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Food and  
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Продовольственная и  
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организация  
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Organización  
de las  
Naciones Unidas  
para la  
Alimentación y la  
Agricultura

# FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific

## Thirty-first Session

Hanoi, Viet Nam, 12 – 16 March 2012

### Agenda Item 12

**Report on FAO activities in Asia and the Pacific region in the biennium 2010-11 (including the implementation of priorities and recommendations of the five Regional Technical Commissions) and actions taken on the main recommendations of the 30th APRC**

## Table of Contents

	Paragraphs
I. Introduction.....	1
II. Actions taken on the main recommendations of the 30th APRC.....	2 – 33
III. Implementation of the priorities and recommendations of the five Regional Technical Commissions (RTCs) .....	34 – 46
IV. Summary of other key activities implemented in the region, in line with Regional Priority areas A to E and core functions .....	47 – 99

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## I. Introduction

1. Many interrelated activities were initiated and completed in support of agriculture, food security and rural development in Asia and the Pacific region. Full coverage of all the activities undertaken during the biennium cannot be condensed into a document of this length and therefore this report focuses only on some of the main activities undertaken. Part II documents actions taken in response to the recommendations of the Thirtieth FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (30th APRC) held in Gyeongju, Republic of Korea from 27 September to 1 October 2010, in line with RAP's Regional Priorities areas A to E.<sup>1</sup> Part III outlines implementation of the priorities and recommendations of the five Regional Technical Commissions. Part IV summarizes other key activities implemented in the region during the biennium.

## II. Actions taken on the main recommendations of the 30<sup>th</sup> APRC

2. The following is a brief summary of the actions taken so far by the Organization on the recommendations made by the 30<sup>th</sup> FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific:

### **Assist member countries in collecting and analyzing reliable data and information on climate change impacts to support planning and informed decision-making.**

3. Under the five year multidonor trust fund Mitigation of Climate Change in Agriculture Programme, a pilot project has begun in Viet Nam to test the integration of mitigation promoting techniques into agricultural practices in a smallholder context and establish communities of practice. In Viet Nam, the programme is investigating ways of up-scaling existing integrated food energy systems and farmers are learning how to integrate cropping, livestock, forestry and fisheries activities to produce food, biogas and biofertilizer. (Regional Priority E)

### **Facilitate the formulation of a regional strategy for mainstreaming climate change adaptation and mitigation activities in the agricultural sectors, and the establishment of regional cooperation mechanisms and networks.**

4. Regional initiatives are being taken on: i) formulating and disseminating a regional strategy on climate change adaptation and mitigation in the crop, livestock, forestry, fisheries, land and water subsectors, ii) developing and applying guidelines on the formulation of relevant national strategies and iii) establishing a regional cooperation network. (Regional Priority E)

### **Provide advice to member countries, subregional and regional organizations in adjusting and harmonizing policies, programmes and institutions dealing with climate change adaptation and mitigation, and develop and disseminate practical, user-friendly tools and methodologies for such data collection and analyses.**

5. Nineteen countries participated in a workshop to examine the effects of climate change on marine, coastal and freshwater systems and the implications for fisheries and aquaculture livelihoods and economies in the region and develop recommendations for national and regional adaptation and mitigation strategies. A background document was produced in preparation for the workshop and subsequently published, as were the proceedings. (Regional Priority E)

6. Support was provided to NGOs and community groups in five Southeast Asian countries in linking communities to forestry-related voluntary carbon markets, including identification of gaps in the ability of smallholders to access voluntary carbon market opportunities. (Regional Priority E)

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<sup>1</sup> Regional Priority area A: Strengthening food and nutritional security  
 Regional Priority area B: Fostering agricultural production and rural development  
 Regional Priority area C: Enhancing equitable, productive and sustainable natural resource management and utilization  
 Regional Priority area D: Improved capacity to respond to threats and disasters  
 Regional Priority area E: Climate change, its impact on agriculture and food security and nutrition

7. In collaboration with Mangroves for the Future, carbon sequestration rates of mangrove forests are being assessed and methodologies, standards and protocols for marketing of the carbon are being considered. (Regional Priority E)

8. A regional workshop on climate change and food security was organized in Beijing in March 2011 and a list of options identified for climate change mitigation and adaptation in the agriculture, forestry, fishery, land and water sectors, including mechanisms for regional cooperation in ASEAN+3 countries. (Regional Priority E)

9. In support of the 2011 Bhutan Climate Change Summit, national and subregional roadmaps on climate change adaptation for food security are being developed for Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal covering the next ten years. (Regional Priority E)

**Support member countries in efforts related to restoration of degraded lands and forests, through reforestation, forest rehabilitation and agroforestry.**

10. FAO is promoting forest rehabilitation and restoration in four countries in Southeast Asia – Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Thailand – following the outstanding success of the TCP project in assisted natural regeneration (ANR) in the Philippines. ANR restores and enhances forest productivity, biological diversity and ecological processes using technologies that are simple, cost effective and easy to implement. Key outcomes include establishment of model sites, review and development of incentives for community participation in ANR, strengthened technical capacities for ANR applications, development and documentation of ANR-based payments and credits, regional collaboration and exchange of information, and application and integration of ANR principles into national forestry management plans. (Regional Priority C)

**Continue support for initiatives to test and demonstrate the feasibility of various climate change adaptation and mitigation activities in the agricultural sectors, such as the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD).**

11. Since the 30<sup>th</sup> APRC, three Asia-Pacific countries have joined the UN-REDD programme (Cambodia, the Philippines and the Solomon Islands), bringing the total to ten countries in the region. To date (November 2011), the UN-REDD programme has allocated about US\$18.6 million to country programmes in the region (Cambodia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands and Viet Nam) of which about US\$10 million will be implemented by or channelled through FAO. (Regional Priority E)

**Provide guidance to member countries for establishing and implementing technologically sound, robust and consistent methodologies for monitoring, reporting and verification of greenhouse gas emissions, carbon stocks and other parameters related to climate change in the agriculture sector.**

12. Under the UN-REDD programme and in compliance with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), FAO is in charge of supporting countries in development and implementation of national systems for measuring, reporting and verification (MRV) and monitoring of carbon emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. Currently, FAO is supporting Viet Nam in developing a National MRV System for REDD+. In Indonesia, FAO has been requested to develop a MRV Action Plan for the Presidential REDD+ Task Force. (Regional Priority E)

**Conduct analytical studies and engage in policy dialogue with concerned stakeholders with a view to developing policy options for a more stable global trading system for food, which can enhance food security while providing adequate incentives for food producers.**

13. Several consultations were convened to strengthen the capacity of countries and regional organizations in analyzing, formulating and implementing food security policies and programmes; a synthesis volume on experiences and policy lessons from the region in dealing with the global food and financial crises is being finalized. (Regional Priority A)

14. FAO convened two high-level consultations on policy and programmatic actions to address high food prices in Thailand and Fiji in 2010. Two FAO Food Price e-Forums for Asia and the Pacific were launched as follow-up. (Regional Priority A)

**Work with member countries to increase productivity of crops that are of particular relevance to the diets of food- and nutritionally-insecure people, including starchy staples, pulses, coarse grains, vegetables, horticultural crops and oil crops.**

15. Through TCP and trust fund projects, training, technical support, institutional and infrastructure development, and agricultural inputs were provided to strengthen regional and country capacity building in production of crops such as rice, fruits, vegetables, oils and pulses in six Asian countries – Bangladesh, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan and the Philippines. (Regional Priority B)

**Assist member countries with rapid diffusion and adoption of appropriate technologies for crop intensification by facilitating inter-country collaboration.**

16. In collaboration with IRRI, a regional meeting on increasing rice productivity in under-exploited areas of SAARC countries was convened. Country needs were identified and a project proposal was formulated. (Regional Priority B)

17. A regional consultation on improving wheat productivity in Asia is being organized in collaboration with APAARI and other partners. (Regional Priority B)

**Work with member countries to speed up technology transfer in support of crop intensification.**

18. Country capacity development for speedy release of new crop varieties, and participatory varietal selection and seed production, have been initiated in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea through a UNDP funded project and in Myanmar through a TCP project. (Regional Priority B)

**Assist member countries in the following areas: i) facilitating public–private partnerships in research, extension and marketing; ii) better connecting of producers, particularly smallholders, to markets; and iii) building capacity in food safety and phytosanitary matters.**

19. A regional expert consultation to strengthen public–private partnerships in provision of market-oriented services was conducted. A study in Asia on the review of good practices in the design and delivery of market-oriented advisory services to farmers and rural entrepreneurs, including private sector-led initiatives, was carried out and a publication produced. (Regional Priority B)

20. A DVD presenting successful examples of small farmers producing for premium markets was distributed regionally. Nine Asian countries participated in a training course to strengthen value chains and improve market linkages between producers and the market. A software product was developed and pilot tested in Thailand to link groups of consumers directly to farmers in an environmentally friendly way, minimizing the cost of transport, logistics and spoilage and optimizing freshness. The pilot programme is ongoing and has proven successful, and plans are underway to expand it to other countries in the region. (Regional Priority B)

21. A regional workshop was convened for producer organizations in Asia to strengthen their capacity to link to modern value chains. Twelve Asian countries participated in a value chain financing training course to strengthen market linkages between producers and the market. (Regional Priority B)

22. Two trust fund projects to enhance the agricultural competitiveness of rural households in Greater Mekong Subregion countries through the promotion of horticulture and other agricultural commodity supply chains are being implemented in collaboration with IFAD and CFC. (Regional Priority B)

23. Twenty-five trainers from five countries of the Greater Mekong Subregion were trained in good practices in the production of fresh-cut horticultural produce. (Regional Priority B)

24. Through a trust fund project, activities to strengthen national and regional phytosanitary capacities and systems in support of regional and international trade are ongoing in ten Asian countries. (Regional Priority D)
25. Sixteen Asian countries attended a workshop on the use and application of a scientific and risk-based approach to standards setting and food control systems throughout the food chain to enhance food safety at national and regional levels and address issues of harmonization with the Codex process. A workshop for South Asian countries on equivalence and mutual recognition agreements to facilitate the trade of safe and quality food was convened. Training materials were produced for training courses held in Bangladesh and Viet Nam to improve food safety management systems; in Viet Nam the programme included linking small farmers to markets. (Regional Priority D)
26. Nine Pacific Island countries participated in a joint FAO/WHO technical workshop on food labelling to improve their knowledge about codex labelling provisions, particularly date marking requirements, and to identify ways to use the codex process for harmonization of standards. (Regional Priority D)
27. A regional training workshop to strengthen the capacities of National Codex Contact Points in Pacific Island countries was convened to assist member countries participate more effectively in international standards-setting activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and to develop action plans for strengthening Codex at national levels. (Regional Priority D)
- Support member countries' efforts to make increased use of local diversity, conservation agriculture, integrated pest management (IPM), integrated plant nutrient management and integrated water management.**
28. A regional workshop on sustainable agricultural mechanization was organized in November 2011 in collaboration with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the UN Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (UNAPCAEM). (Regional Priority B)
29. Through TCP and trust fund projects, capacity building is ongoing in pesticide regulatory harmonization, community-based IPM training in pesticide risk reduction, effective management of fruit flies through IPM and biological control of the cassava pink mealybug. (Regional Priority D)
30. Case studies and publications have been produced, two regional e-conferences and a regional workshop convened, and national capacity building programmes initiated to promote sustainable water resource use for agriculture in the region. (Regional Priority C)
31. Case studies on policies and strategies for sustainable soil fertility and fertilizer management in South Asia and a report on integrated land and water resources management in rural watersheds were published. (Regional Priority C)
32. Under an IFAD-funded trust fund project on water interventions for improving smallholder farming and rural livelihoods, assessments of linkages between water and rural livelihoods, including constraints faced by smallholders, have been initiated in five pilot countries in Asia.
- Summary reports of the outcomes and recommendations of the sessions of the RTCs should be made available to member countries prior to the FAO Regional Conference and schedules of RTC sessions should be adjusted to precede the FAO Regional Conference.**
33. Of the five Regional Technical Commissions (RTCs), the animal production and health, forestry and plant protection commissions will convene their sessions and distribute their summary reports to member countries prior to the 31<sup>st</sup> APRC. The fisheries and statistics commissions were unable to reschedule their next sessions, but will explore the possibility of rescheduling for future sessions.

### III. Implementation of the priorities and recommendations of the five Regional Technical Commissions (RTCs)<sup>2</sup>

34. This section highlights major outcomes of the previous sessions of the five Regional Technical Commissions (RTCs), including implementation of actions taken on the priorities and recommendations identified by each session. The core focus of the work of the RTCs covers:

- capacity building, training and raising awareness on regional issues;
- conducting regional assessments, regional subsectoral reviews and status and trends reports;
- establishing regional networks, regional technical cooperation and exchange;
- harmonizing data, standards and practices;
- developing regional standards, codes of practice and best practice guidelines; and
- advocating for and representing regional issues in the development of global normative instruments.

#### **Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific (APHCA)**

35. The thirty-fourth session of the Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific (APHCA) was convened in Phuket, Thailand from 25 to 27 October 2010, attended by delegates and representatives from 13 member countries and one observer from the OIE Asia-Pacific Office. The Commission:

- Continued its support for small-scale dairying activities in the region, productivity enhancement through good husbandry practices and capacity development at all levels in the dairy value chain.
- Worked closely with member countries and selected donors in small-scale dairy development and formulation of a dairy development strategy and investment plan for the region.
- Worked towards forming an Asia Dairy Network that will facilitate information exchange and capacity development in the Asian dairy sector.
- Focused its support on control of transboundary animal diseases through epidemiology training, networking, and providing guidance as a member of the Steering Committee of the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases in Asia.
- Recommended improving access to food safety-related hazard information through information sharing mechanisms and implementing a risk-based preventative approach to mitigating risks associated with feed safety.
- Recommended the establishment of a functional regulatory framework on feed safety with a view to improving animal health as well as food safety.

36. During the 2010–11 biennium, APHCA implemented the following actions in line with the priorities and recommendations of the thirty-fourth session of APHCA:

- capacity building and training in small-scale meat and dairy production and processing;
- formulating a smallholder dairy development strategy for Asia and the Pacific region;
- forming an Asia Dairy Network;
- controlling transboundary animal diseases;
- improving regional information exchange on food safety and livestock development; and
- improving regional regulatory frameworks for animal feed safety.

#### **Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (APCAS)**

37. The twenty-third session of the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (APCAS) was convened in Siem Reap, Cambodia from 26 to 30 April 2010, attended by 60 delegates from 16 member countries and three observers representing Timor-Leste, the UN Economic and

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<sup>2</sup> For more detailed information on the outcomes of the previous sessions of the RTCs, refer to information note APRC/12/INF/8 *Summary of the recommendations of the Regional Technical Commissions (RTCs): Relevance of the RTCs to the work of the APRC and their function as regional, subsectoral priority setting mechanisms.*

Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). The Commission:

- Recommended that countries conduct a thorough assessment of their capacity-building requirements and package these for assistance, and that FAO should provide assistance to member countries in agri-environmental statistics, particularly in data collection and analysis.
- Recommended that as many countries as possible from Asia and the Pacific be closely associated with the formulation of the regional implementation plan of the “Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural Statistics”, and that donors generously fund the plan, given its importance for monitoring the MDGs and food security.
- Encouraged member countries to assess and take steps to improve their response rates to FAO questionnaires where necessary and to use CountrySTAT.

38. During the 2010–11 biennium, APCAS implemented the following actions in line with the priorities and recommendations of the twenty-third session of APCAS:

- capacity building and human resource development in agricultural statistics;
- strengthening agricultural statistical systems; and
- improving the dissemination and sharing of data.

#### **Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC)**

39. The twenty-sixth session of the Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) was convened in New Delhi, India from 31 August to 4 September 2009, attended by 60 delegates from 17 contracting governments. Delegates from Bhutan and Japan attended as observers. The Commission:

- Continued support for training programmes to improve capacity development in phytosanitary measures, integrated pest management (IPM), pesticide management and control of invasive species.
- Recommended establishment of working groups to address major constraints and challenges including: implementation of international standards for phytosanitary measures, pest incursion, and phytosanitary requirements for importing rubber plants. It also recommended that a contingency plan should be developed for South American Leaf Blight (SALB) together with a technical assistance programme.
- Called for continued cooperation and financial support in providing technical assistance to improve country capacity in implementing international and regional standards for phytosanitary measures, pesticide risk reduction through integrated pest management, and the Rotterdam Convention and Code of Conduct. It also recommended that it link up with ASEAN to advance its IPM and farmer education agenda.
- Considered development of a system to collect and disseminate plant protection information within the region, including the creation of an APPPC website and continued development and maintenance of updated plant protection profiles.
- Adopted two regional standards for phytosanitary measures: Guidelines for Protection against South American Leaf Blight (SALB) of Rubber and Guidance on the Operation of Land Border Entry Points for Local Trade.

40. During the 2010–11 biennium, the APPPC implemented the following actions in line with the priorities and recommendations of the twenty-sixth session of the APPPC:

- capacity building and training in phytosanitary measures and control of alien invasive species;
- strengthening regional assessment and collaboration on plant protection;
- strengthening regional cooperation in phytosanitary measures, pesticide risk reduction and IPM;
- strengthening regional information exchange and communication about plant protection; and
- developing regional plant protection standards.

### **Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC)**

41. The thirty-first session of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) was convened in Jeju Island, Republic of Korea from 6 to 8 September 2010, attended by 34 delegates from 13 member countries and international and regional fisheries organizations. The Commission:

- Recommended that all countries develop a national ecosystem approach framework through which activities can be implemented and reported.
- Acknowledged the challenges in collating the available fisheries information from APFIC members and recommended the strengthening of regional capacity for assessments of fisheries and aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific region for the purpose of policy development and management. The Commission noted with concern that escapees from aquaculture, deliberate introductions and unregulated movement of stock remain as significant threats to the aquaculture industry and the indigenous biodiversity.
- Recommended that APFIC should seek new partnerships and strengthen cooperation with other regional bodies as it implements the APFIC session recommendations.
- Expressed its desire for FAO to work more closely with WTO on fisheries subsidies, particularly in relation to developing countries and small-scale fisheries.
- Called for continued assistance from developed countries and international organizations to support their efforts in the region in combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.
- Recommended that APFIC should review the effects of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture in the region and provide advice to member countries on strategic planning for adaptation and mitigation measures for the sector.

42. During the 2010–11 biennium, APFIC implemented the following actions in line with the priorities and recommendations of the thirty-first session of APFIC:

- capacity building in ecosystem approaches to management of fisheries and aquaculture;
- strengthening regional fisheries assessments;
- strengthening cooperation with other regional fisheries projects and bodies;
- strengthening support for small-scale fisheries;
- strengthening fisheries governance and combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; and
- reviewing of the implications of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture in Asia.

### **Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC)**

43. The twenty-third session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) was convened in Thimphu, Bhutan from 9 to 11 June 2010, attended by 28 member countries, 4 United Nations organizations and 17 observers and representatives from regional and international inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations. The Commission:

- Recommended that FAO facilitate and support capacity building to make further progress towards sustainable forest management and to assist forestry agencies in reviewing structures, policies and functions to better align with the new demands and expectations on forests and forestry.
- Requested FAO to assist countries in developing and implementing efficient and practical forest monitoring and assessment mechanisms, including evaluation of environmental services. FAO support for subregional workshops on strategic planning in forestry and further scenario development was emphasized. The Commission also requested that FAO provide advice and tools to assess forest degradation, forest fragmentation and related biodiversity loss.
- Urged FAO to further strengthen support for policy-related work under the APFC-initiated Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank, and maintain its strong level of activity and



collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network and the Mangroves for the Future Initiative.

- Urged FAO to facilitate additional regional dialogue on forest law enforcement and governance (FLEG) and to provide assistance to build capacities to fight illegal logging and other forest crimes, and to help countries secure financial resources for effective FLEG implementation.

44. During the 2010–11 biennium, APFC implemented the following actions in line with the priorities and recommendations of the twenty-third session of APFC:

- capacity building in forestry policy and management;
- developing forest assessments and planning;
- strengthening regional forestry cooperation; and
- improving forest law enforcement and governance in the region.

45. The key recommendations of the three most recent sessions of the Regional Technical Commissions preceding the 31st APRC (APPPC in August 2011, APHCA in November 2011 and APFC in November 2011) are reported in section IX (paragraphs 42 to 45) of the information item APRC/12/INF/8 "Summary of the recommendations of the Regional Technical Commissions (RTCs): Relevance of the RTCs to the work of the APRC and their function as regional, subsectoral priority setting mechanisms". APCAS and APFIC were unable to reschedule their sessions to precede the 31st APRC, but are exploring the possibility of doing so for the 32nd APRC.

46. *The Conference may wish to consider the Regional Technical Commissions as priority setting bodies for their subsectors and recognize their contribution to the work of FAO in the region.*

#### **IV. Summary of other key activities implemented in the region, in line with Regional Priority areas A to E and core functions (refer also to section II)**

##### **Regional Priority A: Strengthening food and nutritional security**

47. FAO initiated formulation/implementation of Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs) in almost all countries in Asia-Pacific.

48. An Investment Forum for Food Security for Asia and the Pacific under the theme "food for all" was convened in July 2010 in Manila and culminated in the signing of the Asia and the Pacific Regional Food Security Partnership Framework with ADB, FAO and IFAD.

49. A policy forum was convened in October 2011 in Beijing to review and analyse the impacts of regional trade agreements on food security in Asia and the Pacific – at regional, country and commodity-specific levels – and to identify policy options for strengthening the positive impacts on food security including appropriate levels of trade liberalization and complementary policies. Country papers were prepared and will be included in the publication of the proceedings.

50. A regional workshop on scaling up nutrition was organized in collaboration with WHO. A Country Nutrition Strategy paper is being prepared to feed into the International Conference on Nutrition – twenty years later (ICN+20) being held in Rome in 2013.

51. A regional workshop was convened to share lessons learnt and best practices in improving food and nutrition security in Asia and the Pacific. Constraints and challenges in implementing nutrition-sensitive, food-based approaches were identified and solutions recommended.

52. Eleven Asian countries participated in a workshop on value chain responses to rice price increases, with focus on the role of the private sector and ways to improve collaboration among rice value chain partners to minimize future rice price increases.

53. FAO assisted four countries in Asia (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Mongolia and Nepal) to formulate Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP) proposals; they were selected as the recipients of a grant totalling about US\$150 million.

54. The FAO/EC project on micro and small enterprise development to achieve food security, food safety and self reliance for the urban poor in Phnom Penh aims to enhance the food security, food safety and nutrition security of poor and vulnerable urban and peri-urban dwellers living along Phnom Penh's river banks.

55. Under the technical guidance of the Food Secure Pacific Working Group (comprised of FAO, WHO, UNICEF, PIFS and SPC) the summit developed a multisectoral approach to food security resulting in the adoption of a policy Framework for Action on Food Security in the Pacific.

56. Responding to a call for action on food security made by Pacific Islands leaders in 2008, ministers and senior policy-makers, as well as representatives from industry, non-governmental organizations and other partners from three vital sectors – trade, health and agriculture – met at the first ever Pacific Food Summit in Vanuatu in April 2010.

### **Regional Priority B: Fostering agricultural production and rural development**

57. Regional capacity on crop governance was enhanced through training, case studies and capacity building, and a training manual on crop governance produced.

58. Two regional consultations on market-oriented agricultural extension – one in Asia and another in the Pacific Islands – were convened to strengthen government extension services to farmers to help them adapt to rapidly changing markets.

59. Two dairy projects have been launched in Bangladesh, Myanmar and Thailand – a CFC-funded trust fund project on smallholder dairy development to enhance dairy productivity and market access for target beneficiaries and a TCP project to design and implement school milk programmes in targeted rural areas.

60. An Italian-funded trust fund project to improve environmental animal health management strategies among smallholder animal breeders in Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Philippines is ongoing. Studies and training to reduce disease transmission risks and improve animal productivity have been conducted and policy briefs produced.

61. Through a TCP project, farm trials in four Asian countries have successfully demonstrated the technical feasibility of using pellet feed to replace trash/low value fish in cage cultures of marine finfish. The trials have confirmed the practical and economic viability of such operations.

62. FAO, under the auspices of the *All ACP Agricultural Commodities Programme*, organized two regional workshops in support of the fruit and vegetables sector – a training course on agribusiness management for farmers' organizations with focus on the challenges and opportunities associated with certification, and a workshop on sharing lessons learned. At the national level, support was provided to farmers' organizations in Fiji, Samoa, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to enable farmers to capture a higher share of the market value for their products through an inclusive business model approach.

63. An overview of aquaculture development in selected countries of the Pacific Islands was conducted and a report produced to document the lessons learned and share experiences among countries in the region.

64. The Secretariat of the Pacific Community and FAO co-organized a regional workshop in Fiji in October 2011 on development of a Pacific Aquaculture Regional Cooperation Programme which adopted a draft regional aquaculture strategy and highlighted the need to strengthen cooperation between the Pacific and Asia, where aquaculture is much more developed.

65. In partnership with the Government of Sri Lanka and NACA, FAO co-organized the first Asian Regional Ministerial Meeting on Aquaculture for Food Security, Nutrition and Economic Development convened in Sri Lanka in July 2011, attended by 17 member countries. The meeting adopted the "Colombo Declaration", a political commitment to regional cooperation in aquaculture development for food security, nutrition and economic development.

### **Regional Priority C: Enhancing equitable, productive and sustainable natural resource management and utilization**

66. A regional report for Asia and the Pacific and four subregional reports for East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific have been published under the Second Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study. Key drivers of change to 2020 have been analyzed and probable scenarios and their implications for future development of the forestry sector are set out. As follow-up, two workshops on strategic planning for forestry were convened in Fiji (for the South Pacific) and Bhutan (for South Asia). A third workshop is planned for Southeast Asia in Indonesia.
67. Participants from 20 Asia-Pacific countries, 12 regional fisheries bodies and organizations and 14 fish workers' organizations participated in a consultation workshop to identify priority actions and gaps in implementation of good governance practices for small-scale fisheries.
68. To increase awareness of effective means to adapt forest policies to poverty alleviation strategies, document the methods and means by which poverty can be effectively reduced, and strengthen the capacity of forestry agencies and non-governmental organizations to make forestry work for the poor, the following activities in the region have been undertaken: eleven country studies, regional and national planning workshops, capacity building of national experts, policy briefs and a synthesis report.
69. A workshop was convened on strengthening assessment tools for fishery and aquaculture stocks for improved policy development and management, with focus on tools that can be applied in data-poor circumstances or for small-scale fisheries, characteristics common to the region. A "community of practice" for the region was set up to facilitate information sharing and contribute to increased use of stock assessment tools.
70. Under trust fund and TCP projects, national and regional capacity development in land degradation assessment and monitoring was carried out through training and consultation workshops as well as through knowledge sharing networks.
71. Under a Japanese-funded trust fund project, analyses of water allocation policies in four river basins in Asia were conducted and a technical publication produced and e-conference convened.
72. A publication providing detailed information on the coastal and offshore fisheries of the Pacific Islands – including national information on 14 Pacific Island countries and regional information on important species and their status and management – was produced.
73. National workshops on improving post-harvest fisheries practices and value-added fishery products were convened in the Cook Islands, Kiribati and Nauru, and national frameworks to enhance aquaculture activities and improve institutional capacities were developed.
74. Understanding and greater awareness of policy, legal and institutional issues for biodiversity conservation have been strengthened in Fiji, Niue, Samoa and Vanuatu under the Global Environment Facility – Pacific Alliance for Sustainability (GEF-PAS) Forestry Conservation and Protected Area Management Project.

### **Regional Priority D: Improved capacity to respond to threats and disasters**

75. The Emergency Centre of Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) has implemented over 25 projects with a total budget of over US\$134 million with funding from a range of donors including USAID, EU, ADB, World Bank, AusAID, Japan, etc. to control and reduce the risk of HPAI, FMD and other priority transboundary animal diseases in the region.
76. Support was provided to the Central Veterinary Laboratory in Mongolia to contain the foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in August 2010. Early diagnosis followed by application of preventative measures curtailed the outbreak and limited forced culling of infected animals to only 26 000.

77. A training programme in applied veterinary epidemiology and laboratory diagnosis to strengthen surveillance and outbreak investigation and management of swine diseases was carried out in six Asian countries.

78. Regional capacity in information exchange in pest reporting, phytosanitary measures, pest control and plant protection regulations was strengthened through training workshops and other means. The third edition of plant protection profiles from 20 Asia-Pacific countries was published to assist countries in formulating more effective strategies and policies for pest and pesticide management.

### **Regional Priority E: Climate change, its impact on agriculture and food security and nutrition**

79. Numerous activities on climate change mitigation and adaptation have been carried out in the agriculture, forestry, fisheries, land and water sectors (see section II).

#### **Core functions**

##### ***a) Providing regional perspectives, trend monitoring and assessments***

80. Twenty-eight country outlook reports and seventeen thematic study reports have been produced under the Second Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study – a wide-ranging outlook study which aims to provide an overview of the status and trends in the forestry sector and highlight issues that will shape the future of forestry in the region.

81. A food price monitoring system has been set up at the regional office and is disseminated weekly, and an electronic newsletter which monitors food market developments in the region continues to be disseminated monthly.

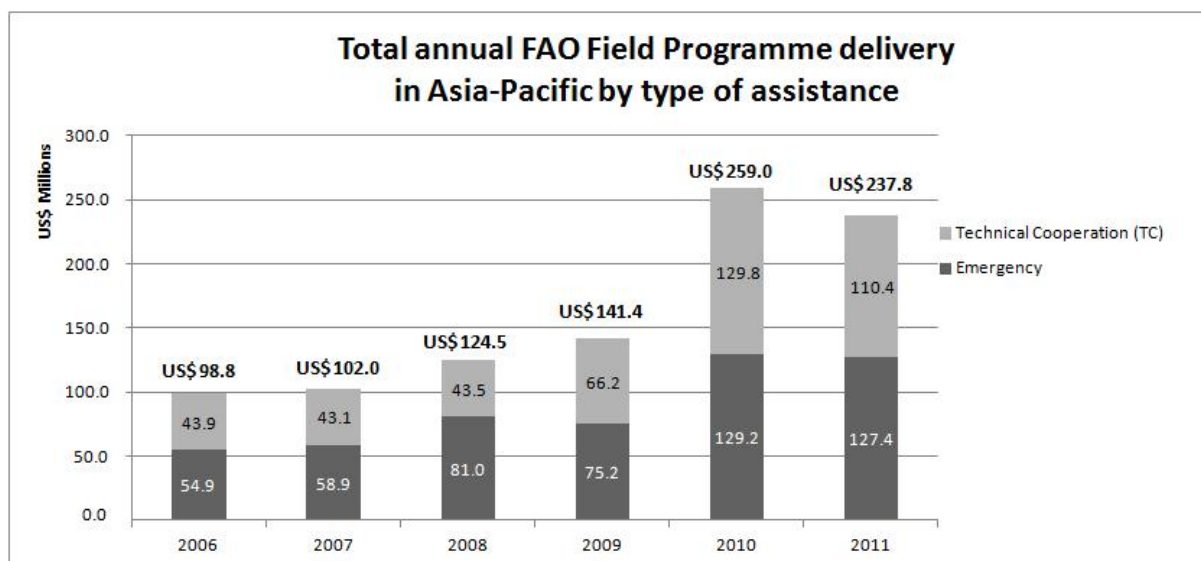
##### ***b) Capacity building and technical support***

82. In 2010, the total delivery of all FAO's field programme (including emergency and long-term projects) in Asia and the Pacific Region was US\$259 million, which showed an increase of 83 percent from that of 2009 and a 2.6 times increase since 2006.

83. During the year 2011, 253 long-term development projects<sup>3</sup> and 84 emergency projects were operational in 34 Asia-Pacific countries with a total delivery of US\$237.8 million – US\$110.4 million from long-term development projects and US\$127.4 million from emergency projects. In addition, there were 88 TeleFood projects with a delivery of approximately US\$500 000.

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<sup>3</sup> Long-term development projects include Trust Fund projects, Unilateral Trust Fund (UTF) projects, Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) projects and other non-emergency projects.



84. Up to 30 June 2011, 541 field missions for normative activities and technical backstopping of field projects were undertaken.

85. Under the Joint FAO/IAEA programme, contributions were made through 39 national and 10 regional TCPs, financially supported with US\$4.5 million by the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme, and 27 Coordinated Research Projects (CRP). Under the TCPs, equipment, expert advice and capacity building were provided, including training of 223 scientific and technical personnel in the application of nuclear technologies in food and agriculture. The CRPs provided applied research support and enabled participants from the region to link up to about 500 global research institutions and experimental stations in combined efforts to solve local, regional and global issues related to sustainable food security.

86. During 2010–2011, 100 technical meetings and expert consultations were convened and 100 training courses and workshops were organized (including planned meetings for November–December 2011), an increase of 44 percent from the previous biennium.

87. Three training workshops were conducted for RAP staff on gender mainstreaming to upgrade their skills in gender analysis and to promote gender mainstreaming in all FAO's technical programmes.

#### *c) Policy assistance and advice*

88. Many policy assistance and upstream studies were carried out during the biennium. RAP policy officers fielded over 60 missions in the region and provided policy advice to member countries and implemented policy oriented field programmes and projects (details are shown in section IV, Regional Priority A).

#### *d) Building partnerships and alliances, including mobilization of resources and investment support*

89. FAO's Investment Centre continued strong support to the region during the reporting period (2010 through June 2011). Almost US\$3 billion in total investments for the region's agriculture/rural sector were approved. Of this amount, 65 percent (over US\$1.9 billion) will be provided to ten countries in loans, grants and credits from the World Bank Group, IFAD, the Global Environment Facility and several bilateral donors.

90. A framework agreement – the Asia and the Pacific Regional Food Security Partnership Framework – forging a three-year partnership among ADB, FAO and IFAD to address specific food

security issues in the region was signed in 2010. Membership was further expanded with the inclusion of the World Bank, WFP and ICARDA.

91. FAO chairs the UN Regional Thematic Working Group on Poverty and Hunger which includes development partners and CSOs under the UN Regional Coordination Mechanism.
92. FAO collaborated with and provided support to the CSO network in Asia and the Pacific in support of food security.
93. A Regional Alliance Against Hunger has been established in Asia-Pacific.

***e) Strengthening FAO information, knowledge and statistics***

94. During the 2011-11 biennium, 56 publications were produced by the regional and subregional offices.
95. Country success stories covering almost all countries in the region have been published online and will be published in hard copy shortly.
96. A summary of regional agricultural statistics is produced annually through publication of *Selected indicators of food and agricultural development in the Asia Pacific region*.
97. A regional workshop for South Asian countries on sex-disaggregated data in agriculture and rural development was convened to improve the collection, analysis and use of sex disaggregated data and provide guidance on producing sex-disaggregated statistics for agricultural and rural policy analysis.
98. A regional plan for the implementation of the global strategy to improve agricultural and rural statistics is being prepared in collaboration with ESCAP with support from ADB and other partners. FAO hosted the Secretariat in its regional office in Bangkok for formulation.

***f) developing and disseminating international technical standards and instruments, and codes of practice***

99. Many activities to develop regional standards for phytosanitary measures were carried out. Development of food safety standards and guidelines was implemented, such as strengthening of food inspection systems and developing and disseminating good practices, including certification, traceability and labelling schemes. Cost-benefit analysis of certification schemes for fisheries and aquaculture with focus on small-scale producers was carried out. Contributions were made to the development of the FAO technical guidelines for aquaculture certification and development of a global instrument to support small-scale fisheries. Formulation of holistic forest policy statements were promoted which would enable better forest laws for implementing good practices in support of sustainable forest management.