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منظمة الأغذية
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Food and
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pour
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Продовольственная и
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Organización
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para la
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FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE NEAR EAST

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**FAO Activities in the Region in 2010-2011, Programme of Work and
Budget 2012-2013 and Areas of Priority Actions for the Near East Region
for the Following Biennium 2014-15**

Annex 1: FAO Strategic Framework

FAO's Vision

A world free of hunger and malnutrition where food and agriculture contribute to improving the living standards of all inhabitants, especially the poorest, in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner.

The three Global Goals of Members:

- Reduction of the absolute number of people suffering from hunger, progressively ensuring a world in which all people at all times have sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life;
- Elimination of poverty and the driving forward of economic and social progress for all, with increased food production, enhanced rural development and sustainable livelihoods.
- Sustainable management and utilization of natural resources, including land, water, air, climate and genetic resources, for the benefit of present and future generations.

Strategic Objectives

- A) Sustainable intensification of crop production
- B) Increased sustainable livestock production
- C) Sustainable management and use of fisheries and aquaculture resources
- D) Improved quality and safety of foods at all stages of the food chain
- E) Sustainable management of forests and trees
- F) Sustainable management of land, water and genetic resources and improved responses to global environmental challenges affecting food and agriculture
- G) Enabling market environment to improve livelihoods and rural development
- H) Improved food security and better nutrition
- I) Improved preparedness for, and effective response to, food and agricultural threats and emergencies
- K) Gender equality in access to resources, goods and services and in decision-making in rural areas
- L) Increased and more effective public and private investment in agriculture and rural development

Functional Objectives

X) Effective collaboration with Member States and stakeholders

Y) Efficient and effective administration

Core Functions

- Monitoring and assessment of long-term and medium-term trends and perspectives
- Assembly and provision of information, knowledge and statistics
- Development of international instruments, norms and standards
- Policy and strategy options and advice
- Technical support to promote technology transfer and build capacity
- Advocacy and communication
- Interdisciplinarity and innovation

Annex 2: Summary of FAO Regional Priority Framework for the Near East (NERC/10/7)

Consistent with the FAO global vision, the vision of the Regional Priority Framework (RPF) for the Near East is to achieve a food-secure Near East Region while ensuring sustainable natural resource management. The FAO mission in the Region is to reduce food insecurity, malnutrition and rural poverty for present and future generations by assisting Members to secure sustainable increases in food availability, develop policy and regulatory frameworks in agriculture, fisheries and forestry, protect and enhance natural resources and promote knowledge generations and institutional capacity development.

The FAO Regional Office (RNE) will assume a leadership role in coordinating the implementation of the RPF and its monitoring. To this end, RNE will work closely with the FAO subregional and country offices in the Region as well as the FAO technical divisions in Rome and, as appropriate, with partners from governments, civil society and private sector in the region, UN system and the donor community.

The following five priority areas have been identified jointly by the 18 member countries of the Region, and endorsed by the Regional Conference in December 2010, as targets on which FAO assistance need to be focused in 2010-2019.

A. Enhancing food security and nutrition. With a limited and fragile natural resource base, a high population growth and an increasing demand for food, the Near East Region is structurally unable to feed itself. In addition, both the prevalence of high poverty rates in some countries and inadequate food consumption patterns are major causes of food insecurity and malnutrition. The Region has wealthy but food-deficit countries as well as poor countries with higher levels of food production, which make the food security challenges of this region somewhat unique. The key objectives of this priority area are to achieve reduction of hunger and malnutrition in the Region in line with the targets of the World Food Summit (WFS) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through support of regional and national food security initiatives. The primary tools to be used include the analysis of the vulnerability for food insecurity, improved means of information gathering and dissemination, including improved and reliable agricultural statistics, assistance to member countries in strengthening capacities in formulating strategies, policies and implementation plans for reducing food insecurity and unemployment, ensuring market stability through market-based risk management measures, and promoting inter-regional collaboration on matters of common interest. Expected results include improved policies and strategies for sustainable crop and animal production, intensification and diversification at national and regional levels, strengthened capacities to formulate and implement coherent policies and programmes that address the root causes of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, and improved capacity of member countries to address specific nutrition concerns.

B. Fostering agricultural production and rural development for improved livelihoods. Agriculture can play a significant role in alleviating food insecurity, rural poverty and unemployment as demonstrated in many countries of the Region. In Iran, Egypt, Morocco and Algeria, for example, the agricultural sector has created nearly one fifth to one half of the new jobs in recent years. Agriculture remains a critical element in the livelihood of the rural population and people in underdeveloped areas. Many parts of the Region have extremely promising potentials for raising production of high value food products, including horticulture, olive oil and fish products for which there is an emerging market, both internal and external.

The key objectives of this priority area are to increase agricultural output and productivity by relying on efficient methods and techniques of food production in areas of comparative advantage and competitiveness, ensure diversification in income generating activities for smallholders, improve market access and promote value addition in the agriculture-food chain, with a view to maximize

agriculture's contribution to poverty reduction. The primary tools will be the promotion of new technology and technical assistance for capacity development in primary production and secondary value addition and other agri-business areas. Expected results include enhanced access to food, social settlement and improved livelihood for the rural population, and strengthened institutional and technical capacity for countries to (i) analyse developments in international agricultural markets, trade policies and trade rules; (ii) increase awareness and capacity to identify trade opportunities and to formulate appropriate and effective pro-poor trade policies and strategies; (iii) formulate gendersensitive, inclusive and participatory policies in agriculture and rural development; and (iv) develop national and regional policies, regulations and institutions to enhance the developmental and poverty reduction impacts of agribusiness and agro-industries.

C. Sustainable natural resources management. The Region's critical shortage of water and cultivable land, including the pressure on these resources and their degradation make their efficient management a paramount task. Appropriate management of demand could orient water and land to their best use between crop, livestock, fisheries and forestry. A holistic approach to water and resource management is the first step in addressing the challenges the Region is facing and to identify working solutions. Livestock and fisheries are particularly important food resources in many countries of the Region, which makes preservation and sustainable management of rangelands and marine ecosystems resources an important priority. In several countries, forestry, although limited, plays an important role in the preservation of the natural environment and the mitigation of climate change impacts. Increasing efficiency of water and land use through new technologies could expand production as well as increase the use of these resources for food and poverty alleviation. Opportunities for water harvesting, reutilization of waste water, and enhancement of rangeland have great potential in many countries of the Region. It will be necessary in this regard to promote the engagement and participation of all stakeholders in planning and managing water, land and genetic resources in addition to promoting regional cooperation on trans-boundary water management. The key objectives of this priority area are to ensure availability of quality water and other natural resources to support agriculture and food security for today and the future, extend know-how on resource saving technologies to stakeholders, and to conserving genetic resources and biodiversity. Expected results include regional assessment and monitoring, improved natural resources management, effective approaches to biodiversity protection including establishing partnerships, and enhanced stakeholder participation in the sustainable management of scarce natural resources.

D. Responding to climate change impacts and developing adaptation strategies. Climate change is likely to affect agriculture and food security in the Region primarily through changes in temperature, precipitation, extreme climatic events and sea level. These may result in such adverse effects as further deterioration of water scarcity, land degradation, crop failures, loss of rangeland and other vegetation covers, livestock deaths, and fisheries production and quality decline. Governments, public institutions and farmers, particularly the poor producers, need to be supported in their efforts to adapt to climate change. The key objectives of this priority area include improving national and regional capacities to cope with adverse impacts of climate change. The primary tools will be assistance to member countries in policy advice; technical assistance; capacity building; and advocacy for change. Expected results include strengthened policy capacities and improved human and institutional capacities for climate change adaptation.

E. Preparedness for, and response to, food and agriculture emergencies. The Region is prone to many types of disasters, both natural and human-induced that add to the chronic poverty and hunger particularly among those with limited coping capacity. A few countries in the Region, such as Iran, Iraq, Syria and Algeria are quite advanced in adopting proactive steps towards disaster management but others need to speed up efforts in this direction. Improving national capacity to respond to food and agricultural threats and emergencies must become an integral component of the hunger and poverty alleviation efforts of all countries in the Region. The key objectives of this priority are to facilitate a shift in emphasis from purely emergency response towards the more broad-based

preparedness for early detection, prevention and response followed by linking up relief and rehabilitation to development for mitigating long-term impact. This is vital on the face of recurrent unanticipated supply shocks caused by natural phenomenon like drought and disease and humaninduced phenomenon such as sudden supply and demand shifts that create market failures. The primary tools are efficient information systems, advocacy and technical assistance, collaboration and partnership on regional mechanisms, and regional networking and capacity building. Expected results include well formulated plans and better prepared institutions to deal with agricultural threats and emergencies.

Besides the regional priority areas, the RPF has identified cross-cutting themes, including rural development, knowledge generation and sharing, gender equity, and regional cooperation, which will be promoted as supportive actions to achieve the regional results.

Annex 3: Actions Taken for the Implementation of the 30TH FAO Regional Conference Recommendations

Implications of Soaring Food Prices and Global Financial and Economic Crises for Food and Nutrition in the Near East

Provide technical assistance to member countries in updating their agricultural and food security and nutrition policies, including food security monitoring systems in view of the soaring food prices, as well as towards the establishment of a “regional forum” on Food Security.

1. Taking into account the recent volatility in international food prices, assistance was provided several countries in the Region in reviewing and formulating their agriculture and food security policies and strategies. FAO provided assistance to the Government of Egypt in formulating and implementing a business action plan for implementing its “agriculture development strategy 2030”, and supported the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in formulating its "sustainable agriculture development strategy 2030". Capacity building in support of Food security and nutrition polices was provided to the Food Security Policy Advisory Board of Egypt through a TCP project. Technical assistance was also provided, jointly with the World Bank, to the Syrian Government in conducting a comprehensive assessment of its Agriculture Support Fund scheme, and in the formulation of TCP proposals for “empowerment of women for improving household food and nutrition security through food and agriculture income generating micro enterprises and home gardens” and the introduction of aerobic rice. Yemen was also supported in enhancing national capacity in agricultural planning and project formulation through a TCP project.

Call for a preparatory meeting for Near East countries to convene prior to CFS Session, in order to reach common consensus on regional food security issues.

2. A Regional Multi-stakeholder Workshop on Food Security and Nutrition was organized jointly by RNE and the CFS Secretariat in Cairo. Participants from member countries, UN agencies, CSOs, NGOs, farmers’ organizations, donors and representatives of international financial institutions, regional institutions, and the private sector were engaged in constructive dialogue on the key issues that impact food security and nutrition in the region, including the recent socio-political development in many countries in the region. Three policy round tables were held on food price volatility, investment in smallholder sensitive agriculture and food security, and on gender and nutrition.

3. The recommendations of the workshop were presented to the 37th session of the CFS, held in Rome in October 2011, and a detailed report on the regional workshop was produced and widely distributed in the Region.

Support member countries’ capacity on agriculture water management and enhance cooperation on issues of regional dimension.

4. Technical assistance was provided through three World Bank financed projects aimed at rationalizing water resources use in agriculture in Morocco, and through two projects in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) aimed at improving water management and the use of non-conventional water resources in agriculture. Technical support has also been extended for the formulation and implementation of two projects in Egypt aimed at alleviating the impacts of climate change on agricultural production and natural resources (land and water), one aimed at improving water management under water scarcity conditions in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria; and several development and emergency projects to improve water development and management in agriculture in Iran, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, West Bank and Gaza Strip, and Yemen.

5. Capacity building and policy advice on irrigation modernization were provided through the application of FAO irrigation modernization approach (MASSCOTE) in Egypt, Jordan, Iran and Syria; the publication of a report on the economics of wastewater use, the dissemination of an information note on water desalination for agricultural use and provision of technical assistance on the use of treated wastewater and sludge in Lebanon. A regional climate change forum was organized in Beirut in June 2011 to enhance countries' capacity to confront the negative impacts of climate change and variability on agriculture and food security.

6. FAO AQUASTAT has been maintained and updated to provide reliable information on the state of water resources and irrigation, and the report "Water Resources in the Near East: Facts and Figures" was published to serve as a quick reference to professionals and decision-makers.

7. Information on agricultural water resources and climate change has been disseminated through preparation of relevant documents including groundwater management, situation and prospects of spate irrigation, drought monitoring and early warning, and climate change adaptation in agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

8. FAO also engaged in partnerships and collaborations with regional and international organizations, notably the League of Arab States, the World Bank and other UN agencies, and contributed to the implementation of workshops and initiatives for water resources and climate change in the Region.

Provide technical assistance to member countries in preparing strategies and action plans for addressing future upsurges of food prices.

9. Two sub-regional consultations on the implications of soaring food prices, involving more than 100 participants from countries in the region, were organized in Amman and Tunis and a regional consultation meeting on agricultural production and market prices data was organized. These workshops provided an opportunity for countries to discuss the major issues relating to high food prices and exchanged information on appropriate policy actions to deal with the situation. A draft TCP proposal for regional food security analysis and an early warning unit is under preparation.

Assist in establishing a regional forum to continue the discussion of various issues related to investment in agriculture in the Near East Region, including information sharing and building a repository of best practices, regulations and legislation. The forum would also provide input to the ongoing elaboration of the Responsible Agriculture Investment (RAI) Principles.

10. A concept note outlining the broad framework for the organization of a regional forum for investment in agricultural was prepared and presented to some potential donors. Should funding be secured, the forum will be organized in 2012.

Trans-Boundary Plant Pests and Diseases in the Near East, with Emphasis on Wheat Black Stem Rust (Ug99)

Continue providing technical assistance for developing national and regional interventions to monitor and control the transboundary pest outbreaks, particularly the witch-broom disease which broke out recently on lime in the southern part of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

11. Technical assistance continued to be provided to support member countries' efforts in monitoring transboundary pests including formulation of two regional TCPs on management of transboundary pest, particularly on Red Palm Weevil (RPW) and *Tuta absoluta*; and implementing national and regional IPM projects.

12. The Islamic Republic of Iran has been requested to provide information on the current situation of the witch-broom disease on Lime and to define the needed technical assistance.

Assist in strengthening national human and institutional capacities for applying the phytosanitary measures.

13. Two workshops were held in Lebanon and Egypt, to evaluate phytosanitary capacity of member countries and identify their technical assistance needs to strengthen their respective phytosanitary system.

Support establishing an Early Warning System for the Near East on outbreaks of plant pests and diseases, particularly the Wheat Black Stem Rust

14. Arrangements were made to study the feasibility of establishing an early warning system for the Near East complementary to FAO operated “Rust Spore” for Wheat Rust (UG99).

Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) and General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFSM)

Continue providing technical support to enhance cooperation among the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq and Kuwait related to the FAO/RECOFI initiative for sustainable fisheries management by applying the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries.

15. Assistance in identifying a joint work plan and the components and activities of a regional project proposal to implement the FAO/RECOFI initiative was provided to Iran, Iraq and Kuwait.

16. With reference to the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular on “Adapting to Climate Change: The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Near East and North Africa Region” was published in 2011.

Continue providing technical assistance to enable member countries abide with international fish trade and stand against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.

17. The proceedings of the regional seminar on “Fish Trade and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing in the Near East and North Africa” were published in 2011 and FAO/RECOFI is considering the development of a regional database on violations the establishment of a list of vessels authorized to fish by RECOFI Members and the promotion of a regional fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance information exchange scheme.

Give due support to the establishment of a regional fisheries management organization in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, as well as implementing the regional project on “Marine Resources Assessment Programme in the Red Sea” without further delay.

18. The First Regional Intergovernmental Meeting to Initiate the Establishment of a Fishery Management Body/Arrangement for the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden was held in 2011. While FAO is ready to fully support the implementation of the regional project on “Marine Resources Assessment Program in the Red Sea”; the project implementation has been postponed because the agreement between FAO and some of the donors could not be finalized.

Desert Locust Commission in the Central Region

Continue to support the capacity building at national and regional levels in the fields related to Desert Locust Control activities.

19. The fourth workshop on RAMSES and eLocust2 was held in Cairo to conduct informal discussions on the use and improvement of the RAMSES, eLocust2 and future prospects. In addition, two national training courses on Desert Locust control were conducted in Egypt and Ethiopia. To promote the information/experience exchange between Desert Locust Officers in the region, two desert locust officers from the Sultanate of Oman were invited to participate in the AMSES/eLocust2

workshop in Western Region in Mali; and to join the Iranian team in the preparation of a joint survey on this issue carried out on the coast of southeast Iran.

Desert Locust Commission in the Western Region

20. The Desert locust preventive control strategy is applied in the ten CLCPRO's member countries. Surveys are conducted in the remote areas and rapid controls were executed in 2010 and 2011 and allowed for instance to successfully stop an outbreak in Mauritania. Following the preparation of national contingency plans, a simulation exercise has been successfully conducted in Mali in October 2011 with the participation of other member states. Five regional training of trainers were conducted in 2010 and 2011 and a regional training plan (2011-2014) has been elaborated in 2011. The national environmental requirements (« Cahier des charges environnementales ») have been implemented in eight CLCPRO's member countries.

Annex 4: FAO Activities in the Near East Region under the PWB 2010-11

SO (A) – Sustainable Intensification of Crop Production

21. Support has been provided to countries in the Region to further their policy and strategic capacity on sustainable crop production, reduce risks from outbreaks of transboundary plant pests and diseases and from the use of pesticides, and enhance capacities to formulate and implement policies for effective management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA).

22. Several crop production projects were implemented in KSA aiming at i) developing Date Palm production, ii) processing and marketing of olives, iii) developing tropical and sub-tropical fruit and iv) strengthening the national centre for horticultural research and development. A workshop to identify potentials for organic agriculture in countries falling under the Sub-regional Office for Oriental Near East (SNO) for export was organized in October, 2011; Guidelines for good agricultural practices (GAP) in greenhouse horticulture production and Organic Agriculture (OA) in SNO countries were also published in December 2011.

23. Several national and regional projects, as well as workshops, trainings and consultations on pest management and control (including on the management of obsolete pesticides) were implemented in the whole Near East Region.

SO (B) - Increased Sustainable Livestock Production

24. A Regional Animal Production and Health Strategy was prepared focusing on (1) strengthening contribution of livestock to food security, poverty alleviation and economical development. The main outputs from activities carried out under the strategy include: a guide on veterinary diagnostic and control of poultry diseases (Arabic); country and sub-regional reports on assessments of small-scale dairy sector and livestock activities in perurban areas and their impacts on environment; guidelines on animal genetic improvement (Arabic); proceedings of workshops and expert meetings on milk chain from stable to table, strengthening small ruminant production and production of irrigated forages; papers on RVF outbreak in Northern Mauritania, selenium deficiencies in camels and camel production systems; reports on impacts of climate change on livestock production and health to formulate adaptation strategies in Jordan; and working paper on Livestock and Climate change in the Near East.

25. National and regional projects were formulated or backstopped on control of RVF, sustainable improvement of small ruminants in Middle East and improving diagnosis and control of contagious diseases in camels; CERF project to Control of RVF in Mauritania; and Regional TCPs to improve animal quarantine system in the Middle East countries, to control “peste des petits ruminants” in North Africa, and to strengthen capacity of veterinary services in Jordan.

26. Assistance has also been provided to professional agricultural organizations for better guidance to farmers as part of a new public-private partnership.

SO (C) - Sustainable Management and Use of Fisheries and Aquaculture

27. FAO implemented a number of initiatives in support of sustainable and economically viable fisheries and aquaculture sectors in the Region, and in coherence with the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its technical guidelines.

28. Current status and trends of marine capture fishery production in the Region were reported in the technical review “Fisheries in the Near East and North Africa region”, and members assisted by FAO made remarkable progress towards the integration and utilization at regional level of national fisheries statistics in the FAO fishing areas 51.3.1 and 51.3.2, therefore making significant progress towards responsible fisheries management.

29. FAO facilitated the formulation and implementation of a Mediterranean network of regional field projects that addresses jointly identified priorities. These initiatives involved eighteen Mediterranean coastal countries of which seven are from the Region. Moreover, FAO has actively encouraged and supported Fisheries Management Cooperation in the Northern Area of the RECOFI (Iran, Iraq and Kuwait). Four technical meetings were organized, a survey questionnaire were carried out, and a short-term workplan was formulated and agreed upon.

30. Member countries in the Gulf and Sea of Oman area were assisted to develop their capacity on the use of spatial planning techniques and methods for aquaculture development planning, and support continued for the development of aquaculture in the region through the consolidation of the Regional Aquaculture Information System (RAIS) and developing a network of regional experts.

31. Support was provided to the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI), and cooperation maintained with the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM). The Sixth Plenary Session of RECOFI was organized. FAO assisted the Commission to adopt its first fisheries management recommendation on minimum data reporting in the RECOFI area. In addition, coordination and contribution were made to the preparation and the implementation of eleven meetings/events, including the meetings of the Commission's subsidiary bodies (Working Group on Aquaculture and Working Group on Fisheries Management), and to preparation and release of all the meeting's and session's working documents.

32. FAO undertook actions and consultations to follow-up the 28th Session of Committee of Fisheries (March 2009). The first Regional Intergovernmental Meeting to Initiate the Establishment of a Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Fishery Management Arrangement was organized in partnership with Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) in November 2011, in Jeddah, KSA.

33. Support was also provided for the formulation of two projects on fisheries/aquaculture for Syria, namely: i) a TCP for strengthening of aquaculture in north western Syria and ii) a proposal for funding under the small grant window of IFAD "Promotion of Integrated Irrigation Aquaculture".

SO (D) – Improved Quality and Safety of Food at all Stages of the Food Chain

34. Many countries in the region have joined the World Trade Organization (WTO) and standard-setting bodies like *Codex Alimentarius*. Although an increasing number of them are represented at international standard-setting meetings, the limited scientific, technical and financial resources continue to hinder the ability of many countries to participate actively in the works of Codex technical committees. On the other hand, current standards and regulations in several countries are not fully in line with Codex and WTO agreements.

35. A number of workshops were organized on enhancing participation in Codex Alimentarius; food inspection; a round table "Product Quality and Safety Control systems" that took place within the context of the regional Agro-industries forum in October 2011 and another on "risk based food inspection at ports of entry" in November 2011.

36. A national Trust Fund project is being implemented in Syria on Institutional Development of Organic Agriculture in Syria.

SO (E) - Sustainable Management of Forests and Trees

37. The 19th Session of the NEFRC was held with record participation from member countries. NEFRC Bureau met in two occasions to review progress made in implementing NEFRC recommendations and to plan the next session and the 2nd Near East Forestry Week.

38. Two regional workshops were organized on forest policy development and integrating climate change in the national forest programs (NFP), and a workshop for the national focal points of State of the World Forest Genetic Resources (SOWFGR).

39. A number of studies were prepared on oil trees in the Region, in response to NEFRC 19 recommendation; “Forests and Rangelands: Facts and Figures”; adaptation of the forestry institutions in the Near East; and an overview on mandate and activities of the regional forestry and rangeland bodies in the Region.

40. Projects were formulated to respond to countries’ requests including a regional TCP for “enhancing regional capacities for sustainable wildlife & protected area management in the Near East”; a TCP for promotion of forestry micro-enterprises, Tunisia; a TCP in Support of the rehabilitation of Wadi Tanef watershed in Yemen; and support to formulation of the national afforestation program in Lebanon.

41. There are two ongoing projects in Syria on: i) “Integrated and community based fire management”, funded by the Government of Italy and ii) “Capacity Building in Sustainable Forest Management Planning and Forest Fire Management in Syria” funded by the Government of Turkey.

SO (F) - Sustainable Management of Land, Water and Genetic Resources

42. Water: Water scarcity poses serious challenges to agriculture and food security in the Near East region. Syria Jordan and Lebanon are benefiting from an FAO implemented project, on “Coping with water scarcity – the role of agriculture, Phase III: Strengthening national capacities”. Furthermore, FAO is providing support to countries in the Region, through a TCP project, on sustainable use of water and energy resources for agricultural production and livelihood in the context of climate change.

43. Land: FAO supported the Land Degradation Assessment in Dry lands (LADA) program, studied the promotion of oasis products and conducted a training workshop for farmers and technicians in

44. Knowledge & Information Management: Assistance was provided to the countries in the Region to enhance capacity on access to and use of scientific literature and to strengthen information management and knowledge exchange, sharing and dissemination for rural and agricultural development and food security. Support has been provided to the implementation of Oman Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Information Network (<http://maf.fao.ne.net>) and its National Agricultural Knowledge Exchange Management System (<http://nakems.fao.ne.net>), the National Agricultural Information System/network in Jordan (<http://nais-jordan.gov.jo>), and Iraq Rural and Agricultural Knowledge Exchange Network.

45. Information and knowledge products were also provided to countries in the Region through press releases, distribution of book titles, brochures and CDs on various FAO initiatives as well as knowledge exhibitions. A brand new FAORNE website platform (<http://neareast.fao.org>) was also launched in May 2011 to strengthen information dissemination and knowledge sharing with all stakeholders and to enhance FAO visibility and its key messages at regional level using web and social media.

SO (G)-Enabling Environment for Markets to Improve Livelihoods and Rural Development

46. FAO support to countries in the Region in the field of agro-industry and infrastructure activities during 2011 included the formulation and of a TCP project on “Capacity Building for Food Loss Reduction in the Middle East” and contributing to a project on strengthening production and marketing of Lebanese agricultural products. An expert consultation meeting on the Status of the Cold Chain in the Food Sector in the Near East Region was carried out in July 2011. A Regional Agro-Industry Forum (RAIF), involving all countries in the Region, was held in Beirut in November 2011 and a special website was created for it in 3 languages (<http://raif-mena.fao.ne.net/>) and steps are taken for the creation and management of a Postharvest Working Group for the Region. In addition, FAO participated and contributed a presentation at the Global Cold Chain Alliance (GCCA) Annual Convention in New Orleans during April-May 2011. A total of 21 studies were finalized, including a study on food loss prevention for improving food security in the Near East).

SO (H) - Improved Food Security and Better Nutrition

47. Food Security & Nutrition: The Near East countries face many challenges in securing enough nutritious and safe food for their population. Endowed with limited natural resources especially land and water, these countries are highly dependent on food imports and are thus more exposed to swings in global food prices and supplies. A trust fund project on “improving household food and nutrition security in Egypt by targeting women and the youth” was formulated and technical assistance was also provided to the formulation and implementation of a project on “improving the nutrition of school children through nutrition education and garden-based learning” for the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Support was also provided to Libya in the formulation phase of a proposal: “Food system monitoring for effective crisis management of food pipeline and production, institutional capacity building, advocacy and coordination activities for Libya” Furthermore, assistance was provided also to the Egyptian and Syrian Governments in initiating a system for monitoring agriculture and food security policy decisions.

48. FAO also contributed to UN coordination efforts in the Region on food security in the framework of RCM/RDT, and together with WFP co-lead the Regional Food Security and Livelihood Cluster, in which significant effort has been put to address the 2011 crises in Libya, Tunisia and Egypt.

49. FAO has been provided support to a number of countries in the Region including Jordan, Syria, in the review of the National Programme for Food Security. In the case of Jordan, a thorough assessment of impacts and results was carried out to define future steps and possible adjustments. In Mauritania, FAO provided support to the country in the formulation of a National Strategy for Agricultural Development and Food Security and in the formulation of a National Programme for Agricultural Investment and Food Security (holding of interregional workshops) in the framework of the designed strategy and the NEPAD/CAADP process. Great emphasis was also given to strengthening SSC agreements, however due to the security situation in some of the countries involved, including Yemen, contracts had to be interrupted. The situation will be reviewed in due course. Within the same context, The Government of Morocco has expressed interest in building a strategic alliance FAO for SSC.

50. Sub-regional priority frameworks and Country Programming Frameworks: During 2011, sub-regional priority frameworks for SNG and SNO countries were finalized and agreed upon by member countries through consultation workshops in Abu Dhabi (October 2011) and Cairo (December 2011). Support has also been provided for deepening and finalizing the recommendations of the Conference on Maghreb agriculture (i.e. to prepare the Plan of Action of the vision 2030 of the Maghreb agriculture. CPFs for 5 countries are completed or are in final phase (Iran, Lebanon, Mauritania, Sudan and Syria,) others will be finalized in 2012.

51. Based on the recommendations from the sub-regional consultations on the implications of soaring food prices FAO assisted countries in North Africa to strengthen their policy monitoring and analytical capacities, promote technology transfer and partnerships in economic research and policy dialogue. Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco, as well as Egypt are supported in the implementation of various policy monitoring and information management tools developed by FAO. These tools help to increase the information base, promote information exchange and informed decision making at all levels for improved governance for food security.

52. Three country case studies analysing foreign investment in agriculture were prepared and published; as well as a joint FAO UNDP, and WFP technical paper on “Food Security and Nutrition in the Southern Basin of the Mediterranean Region: Linking Problems at the Household Level to Policy Actions”. A quarterly food security report was also initiated to highlight implications of the recent development on food security, staple commodity prices, crop and rainfall performance in the region was produced and disseminated widely.

53. The bi-annual meeting of the policy network NENARNAP (Near East and North Africa Network for Agricultural Policy) took place in October 2011, where countries exchanged information on policy related issues particularly in connection with food price volatility and political and social transition in the Arab countries. The network also made a commitment to improve and update the NENARNAP website.

54. In order to strengthen the capacity of national agricultural statistical systems FAO assisted member countries through regional workshops, technical assistance to individual countries, and by sponsoring countries to attend regional and international conferences on agricultural statistics. In this regard a regional workshop on data collection, processing and dissemination system was conducted at Tunis in 2010 and attended by 16 countries. FAO/RNE with ESS also organized a regional workshop on sampling for agricultural censuses and surveys in October 2011 with participants from 14 countries and regional organizations. FAO also contributed to the development of the Global Strategy in Improving Statistics for Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture, and Rural Development, which intends to provide a framework for national and international statistical systems to produce the basic data and information on agriculture to guide the decision making required in the 21st century. In 2011, FAO also initiated discussions on strategies, including tools (e.g. a region-specific adaptation of the Agri-gender toolkit) to develop member country capacities in generating, analyzing and using gender-disaggregated data in agricultural production.

55. Further to the above, FAO is also implementing, in Syria, a project on “Drought Early Warning System in Support of Implementation of the National Drought Strategy” funded by the Government of Switzerland, with the aim of reducing vulnerability to drought through development of a national early warning system (EWS) for drought, with emphasis on the low rainfall zones of the Al-Badia (rangelands) and the marginal areas.

SO (I): Improved Preparedness for, and Effective Response to, Food and Agricultural Threats and Emergencies

56. It is a high priority of the region to install early warning systems for impending disasters and to develop disaster preparedness plans for meeting any threat to food supplies and agriculture output. FAO has participated in national and regional meetings and has provided leadership in various frameworks and coordination mechanisms to functions of humanitarian and emergency response throughout the period. FAO has undertaken activities in response to specific crisis in the region as follows:

57. Syria: FAO is implementing a set of emergency projects with the aim of extending support to drought and crises affected small farmers and herders including: i) assistance to destitute small herders affected by the severe flood of 2011 in the eastern region; ii) response to support livelihoods and food security of migrant farmers and herders returning from Dara’a Governorate due to the ongoing Crisis; and iii) response to support life-saving/sustaining livelihoods and food security of poor farmers and herders affected by ongoing crisis.

58. Libya: As an early response to the various negative impacts on the agriculture sector of the civil unrest in Libya, FAO has provided assistance to the Libyan population in conjunction with the new authorities in the following sectors: overall coordination of emergency interventions in the field of food security and food systems monitoring; vegetable production (provision of inputs) and support to fresh food production in priority areas; control of animal diseases and support to veterinary medicine.

59. Egypt: FAO is supporting the Ministry of Agriculture in controlling Transboundary Animal diseases mainly HPAI and FMD by providing inputs and capacity building to improve and strengthen biosecurity, coordination and epidemiology. In addition, support was provided to 105 vulnerable returnees and affected local community in Upper Egypt, specifically affected by the Libyan Crisis.

60. Tunisia: FAO assisted the national authorities in their efforts to swiftly create new jobs in the agricultural sector, especially for the most vulnerable populations and groups (including women and youth). This assistance included advices, studies, training and direct interventions to support development of income generating activities and micro-enterprises in the food and agriculture sector; support investment towards labor intensive activities in the rural sector. Other emergency activities operated in North Africa included support related to control of animal diseases threatening livelihoods and the livestock sector and the promotion of and support to the Mediterranean Network for Animal Health Regional whose activities are organized along 4 main sub networks covering: epidemiology, laboratory diagnosis, communication and socioeconomics.

61. Yemen: through a CERF-funded project livestock feed and veterinary drugs and medicines were provided to IDPs and their host families in the conflict affected northern governorates in Yemen. Some 32,457 animals, 683 IDPs families, and 498 host families were surveyed and targeted in this project. In November 2011, another emergency project funded by the AusAid was launched to support crop and livestock keeping production and income generation for displaced families and their host communities in Hajjah Governorate to sustain food security and for facilitating the return process.

62. West Bank and Gaza strip: In 2010-11, the main focus has been to increase resilience of vulnerable communities to water scarcity through the rehabilitation and/or construction of rain water harvesting cisterns both for livestock and supplementary crop irrigation. Additional interventions included the construction of grey waste water treatment units. In the Gaza Strip, vulnerable families who lost significant access to natural resources (land in the buffer zone area or sea water due to the imposition of the 3 nautical miles limit) received inputs to develop backyard gardens and in-land fish farming as a temporary alternative source of food and incomes. In addition, outbreaks of crop pests (tuta Absoluta and Red Palm Weevil) are being addressed through monitoring and mass-trapping. FAO also provided assistance for transition where through a multi-donor funding the Ministry of Agriculture was supported to strengthen its capacity. This included in particular training for progressive hand-over of the Agriculture Project Information System – APIS as well as coordination of agricultural interventions. Partnership with the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Youth allowed FAO to continue rolling-out its Junior Farmer Field and Life School (JFFLS) programme. In addition, recovery after the Israeli cast-led operation in 2009 in the Gaza strip still continues, including rehabilitation of farming land and repair of greenhouses. Global G.A.P. certification continued through a UN joint programme for Human Security.

Annex 5: PWB 2012-13 Budget by Strategic and Functional Objective and by Region (USD '000)*

SO/FO	Headquarters/ Global		Africa		Asia and Pacific		Europe and Central Asia		Latin America and the Caribbean		Near East		Total		Total
	Net Approp	Extra-budgetary	Net Approp	Extra-budgetary	Net Approp	Extra-budgetary	Net Approp	Extra-budgetary	Net Approp	Extra-budgetary	Net Approp	Extra-budgetary	Net Approp	Extra-budgetary	
A	37,927	221,405	7,271	19,040	3,982	16,007	1,169	1,135	3,974	4,617	4,428	300	58,751	262,504	321,255
B	20,366	119,406	6,288	1,591	3,827	8,687	1,115	397	3,776	1,003	2,326	130	37,700	131,214	168,914
C	43,112	53,647	12,704	3,883	3,187	18,445	1,167	1,340	3,592	7,016	2,691	1,750	66,453	86,092	152,545
D	19,790	8,495	5,607	4,915	1,941	3,751	517	0	2,527	46	657	369	31,039	17,576	48,615
E	28,835	34,887	7,579	4,996	4,738	7,302	2,110	48	4,950	8,961	2,112	1,060	50,325	57,254	107,579
F	42,925	60,021	8,709	20,013	5,771	15,547	2,004	1,121	6,139	13,233	3,157	2,068	68,705	112,004	180,709
G	30,171	2,224	4,871	19,823	4,439	3,357	1,137	838	3,171	8,014	1,381	456	45,169	34,712	79,881
H	51,010	39,225	15,987	29,293	4,296	19,348	1,692	280	8,846	26,240	6,161	1,661	87,992	116,047	204,039
I	7,671	393,609	199	1,878	260	3,697	-	0	94	1,809	-	681	8,224	401,675	409,899
K	8,914	2,264	5,898	5,250	1,921	652	871	52	610	1,613	372	141	18,586	9,972	28,558
L	34,006	74,965	3,288	3,960	592	706	424	676	836	1,089	315	501	39,461	81,896	121,357
X	179,375	26,040	8,507	768	11,464	1,508	7,185	1,371	5,464	600	7,134	3,399	219,129	33,687	252,816
Y	67,694	42,510	7,551	613	6,880	-	13,806	2,508	7,521	1,396	2,779	101	106,231	47,128	153,359
TCP	21,389	-	37,560	-	22,708	-	9,645	-	16,988	-	7,738	-	116,027	-	116,027
Contingency	600	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	600	-	600
Capital Expenditure	26,439	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26,439	-	26,439
Security	24,809	1,139	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24,809	1,139	25,948
Total	645,035	1,079,835	132,018	116,024	76,003	99,019	42,843	9,766	68,488	75,636	41,250	12,618	1,005,639	1,392,898	2,398,537

* CL143/3 Annex IV for net appropriation including cost increases and distribution of efficiency gains and savings; C2011/3 Annex VII for extra-budgetary resource