

February 2014



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة للأمم
المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and
Agriculture
Organization
of the
United Nations

Organisation des
Nations Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones Unidas
para la
Alimentación y la
Agricultura

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FAO Regional Conference for the Near East

Thirty-second Session

Rome, Italy, 24–28 February 2014

Provisional Annotated Agenda

SENIOR OFFICERS MEETING

24-26 February 2014

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons, and Appointment of Rapporteur.
2. Adoption of Agenda and Timetable.

II. REGIONAL AND GLOBAL POLICY AND REGULATORY ISSUES

8. State of Food and Agriculture in the Near East and North Africa Region

Trends in various indicators of food security and nutrition in the Region will be analysed and discussed. Government actions in these areas, including those emanating from various global initiatives as well as the FAO Conference, will be also examined with a view to draw lessons and best practices for the Region. The item will also review a regional food security strategy paper for the Near East countries, which is being prepared in response to the recommendation of the 31st Session of NERC.

*This document can be accessed using the Quick Response Code on this page;
a FAO initiative to minimize its environmental impact and promote greener
communications.*

Other documents can be consulted at www.fao.org



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9. Regional Water Scarcity Initiative: Towards a Collaborative Strategy

Water scarcity is the most important challenge facing the Near East and North Africa (NENA) Countries in their strategies to achieve food security and promote sustainable development. The FAO Regional Office is launching a one year workplan – the Regional Water Scarcity Initiative 2013- to support member countries in identifying strategies, policies and practices that promote sustainable solutions to water scarcity and food security problems. The main outcome of the Initiative is to develop a regional collaborative strategy for sustainable water resource management for food security in the Region.

10. Addressing Gender Gap in Agriculture and Rural Sector in the Near East and North Africa

Recent studies, including the 2010-2011 State of Food and Agriculture Report (SOFA), provide ample evidence that the agricultural and rural development prospects in the Near East Region are seriously impeded by persistent gender inequalities. The Regional office does not have as yet a clear strategy or action plan to address gender issues in its strategy and cooperation programmes in the Near East. This document will present a review of the available evidence and analysis on gender inequality in agriculture and rural sector in the Region, as well as the outcomes of a recent gender audits undertaken in the Region. It will further provide recommendations on approaches and time-bound actions to enhance gender equality and women empowerment in the FAO work in the Region, and progressively align the Regional Office with the FAO Policy on Gender Equality.

11. Reducing Food Losses and Waste in the Near East and North Africa Region

At least 30% of the food produced in the region is lost along the food chain. Not only are food losses a missed opportunity to increase food availability in a region that depends largely on imports to feed itself; they also negatively impact natural resources and the environment. This item provides a brief on major activities carried out by FAO in response to the recommendation of NERC-31 which calls for reducing food losses by 50% within ten years. It also presents an outline of a strategy to address food losses and waste (FL&W) reduction in the Near East and North Africa (NENA) for review and endorsement by the Conference.

III. PROGRAMME AND BUDGET MATTERS

12. Priorities for FAO Activities in the Region

The Regional Conference will consider how FAO activities have addressed previously agreed regional priorities during 2012-13 and will provide guidance on areas of regional priority for 2014-15 and 2016-17. The discussion will be informed by the Reviewed Strategic Framework 2010-19, Medium Term Plan 2014-17 and Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15 approved by the FAO Conference in June 2013; priorities and recommendations of the Regional Technical Commissions; a synthesis of Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs); and the plans and priorities of partners such as the Regional Economic Organizations, CSOs and the private sector.

13. Decentralization Issues and Decentralized Offices Network

Ongoing efforts to improve and strengthen the work of FAO's country offices network in the region will be reviewed and recommendations formulated to enhance the Organization's effectiveness and efficiency at country level.

IV. OTHER MATTERS

14. Multi-year Programme of Work for the Regional Conference for the Near East

The Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) for the Near East Regional Conference will be considered.

15. Date and Place of the 33rd Regional Conference for the Near East

16. Any Other Matters

Preparation, discussion and adoption of a draft Report of the Regional Conference for consideration and adoption by the Ministerial Meeting.

Information Notes¹

- **Summary of the Progress made in the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Thirty-First Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East**

This information note provides a summary of the progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the Thirty-first session of the Regional Conference for the Near East by reporting on activities and actions undertaken during 2012-2013.

- **Summary of the Recommendations of Regional Commissions and Major Meetings in the Near East on i) the Policy and Regulatory Matters and ii) Programme and Budget Matters**

This item reviews the conclusions and recommendations of the Regional Commissions and other relevant regional meetings in the Near East with regard to i) policy and regulatory matters and ii) programme and budget matters. This includes regional fora like: Agriculture and Land and Water Use Commission (ALAWUC), Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI), the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the Near East Forestry and Range Commission (NEFRC) and the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region (CRC). This also includes summaries of the outcomes of high-level meetings such as the Land and Water Days and the Regional Multi-stakeholder Workshop on Food Security and Nutrition.

¹ If they wish, delegates may comment on information notes under "Any Other Matters".

- **Joint FAO/WHO Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)**

The Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), is an inclusive inter-governmental meeting on nutrition jointly organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), and will be held at FAO Headquarters, in Rome, 19-21 November 2014. The conference will review progress made towards improving nutrition since 1992, reflect on nutrition problems that remain, as well as on the new challenges and opportunities for improving nutrition presented by changes in the global economy, in food systems, by advances in science and technology, and identify policy options for improving nutrition. This information note will present the progress made in the preparation for ICN2.

- **Outcomes of the International Conference on Forests for Food Security and Nutrition**

This information note will present to the Conference the outcomes of the International Conference on Forests for Food Security and Nutrition that took place from 13-15 May 2013 in Rome, highlighting the crucial role that forests, trees on farms and agro-forestry systems can play in improving the food security and nutrition of rural people, especially in developing countries. It will also present the proposed ways to integrate this knowledge in policy decisions at the national and international levels.

- **Progress in the Implementation of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics in the Near East Region**

The Global Strategy (GS) to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics was endorsed in February 2010 by the United Nations Statistical Commission. The purpose of the Strategy is to provide a framework and methodology to improve the national and international food and agricultural statistics, through strengthening of national capacities, to support policy analysis and decision making in the 21st Century. This note will provide an update on the implementation of the Strategy in the Near East region. It will provide a brief on the country assessment process, country profiles development, and the eventual plan to develop a regional action plan for endorsement by countries in the region.

- **The Third Mediterranean Forest Week**

After two very successful preceding events (Antalya 2010 and Avignon 2011), the 3rd Mediterranean Forest Week was held from 17 to 21 March 2013 in Tlemcen, Algeria under the theme "Forests for the sustainable development in rural areas: what strategies for mitigation and adaptation to global changes in Mediterranean wooded lands?" This note will inform the Regional Conference for the Near East of the outcomes of the meeting (mainly adoption of the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests and Tlemcen Declaration) and follow-up actions that were agreed during the High Level meeting chaired by the Algerian Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.

- **Update on the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)**

This item will serve and discuss outcomes of the CFS, as well as initiatives related to Responsible Agricultural Investment and the agenda for action in countries in protracted crises.

- **Regional Dialogue on Family Farming in the Near East and North Africa Region**

The 66th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations declared 2014 as the “International Year of Family Farming” (IYFF) and invited FAO to facilitate its implementation, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. This Information note provides a brief on the outcome of a regional workshop, organized in 2013, that assessed the importance and role of family farming in the region and its contribution to sustainable rural development and food security; the policy environment and the existing programmes and strategies in support of family farming; and the role of producer organizations and cooperatives for sustainable and performing family farming.

MINISTERIAL MEETING

27–28 February 2014

3. **Statement by the Director-General**
4. **Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council**
5. **Statement by the Chairperson of the 31st Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East**

The statement of the Chairperson of the 31st NERC will provide a brief on the outcome of the deliberations of the 38th Session of the FAO Conference (Rome, 15-22 June 2013) and the 144th FAO Council (11-15 June 2012) on matters related to the Near East Region.

6. **Statement by the Chairperson of the CFS**

The CFS Chairperson will provide an update on the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) activities undertaken in 2012-2013.

7. **Prioritization of country and regional needs**

The Near East and North Africa Region face various challenges in the food and agricultural sectors, such as food security, climate change, degradation and depletion of natural resources and natural disasters. This session allows the head of country delegations to deliver their statements. Delegates are invited to outline their views on the priorities for addressing national and regional needs in 3 to 4 minutes each.

Review and endorsement of the Report of the Conference

The draft Report of the Regional Conference, prepared by the Senior Officers Meeting, will be reviewed, discussed and eventually endorsed. The discussion will cover:

- i. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Issues;
- ii. Programme and Budget Matters;
- iii. Other Matters.

The Report will be introduced by Rapporteur.