary resources will continue to be sought from bilateral agencies of developed countries and multilateral agencies within or outside of the UN system.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is supporting and participating in activities of the TCN on Food Crops Production and the TCN among Veterinary Research and Diagnostic Laboratories. The TCN on Post-Harvest Grain Technology has been assisted by a project funded by the Government of Japan. UNEP is expected to continue support to the TCN on National Parks, other Protected Areas and Wildlife.

An evaluation of the regional system of Technical Cooperation Networks will be carried out during 1991-92. The data and information which will be collected will permit to enhance effectiveness in horizontal cooperation activities and to establish a permanent monitoring mechanism of the system.

requested FAO to publicize the work of the Codex Alimentarius more widely and to strengthen regional information systems.

The Meeting of the Codex Alimentarius Focal Points of Latin America was held at RLAC premises. Among the objectives of the meeting was the strengthening or establishment of National Codex Committees to facilitate the dissemination of Codex practices and the work of the Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean. A similar meeting is being prepared for the English-speaking Caribbean countries. In addition, RLAC is preparing a Manual on Procedures for Codex Focal Points and other written and audio-visual material to improve dissemination of Codex practices and standards.

Jointly with ESN, RLAC is holding a series of sub-regional workshops on Street Food Vending. Full regional coverage is intended. The workshops cover training of street food vendors, the use of didactic written and audio-visual material, and the dissemination of Codex practices and standards, most recently the draft Code of Sanitary Practices for Food Sold on the Streets.

requested FAO to seek ways of accelerating the introduction of the strategy and programmes of action which emerged from the World Fisheries Conference.

FAO has continued to assist countries in the region with the establishment of multidisciplinary technical advisory units. As a new phase of the completed "Fishery Macro-economic Planning Project", a project to assist the Secretariat of Fisheries of Mexico is now being launched.

As a follow-up to the recommendations of the First Session of the WECAFC Working Party on Fishery Economics and Planning and jointly with the Fourth Session of the Lesser Antilles Committee and the Seventh Session of the WECAFC Commission, two workshops were held in September of 1990, viz.: a workshop on socio-economic aspects of small-scale fisheries in the Caribbean and a workshop on Fisheries Management Experiences in the WECAFC region. The Committee, as well as the Commission, fully endorsed the project proposal on: Advice and Training in Fishery Economics and Planning, previously formulated by the First Session of the WECAFC Working Group on Fishery Economics and Planning.

Continued support has been provided to the OLDEPESCA/FAO/NORAD project on Assistance and Training in Fisheries Planning and Management in Central America (GCP/RLA/087/ODP). Technical backstopping was provided to the preparation of training courses and the organization of the Second Session of the FAO/OLDEPESCA Working Group on Fishery Economics and Planning for Central America. The first phase has been finalized (six national courses), and a sub-regional seminar to discuss a regional diagnosis prepared by the trainees has taken place in September 1990. The second phase of the training courses (two sub-regional courses) is being executed at present.

Technical advice on fisheries policy and planning and strengthening of institutions have been provided at the request of several countries of the region. FAO multidisciplinary missions visited Chile, Mexico, Costa Rica and Brazil.

Recent changes in policies towards aquaculture, particularly with regards to its integration into general rural agricultural practices are fully in accord with the strategy formulated by the World Fisheries Conference and are aimed at reinforcing it.

called for closer involvement of FAO in the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee.

The establishment of closer ties with the CDCC will depend upon future RLAC/JLAC programmed activities in the English-speaking Caribbean. The United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Office in Port-of-Spain is regularly visited by Regional Officers on mission to Trinidad. As yet, no significant activities with the CDCC have evolved from these visits.

considered it desirable that FAO step up the identification, preparation and dissemination of ideas concerning regional and sub-regional projects, strengthen Investment Centre activities and intensify its cooperation in the field of trade and macro-economic policies, stressing in this connection the importance of the PROCAPLAN Regional Project activities.

Action is being pursued on a broad front. For instance, the FAO-sponsored Round Table on Technology Transfer, Development Projects and Technical Cooperation, held in San José, Costa Rica in December 1990 concluded that the regional system of Technical Cooperation Networks could play a significant role as an effective channel for the identification, implementation and evaluation of development projects.

The FAO Representatives accredited to the CARICOM member countries, are being encouraged to discuss broad areas of common interest between CARICOM and FAO and pursue project identification in a number of areas in agriculture, fisheries and forestry. This process builds on the ideas advanced at a meeting held in September 1990 at Castries, St. Lucia with the participation of the Directors of Agriculture of the CARICOM member countries and FAO staff from RLAC and Headquarters, where similarities and differences between the Regional Plan of Action approved at the Twentieth LARC and the Caribbean Community Programme for Agricultural Development (CCPAD) were discussed.

Similarly, FAO's participation is being sought in the projects which comprise the Special Plan for Economic Coordination for Central America (PEC) and within the framework of the Plan of Economic Action for Central America (PAECA). Projects and programme areas identified cover among other areas: sustainable development, policy advice, fisheries development, environmental conservation, international and intra-regional trade, rural development, the alleviation of rural poverty, and Exclusive Economic Zones. Links will be maintained with related Investment Centre activities.

More generally, FAO Regular and Field-Programme activities in the region will be guided by the priorities and policy recommendations contained in the Study on Potentials for Agricultural and Rural Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Plan of Action approved at the Twentieth LARC in 1988. New or revised policy options and strategies will be formulated to overcome the stagnation which characterized the regional economy during the eighties. New areas of emphasis include: the relationships between agriculture and macro-economic policies in the context of open economies; the new role of the State, specifically its agricultural institutions; intersectoral linkages and their implications for external trade, support and strengthening of integration schemes and follow-up to the Uruguay Round. In this regard, FAO will pursue close relations with regional and sub-regional economic and integration cooperation schemes such as CARICOM, Central American Common Market, the Andean Pact, MERCOSUR and other integration initiatives.

Sustainable Rural Development in Fragile Ecosystems in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Conference:

requested FAO to strengthen its technical collaboration in accounting for the national heritage of natural resources and in evaluating the environmental impact of agricultural development policies, programmes and projects.

During the FAO-Netherlands Conference on agriculture and the environment (s'-Hertogenbosch, 15-19 April 1991), major areas of emphasis were the criteria, instruments and tools for sustainable agricultural development, and accounting for ecologically sustainable development.

FAO will step up technical cooperation and in-service training on these topics, as well as on environment impact assessment of agricultural development projects and programmes. In addition, two papers are currently under preparation: one on the effects of macro-economic policies on the environment, the other on economic instruments for environmental regulation.

requested FAO to intercede with potential donor countries in order to intensify and expand the flow of financial and technical resources required for national activities under the Tropical Forestry Action Programme.

Since July 1990 four donor meetings were organized in Belize, Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Panama to seek support for National Forestry Action Plans. The overall response from the donor community was very positive and significant commitments in support of the NFAPs were made. Several other meetings of a similar nature are being prepared. A second phase donors' meeting is envisaged for Colombia and Honduras. Representatives of Latin American countries have been present at TFAP Forestry Advisors' meetings to review national exercises with the representatives of the donor community. Through 32 TFAP exercises in various stages of implementation, efforts are under way to increase the flow of financial and technical assistance resources in support of national forestry development activities.

requested FAO to expand intra-regional cooperation activities in matters related to sustainable agricultural development and acknowledged the support that FAO provided in this respect, particularly to the signatories of the Amazonian Cooperation Treaty.

FAO in cooperation with other agencies is supporting regional activities that will contribute to the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in Brazil in mid-1992. In particular, FAO supported the regional preparatory meeting held in Mexico. In November 1991, FAO will support the Preparatory Regional Conference to UNCED on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Amongst the objectives of a TCP project to support the Amazon Treaty Cooperation Secretariat, paramount importance is given to assistance in the preparation of sub-regional exercises. Meetings were held to review progress and plan future activities. In addition, the signatories of the Amazonian Cooperation Treaty will participate in the first meeting of the Sub-network on Protected Areas of the Amazon and their representatives are continuously attending the sub-regional events organized by FAO on watershed management, protected areas, wildlife, national parks, agro-forestry, agro-ecology and their relationships to sustainable development.

Jointly sponsored by the Central American Commission on Environment and Development, the United Nations University for Peace and FAO, a Seminar on Sustainable Rural Development and Fragile Ecosystems of Central America will be held in late 1991. The meeting will serve as a preparatory meeting providing Central-American countries with an opportunity to present a coherent position and united strategy at UNCED.

Malnutrition in the Latin American and Caribbean Region: Causes and Prevention

The Conference:

sought FAO technical assistance in analysing the food and nutrition situation in the region; and recognized the importance of the Food and Nutrition Surveillance Systems, requesting that they be integrally reinforced by FAO.

Two Regional Technical Cooperation Projects were developed (Santiago/Chile for South American Countries and San José/Costa Rica for Central American Countries) to train professionals of Ministries of Agriculture and of Statistical Institutes in the analysis of statistical data on food consumption/nutritional status for use in nutrition surveillance or in development plans or projects. Emphasis is put on existing statistical data at household and individual levels and on a multi-disciplinary approach. At the same time, participants are taught how to identify families and individuals at risk, and to analyse their food consumption patterns according to different variables of classification.

recommended that FAO extend to other countries the technical support activities it was conducting under special programmes on nutrition for poor urban groups.

In 1990-91, a workshop on Food Supply and Nutrition for Low-income Groups was conducted in collaboration with the Municipality of Sao Paulo, Brazil and a workshop on Promotion of Under-exploited Andean Crops will be held in Lima, Peru.

A Participatory Nutrition Programme in collaboration with the National Institute of Nutrition, Mexico, and a training programme in Honduras are under implementation. The need to improve household food security, nutrition education and control and prevention of Vitamin A deficiency has been taken into consideration in the preparation of the Programme of Work for 1992-93.

During 1991, FAO has been active in helping fight the cholera epidemic which has stricken some countries of the region. Through a TCP project to eradicate or reduce food contamination in unhealthy areas, the Organization is assisting five countries of South America and has prepared sub-regional projects for Central America and Panama, and for the countries of the Caribbean.

recommended that a Food Control Training Network be established for the region.

The Food Policy and Nutrition Division (ESN) is actively exploring sources of funding to permit the establishment of this regional network. In principle, UN agencies and bilateral funding organizations have expressed interest. Once funding is assured, the Regional Office will collaborate with the launching of the network and in programming and implementing its activities. Work will build on RLAC's experience with control of street food vending.

expressed unanimous support for the activities in preparation for the International Conference on Nutrition and recommended that the Regional Office draw up a programme aimed at obtaining the effective support of countries in the region for the organization and conduct of these preparatory activities.

RLAC, in coordination with ESN, has initiated a programme of preparatory activities which includes: (a) collaborating in the drawing up of government documents, position papers and national preparatory activities to the ICN; (b) supporting institutions and events to call forth the views of the scientific community of the region; (c) enhancing relationships with UN agencies, other multilateral, bilateral and non-governmental organizations active in the field of nutrition; (d) making use of its own professional personnel to prepare documents, follow-up on national activities, and publicize the objectives of the ICN; and (e) preparing special group events to address regional positions and strategies.

Collaboration with governments has been ensured through FAORs and the national coordinators of the FAO-sponsored TCN on Food and Nutrition Surveillance Systems who are cooperating with the ICN focal points appointed by each government. The scientific community will prepare documentation and present them at the Regional Seminar on Food and Nutrition Trends and Strategies for Action, in September 1991 at San Juan, Puerto Rico. The Seminar will also be sponsored by the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Latin American Society for Nutrition (SLAN) which are among the many organizations active in the preparatory phase to the ICN.

These preparatory activities will converge in a regional seminar to be held in February 1992 in which the completed material will be presented. It is expected that the outcome of the seminar will be a final document which will draw together the various positions of regional relevance.

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

The Conference:

requested FAO to increase its support for the Action Committee on Latin American Cooperation and Consultation on Plant Genetic Resources (CARFIT) and, jointly with LAES, to sponsor the Committee's consolidation.

FAO provided funding for the participation of some delegates to a meeting related to CARFIT. In addition CARFIT's Secretariat is in regular contact with the Secretariat of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources (CPGR).

Date, Place and Provisional Agenda of the Twenty-second FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Conference:

suggested studying the possibility of holding future Regional Conferences in two phases, the first at technical level, to be followed by another at ministerial level, with a total duration that would not exceed five successive working days; and suggested the following possible agenda items for the next Regional Conference.

- (a) an analysis of the effects for the region of the unification of the European Market in 1992 and the impact of the political and trade opening up of Eastern Europe, both politically and commercially, and the results of the Uruguay Round;
- (b) an analysis of the state of application of biotechnology in the region and the potential for its application;
- (c) a continuation of the analysis of the item on environment in the region.

Due account will be taken of these suggestions in preparing for the Twenty-second Regional Conference.

TWENTIETH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE NEAR EAST

Tunis, Tunisia, 12 - 16 March 1990

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

Country Statements and General Debate

The Conference:

recognizing the crucial role of the Regional Office for the Near East in accelerating the process of agricultural development in the region, welcomed the FAO Conference Resolution (14/89) to reopen the Office in Cairo. It emphasized that functioning from within the region will render the Office even more effective especially in enhancing efforts towards regional economic cooperation for agricultural development in the region, and called upon RNEA to coordinate and strengthen these efforts, and to convene an expert consultation on regional economic cooperation and agricultural development in the Near East.

The FAO Regional Office for the Near East (RNEA) reopened in Cairo on 1 September 1991.

An expert consultation on regional economic cooperation and agricultural development in the Near East could not as yet be organized owing to the prevailing political situation in the region.

FAO Activities in the Region

The Conference:

requested FAO to:

continue its technical assistance to Member Nations in the efficient and rational use of water resources, including the re-use of marginal water, waste water and sewage effluents, and to continue its collaboration with concerned regional and international organizations in the fields of soil and water development and management, including reclamation and re-use of waste water.

FAO published a document entitled: "Water, Soil and Crop Management Relating to the Use of Saline Water" in 1990, containing the proceedings of an expert consultation held on the subject in October 1989. An assessment of agricultural water use in the Middle East and North Africa Region was also carried out and the results made available to member countries. This information has also served to formulate an Action Programme on Water and Sustainable Agricultural Development.

A publication on "Treatment and Use of Wastewater in Agriculture" is under preparation and is expected to be available for distribution by the end of 1991.

RNEA-supported activities have included an expert consultation on safe and efficient use of wastewater for agriculture, held in March 1991. One of the recommendations of this consultation was the publication of extension bulletins on wastewater reuse in agriculture, to be undertaken during the biennium 1992-93.

An informal meeting on water management under greenhouse conditions in the Mediterranean countries was held in May 1991. A paper entitled "A Strategy for the Reuse of Wastewater in Agriculture" was presented at an international conference in Morocco, in May 1991. A programme has been initiated to promote efficient water use at the farm level which includes: land levelling laser equipment, computer models for cropwater requirements and irrigation scheduling, improved surface and micro-irrigation techniques and training. The programme will extend into the 1992-93 biennium.

An expert consultation on fertigation/chemigation was held in Cairo in September 1991 to exchange experience and information on the efficient and safe use of fertilizers (fertigation) and/or pesticides (chemigation) through irrigation systems. About thirty specialists from USA, Europe and the Near East countries participated, presented a state-of-the-art paper and exchanged experience and information on this new technology. The proceedings of this consultation will be published in early 1992.

As regards collaboration with concerned regional and international organizations in the field of soil and water development and management, an expert consultation is to be convened in 1992 to discuss methodologies of water requirement determination of crops under greenhouses. Specialists from regional and international organizations are expected to discuss various fundamental and practical approaches to water management for sustained high yields of protected crops in the region. A seminar will be organized in 1992 to discuss progress in laser technology applications for improving irrigation and drainage on flat lands and soil, and water conservation on sloping lands in the region.

support training of specialists in major rain-fed field crops, through cooperation with ICARDA and other concerned regional and international organizations.

Contacts with ICARDA and some countries of the region have been initiated to organize a 3.5 month training course at ICARDA for specialists in cereal crop improvement. A travelling workshop on food legumes is to provide young scientists with an opportunity to learn more from experience of countries which have made advances in breeding and cultural practices.

assist Member Nations in the development and adaptation of integrated pest management approaches to substitute the exclusive reliance on pesticides.

Regional studies have been carried out on pest control situations and possible IPM strategies in the Near East, to serve as a basis for the development of regional programmes on:

- Vegetables Grown Under Protected Cultivation
- Citrus
- Olives

The above regional study on citrus pest problems and impact of present control measures was based on reports prepared by national scientists from Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey and Yemen. A workshop will be organized in May 1992 to review the situation, develop a strategy and prepare the outline of a regional project document.

A workshop on IPM for protected vegetable cultivation in the Near East was organized in May 1990 in Wageningen, The Netherlands, in collaboration with the Wageningen Agricultural University. The workshop was attended by participants from Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey.

A project idea is being developed for a long-term IPM regional programme for cereals, with special focus on the Sunn pest (Eurygaster integriceps).

continue its efforts during the 1990-91 biennium to expand the use of solar box cookers in countries of the region where solar energy is available most of the year.

Two demonstrations were conducted in Sudan in 1990 but those planned in Mauritania and Morocco could not be effected for lack of funds. A filmstrip is being prepared for demonstration and training purposes. Expanding use of solar box cookers in countries of the region where solar energy is available for most of the year will continue to be supported in the 1992-93 biennium.

continue its efforts to establish a Cooperative Regional Network of National Industries for Agro-Industrial Development in the Near East.

An expert consultation to discuss the terms of reference and operational arrangements of this network was planned for the current biennium, but could not be convened for lack of funds. Further efforts will be made towards establishing this network.

support the application of biotechnology to food and agricultural processing and the utilization of agriculture residue.

FAO is considering the possibility of establishing a Cooperative Regional Project for Research and Training on the Application of Nuclear Techniques to Food Preservation and Biotechnology for the Near East. Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Morocco, Syria and Turkey have expressed interest in food irradiation and

could benefit from this project. A workshop is planned to discuss relevant issues of infrastructure and facilities for hosting such a cooperative regional project.

support and coordinate the programme of rinderpest control in Western Asia.

UNDP project RAB/86/024 started operations in May 1989. The project entitled "Coordination of Rinderpest Eradication in West Asia (WAREC)" covers 11 countries of the Middle East; due to the unsettled situation in the area, the project headquarters were moved from Baghdad to FAO Headquarters from where the Project Manager has conducted the regional activities, including coordination and training.

Since early 1991, major regional training activities have been carried out in Cairo (laboratory diagnosis of rinderpest for Egyptian and Yemen personnel and rinderpest vaccine quality control for Egyptian personnel); in Amman (laboratory diagnosis of rinderpest for Jordanian personnel); in Damascus (laboratory diagnosis for rinderpest for Syrian and Lebanese personnel, and vaccine quality control for Syrian personnel); Doha (laboratory diagnosis of rinderpest for Qatari and Bahraini personnel); and in Muscat (laboratory diagnosis of rinderpest for Omani personnel). Group training on ELISA, rinderpest sero-monitoring is being planned on a TCDC basis - possible location of training course will be Cairo. Training on Epidemiology and data management will be held in Amman, Jordan. The Project Manager of WAREC will be reassigned to Amman, Jordan, in a temporary office until conditions in Baghdad return to normal. Rinderpest control activities in Iraq will be under the responsibility of the National Director and local staff.

continue its support to the Near East Regional Cooperative Research and Development Network on Small Ruminants.

Until full settlement of RNEA in Cairo, AGA is temporarily assuming the responsibility of coordinating and supporting the cooperative activities of the Small Ruminants Network. Letters of agreement with Morocco (Ministry of Agriculture) on production of D'Man sheep semen and with the Ministry of Agriculture, Egypt, on genetic improvement of Zairaibi goats are being followed up. Publications prepared for the network are being disseminated.

support the training of range and fodder specialists and strengthen its cooperation with ICARDA in the fields of range management and improvement.

The Grassland Group has been cooperating with ICARDA on various subjects including forage production, ley farming systems, seed production of forage legumes, and biological nitrogen fixation. Regional courses on the above subjects are receiving financial support from FAO.

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

AARINENA continues to be supported by AGR and RNEA, while the Association progressively moves towards self-reliance. A research

management training course will be organized by AARINENA and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in December 1991. The regional science and technology officer in RNEA will provide support to AARINENA.

promote and support the use of communication/audio-visual materials and methodologies to train local staff and extension workers.

Promotion of and support to communication/audio-visual materials and methodologies in the region has been limited because of the following reasons:

- there have not been many requests for assistance from governments in the region. This may be due to the fact that several extension services in the region are weak, or that governments have not yet fully recognized the advantages of using communication/audio-visual materials and methodologies in their rural development programmes;
- projects formulated by the Development Support Communications (DSC) Branch (e.g. Jordan, Sudan, Egypt) did not find funding;
- recent events which have negatively affected assistance programmes.

Nevertheless, some activities were carried out in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Iraq and Sudan, where training of national staff in the production and use of communication/audio-visual materials has taken place.

support the integration of women in rural development activities.

A mission was sent to Sudan to assist the Ministry of Agriculture to strengthen its Women-in-Agricultural Development Unit. The unit's structure was reviewed and a programme of work designed with emphasis on operational projects, in addition to the research and studies currently underway. A TCP project was also formulated to assist in the implementation of national plan of action for the integration of women in development.

A national seminar for key-persons dealing with development projects and programmes for rural women took place in Tunisia in April 1991. It discussed policies and strategies to better integrate women in the Ministry of Agriculture's structure and in field activities.

A mission is being sent to Egypt to assist the Ministry of Agriculture to identify priorities and elaborate a National Programme for the Integration of Women in Development. A request from Morocco for assistance to the newly created women's unit in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is under consideration. Also in Morocco, a project on population education and income-producing activities is aimed at women in rural areas and low-income, peri-urban areas. Egypt and Turkey received assistance in formulating WID projects with focus on training and extension.

continue its support to the Regional Centre for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in the Near East (CARDNE).

FAO maintains close links with the newly established Centre and provided technical support to the meetings of its Executive Committee and its Governing Council.

continue providing advice and support to the Near East-North Africa Regional Agricultural Credit Association (NENARACA).

FAO, through the RNEA Regional Marketing and Credit Officer stationed in Amman, Jordan, provides continuous technical assistance and support to NENARACA, with emphasis on training, studies and exchange of information. Examples of FAO's assistance include the preparation of a study on integration of agricultural credit with supporting services such as marketing, input supply, extension and crop insurance, as well as formulation of project documents for UNDP and IFAD financing.

Support and advice were also given during the Workshop on Bank Transaction Costs held in Morocco in May 1990. Further support is currently being provided on crop insurance to NENARACA's member institutions and in conducting a "training of trainers" course on the use of microcomputer software (DASI programme) for agricultural credit analysis.

provide technical assistance and advice to the recently established Agricultural Food Marketing Association for the Near East and North Africa (AFMANENA).

Through the same officer stationed in Amman, technical backstopping is given by FAO to the Secretariat of AFMANENA in all matters pertaining to the implementation of this Association's work programme. This has recently included assistance in the preparation of a document aiming at UNDP financing of AFMANENA Medium-Term Programme and a project for financing by IFAD.

Resource persons were also identified for the Association's member institutions during a workshop on horticultural marketing held in Cyprus in December 1990.

continue providing technical assistance in agricultural planning and policy analysis, in particular assistance in food and agricultural development strategies, policies and plans.

FAO continues to provide assistance, mainly through its Field Programme. The following are some examples:

- in Algeria, jointly with the World Bank, in the preparation of a study on agricultural prices and incentives;
- in Jordan, through a TCP project entitled "Assistance in Agricultural Policy Analysis", on strategies and policies within a structural adjustment programme framework. Moreover, technical and financial support has been provided to the Institute of National Planning in Cairo in conducting a three-week regional

course on policy analysis. Collaboration will continue with the joint organization of a Price and Marketing course for government officials of the Near East Region;

- in Cyprus, through a TCP project entitled "Assistance in Agricultural Planning and Policy", with a view to the country's possible accession to the EEC.

support the improvement of national capabilities for price policy analysis, developing monitoring and evaluation systems, upgrading agricultural policy and planning capabilities and continue its efforts in analysing the impact of structural adjustment programmes on agriculture and rural development.

Support is also provided mainly through field projects, often within the framework of structural adjustment programmes:

- in Oman, through a UNDP project entitled "Strengthening Agricultural Planning";
- in Yemen, through a TCP project entitled "Agricultural Planning Project Analysis, Monitoring and Statistics", for the Southern Region;
- in Tunisia, through a TCP project entitled "Establishment of a Monitoring and Evaluation System for Agricultural Development";
- a similar project funded by UNDP, in Morocco;
- in-service training on regional planning to 50 officials from the Planning Units of the Ministries of Agriculture in the region.

support activities aiming at strengthening exchange of data on fisheries among countries of the region, and efforts to improve the quality and scope of fishery statistical information at national and regional levels.

A substantial amount of data on fisheries is collected both by national institutions and by national and regional field projects executed by FAO. Such data can be used to build up data bases on fisheries resources at sub-regional level and, through arrangements with appropriate national institutes, shared by the countries concerned. Such type of arrangement has been made with the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KSR), for the processing of data collected by the Regional Fisheries Survey Project in the Gulfs.

provide assistance for the formulation and implementation of inland and aquaculture pilot fishery projects; and support training in fisheries research, development and management.

The appointment of a Senior Aquaculture Advisor will permit increased assistance for the formulation and implementation of aquaculture projects. Further intensification in the inland fisheries sector will also be sought despite budgetary constraints. With regard to training in fisheries research development and

management, the major activities at present are those involved with the GIS training programme and with diagnosis and control of fish diseases in aquaculture.

Training courses in stock assessment and in fisheries development planning and management are planned to be organized within the region and for the Maghreb area and Red Sea sub-region, should extra-budgetary funds be available under Trust Fund arrangements.

support training activities and updating of forestry curricula for professional, technical and vocational training institutions.

Reviews of national forestry education and training systems were carried out by FAO at the request of the Governments of Morocco and Tunisia within the framework of FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme. Assistance was given to Iran for the strengthening of the postgraduate programme of the Faculty of Natural Resources of the University of Teheran.

As regards forestry conservation, a review of existing curricula at technical level has been undertaken for several Near East forestry schools. Training material will be prepared for the promotion of forestry techniques to combat desertification in the region.

continue its collaboration with ACSAD and the Transnational Green Belt Project for North Africa (TGBPNA) in the fields of afforestation and control of desertification.

FAO participated actively in a seminar organized by the TGBPNA project in May 1991 on the role of conservation areas in combating desertification. Apart from specific national cooperation projects, a regional project RAB/89/034 has been established with UNDP funding which supports forestry research, forestry production, sand dune stabilization and erosion control and forest management in general. This project also collaborates with ACSAD and the transnational Greenbelt project.

In addition, a project is being finalized to be funded by Japan for the development of forest resources for environmental protection which will review and evaluate present experiences and practices of forestry as a contribution to food security and environmental protection. Moreover, this project is designed to increase manpower capabilities at all levels in arid zone forestry.

provide assistance in forestry research, forest protection and forest management.

Assistance to forestry research, forest protection and forest management in the region is carried out mostly through the networks of the FAO Committee on Mediterranean Forestry questions "Silva Mediterranean", particularly those on forest fires, cedar and multipurpose tree species. FAO participated actively in the preparation of the International Cedar Symposium (Antalya, 22-26 October 1990) organized by the Government of Turkey. FAO cooperated in the organization of two training courses on forest fire control for Mediterranean countries (with the Government of Spain and ICAMS), one workshop on data banks for forest fires (with

the Government of France and ICAMAS) and one seminar on the use of meteorological information for forest fires (with the Government of Morocco and WMO).

Regional Economic Cooperation for Agricultural Development in the Near East Region

The Conference:

requested FAO to:

assist the new communities in building up their agricultural data base and information systems, and assist Member Nations and regional communities in:

- estimating and analysing their internal and external demand functions for food and agricultural production;
- surveying and analysing their natural resource base (including land, water and labour) and its potential utilization in food and agricultural production;
- identifying intra-communities' comparative advantage and opportunities for spatial agricultural production specialization.

A TCP project in Jordan has provided assistance in agricultural policy analysis and projections of the demand for and supply of food commodities (1990-2000). A similar exercise was also carried out for the Sudan within the framework of a TCP project: "Assistance in Agricultural Planning and Training".

A preliminary report on "Agricultural Cooperation in the Arab World: Production, Consumption and Food Gap" (in Arabic) was prepared. The report provides empirical background on agricultural production and consumption issues in the Arab World. Further analytical work is planned.

Concerning the identification of intra-communities comparative advantage and opportunities for spatial agricultural production specialization, two expert consultations were organized in 1991. The first was on wheat and barley, with participation from 11 member countries. The second on olives, with participants from 10 countries.

assist Member Nations in designing and implementing harmonization policies, with particular emphasis on those aspects that could ultimately lead to a coherent common agricultural policy, and in identifying priority areas of regional agricultural coordination that could lead to effective linkages.

Work on the formulation of agricultural policies converging into a coherent common agricultural framework at regional level was initiated. For instance, assistance to the Government of Yemen on the harmonization of agricultural policies between the two regions of the country. At the regional/sub-regional level, the above-

mentioned report on "Agricultural Cooperation in the Arab World: Production, Consumption and Food Gap" will also facilitate further analytical work.

provide technical support for the promotion of intra-community and region-wide joint agricultural investments, including project identification, preparation and appraisal.

This is an ongoing activity, especially through the work of FAO's Investment Centre.

serve as a focal point for alerting regional groupings and communities about adverse developments in the global economic, agricultural and ecological environments, and conversely, serve to attract the interest of these communities to emerging opportunities that could be of a mutual benefit to their Member Nations.

FAO is strengthening the integration of environmental and sustainable development considerations in the mainstream of agricultural planning and policy analysis. A case-study has been carried out in the Sudan. The annual publication SOFA will continue to review economic and agricultural developments at global and regional levels, including in the Near East Region.

assist in the identification of concrete opportunities for intra-community and intra-regional agricultural trade intensification. The provision and analysis of detailed intra-regional trade matrices could be extremely useful in this respect.

To date, no specific activities could be programmed to assist in the identification of opportunities for intra-community and intra-regional agricultural trade in the Near East Region, although provision has been made, in the context of WAICENT, to develop trade matrices which will be disseminated.

carry out in-depth technical studies on relevant topics of the subject, in particular harmonization of agricultural policies, analysing major components of the proposed pragmatic approach, and assessing the fisheries resource base potential in the region.

A study on selected issues in agricultural policy analysis in the Near East Region will be published during the 1992-93 biennium, based on a series of country case-studies (Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey). The study will derive a set of problem-oriented recommendations to assist the governments of member countries.

organize an expert consultation and/or devote the entire forthcoming Session of the Near East Regional Economic and Social Policy Commission for discussing these and other relevant issues.

The organization of an expert consultation to examine thoroughly regional economic cooperation for agricultural development in the Near East Region could not take place owing to developments in the Gulf area. The Fourth Session of the Near East Regional Economic and Social Policy Commission is to meet in October 1991 and will address aspects of intra-regional cooperation.

provide technical assistance to support the emerging move towards Yemen unification through carrying out in-depth analysis on regional comparative advantage and opportunities for spatial agricultural production specialization within the country.

Within the framework of Yemeni unification, a TCP project was prepared with the objective of:

- conducting an in-depth review of the agricultural situation and identifying agricultural development constraints in the two regions of the country;
- defining a common agricultural policy for the country; and
- preparing a plan of action for the implementation of the common agricultural policy.

UNDP Project YEM/90/008: "Establishment of a Unified Agricultural Extension System" is being implemented with the objective of restructuring the agricultural extension systems, with institutional and functional linkages with agricultural research and training, in the unified Yemen.

Two agricultural marketing projects also operate in the country, one in the North and one in the South. Prior to the Gulf war, a third project was formulated, designed specifically to exploit Yemen's comparative advantage in horticultural products and to promote exports to the region. There is one EEC-funded seed project in the former N. Yemen and one UNDP/FAO seed project in S. Yemen. Activities will be progressively harmonized.

A Balanced Diet - A Way to Good Nutrition

The Conference:

requested FAO to assist Member Nations in:

- developing and training human resources and enhancing national institutional capabilities for dealing with nutritional issues;
- improving information exchange through intercountry workshops, conferences and scientific publications;
- providing technical assistance in assessing the state of food and nutrition especially in rural areas, setting up nutritional goals, preparing guidelines for planning food production in accordance with nutritional needs, improving nutrition education, including food safety and quality control, undertaking studies on the relation between food consumption and food production and formulating and monitoring national nutritional programmes.

In Egypt, a project proposal was elaborated to strengthen activities of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation in the field of nutrition, especially in those rural areas where malnutrition rates are still very high. In Morocco, an umbrella project was designed to assess the food and nutrition situation, to prepare field-oriented nutrition interventions (education; -

classic nutrition interventions at grassroot levels and with strong women's participation; - food quality/food control and standards to train responsible professionals) and to set up a global food and nutrition monitoring system.

Technical assistance continues to be provided to member countries in the development and implementation of national programmes to promote the quality and safety of foods, locally produced as well as imported. A regional seminar on the prevention and control of food contaminants is planned to be held in the United Arab Emirates.

Representation of the Region in the CGIAR

The Conference:

requested FAO to:

- continue its assistance to Member Nations of the region in the formulation and implementation of operational programmes to improve the efficiency of national institutions;
- provide technical assistance in institution building and human resource development to improve organization, management and implementation of national agricultural research programmes;
- provide secretarial services and technical assistance to AARINENA to improve research cooperation and coordination in the region;
- support efforts of the representatives of the region in the CGIAR to consult with leaders of selected national research institutions in the Region to facilitate the flow of information from national research institutions to CGIAR and its feedback;
- continue to circulate to Member Nations of the region reports of designated representatives on attendance at CGIAR meetings;
- continue to provide operational and administrative services for the regional representatives, including briefing material, guidelines and agendas for meetings, relevant information and background documentation and travel arrangements.

FAO contributed to the formulation of research programmes in the Sultanate of Oman by participating in the Agricultural Sector Review for the fifth UNDP Country Programme and providing advice on the structure, organization and management of agricultural research in the country.

Under the leadership of FAO, a workshop on "linkages between agricultural technical training, research and extension" was organized in the Republic of Yemen. The institution-building and human resource development aspects covered by the workshop were of particular relevance to the government's efforts to establish a Unified National Agricultural Extension System and an Agricultural Research and Extension Authority (AREA).

The region is presently represented in the CGIAR by Jordan and Tunisia. The regional representatives receive all documentation and full briefing on important items prior to the CGIAR mid-year meeting and before the International Centres Week in November. When possible, the representatives are encouraged to visit relevant research institutions in the Region, particularly during travel to and from CGIAR meetings.

FAO Action to Combat Screwworm in the Near East Region

The Conference:

requested FAO to:

- organize the donors' meeting for a screwworm eradication programme based on the use of sterile flies;
- alert other regions, monitor the screwworm situation in the world and disseminate information on its occurrence;
- coordinate international screwworm control campaigns in cooperation with other UN agencies;
- assist Member Nations and regional committees of the region in providing technical assistance for undertaking eradication, control and prevention measures;
- train personnel and support concerned institutions in surveillance and control programmes.

Following the establishment of the Screwworm Emergency Centre for North Africa (SECNA) and related trust fund, FAO successfully mustered support from and the collaboration of the donor community and international organizations for the eradication of the New World screwworm. The implementation of a preparatory phase of the programme involved the transport and release of from 3.5 to 7 million sterile flies per week, for eight weeks, over the 6 600 km² infected area.

The main phase then commenced in February 1991 with operations being scaled up for the release of 40 million sterile insects weekly over the entire infested area, including an extension into Tunisia to provide a safety barrier. The good results obtained, up to the time of reporting, indicate the feasibility of total eradication, with only six cases of screwworm myiasis being detected in livestock over the first five months of the year compared to 1 046 in the same period in 1990 and no cases since. It is estimated that, provided present progress is maintained, total eradication may be declared by December 1991.