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IMPLEMENTATION OF 1992 REGIONAL CONFERENCE
RECOMMENDATIONS

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SEVENTEENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

Accra, Ghana, 20-24 July 1992

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

Country Statements and General Debate

The Conference:

appealed to the Director-General to assist Member Nations in developing their water resources, especially as regards the expansion in irrigation to compensate for variations in weather conditions.

Programmes of development of inland valley swamps were prepared and submitted to various donors: countries involved include Burundi, Rwanda, Benin, Guinea and Togo. Assistance was provided to governments for the implementation or rehabilitation of small-scale water projects, with participatory approach, including water harvesting: countries involved include Mali, Niger, Guinea, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Chad. Special Action Programmes with a view to defining long-term strategies for sustainable agricultural development were formulated for Nigeria, Tanzania, the Lake Chad Basin countries and the Senegal River Basin countries.

appealed to the Director-General of FAO to provide support to Member Nations of the Region in strengthening their institutional capacity regarding Early Warning Systems.

FAO has continued to assist African countries in strengthening institutional capacity regarding Early Warning Systems through two sub-regional projects (SADC and IGADD) on the increased use of remote sensing, and through 17 projects on national early warning, or early warning and food information systems. In addition, seven projects, for the extension of existing projects or for implementation in additional countries, are in the pipeline.

appealed to the Director-General to assist in the reactivation of OCLALAV.

A project document on "Preventive Control of the Desert Locust in West and North-West Africa" has been prepared with a view to supporting OCLALAV activities. Several meetings were held on this matter and the project document was revised.

requested the Director-General to continue to intensify FAO studies on the contradictory effects of some measures being implemented under Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAP), especially as regards their effects on food security.

A number of studies analysing the impact of structural adjustment programmes on the food and agricultural sector in sub-Saharan African countries have been prepared covering the following subjects: "Food Security: Self-Sufficiency or Self Reliance?", "A Practical Guide to the Economic Management of Administered Pricing and Payment Systems"; "Rice Policy in Sub-Saharan Africa"; "Harmonization of Agricultural Price Policies in the ECOWAS Region"; and "Land Reform and Structural Adjustment in Sub-Saharan Africa: Controversies and Guidelines".

urged FAO to reintroduce the practice of convening the Technical Committee before the Plenary Session while maintaining the total duration of the Conference within one week.

The Eighteenth FAO Regional Conference for Africa will be organized so as to have a Technical Committee Meeting before the Plenary Session, while maintaining the total duration within a week.

FAO Activities in the Region 1990-91

The Conference:

re-echoed its recommendations during past Regional Conferences for the Regional Office for Africa to be strengthened, provided with adequate financial resources, and delegated with sufficient authority to promote economic and technical cooperation among African countries especially as regards common resources shared by several countries, pests and disease control, and such special programmes as the International Scheme for the Conservation and Rehabilitation of African Lands.

FAO's utmost efforts to respond to this recommendation have continued and will continue, within the given overall financial constraints. RAFR activities in crop protection will pursue the strengthening of technical cooperation among African countries in monitoring and control of major pests, diseases and weeds of regional importance. Within the framework of the International Scheme for the Conservation and Rehabilitation of African Lands, assistance to African countries has continued with focus on: assessing the root causes of land degradation and providing advice on remedial measures; raising awareness about the programme through sub-regional and regional meetings with participation of potential donors; preparing more country programmes; and establishing a technical cooperation network on conservation and rehabilitation of lands.

Implementation of the Programme of Action of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development

The Conference:

appealed to FAO and the donor community to provide technical and financial support for the formulation and execution of the minimum Plan of Action at the three levels.

The Minimum Plan of Action (1994-99) to provide assistance to Member Nations in the region for implementing the WCARRD Programme of Action is under preparation. The Plan will be discussed at the Fourth Government Consultation on WCARRD Follow-Up to be held in 1994. The Plan is expected to facilitate greater assistance to African countries in strengthening their on-going activities and/or taking new initiatives related to the WCARRD Plan of Action.

Sustainable Agriculture and Environment

The Conference:

requested FAO to consider organizing a regional meeting or series of subregional meetings on ISCRAL to bring together countries and donors to discuss and agree on support for national programmes for land conservation and rehabilitation.

A programme prepared for Benin, Ghana and Togo has already been informally distributed to potential donors. A follow-up meeting is planned for 1994. Contacts have been made with SADC, with the intention of holding a meeting for that sub-region in 1994. Assistance was provided to Burundi, Mali and Niger for the assessment of the state of degradation of their land resources.

welcomed FAO's role in analysing the impacts of Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAP) on the agricultural sector, in particular as regards the use of inputs such as fertilizers.

Several countries in sub-Saharan Africa (Central African Republic, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Uganda) were assisted in strengthening their national capabilities in the formulation and implementation of agricultural adjustment programmes, and in monitoring the impact of these programmes on the food and agricultural sector.

Update on Preparations for the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN)

The Conference:

urged all concerned to make full use of this opportunity to fight hunger, malnutrition and diet-related diseases affecting all countries.

This recommendation was actively pursued in the preparatory activities of the ICN Preparatory Committee (Geneva, 18-24 August 1992), and the ICN itself (Rome, 5-11 December 1992). Requests for FAO's technical assistance in preparing National Plans of Action for Nutrition (NPAN) have been received from many countries. Missions have been undertaken by FAO staff members and consultants and other missions are planned to provide technical assistance to other developing countries. Some others are in progress. A sub-regional meeting was held in Guinea Bissau for lusophone African countries in May 1993 to review progress in ICN follow-up activities of the sub-region.

Fourth International Technical Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources

The Conference:

recommended, as part of the preparatory process of the Technical Conference, the preparation of both the first report of the State of the World Plant Genetic Resources and the first Global Plan of Action on Plant Genetic Resources.

and

recommended that a number of expert and regional meetings be organized, and that advantage should be taken of the FAO Regional Conferences in producing the State of the World Plant Genetic Resources and the Global Plan of Action.

The preparatory process of the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources was discussed by an Expert Consultation on PGR in June 1992 and subsequently by the Seventh Session of the Working Group of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources (October 1992) and the Fifth Session of the Commission itself (19-23 April 1993). The Commission endorsed the aims and strategies proposed by the Secretariat, which include the development of the first State of the World and the Plan of Action on Plant Genetic Resources. It also agreed that action should be carried out through a country-driven preparatory process, including a number of regional expert meetings and discussions at the FAO Regional Conferences. The Report of the Commission has been endorsed by the FAO Council in June 1993 and since then several Member Nations have pledged financial support for the Conference and its preparatory process. Based on presently available funds, project GCP/INT/573/MUL, covering Phase I of the activities, is designed to support national and sub-regional assessment and capacity building for conservation and use of plant genetic resources, including preparation of assessment reports and action plans.

Cooperation between FAO and the OAU Secretariat

The Conference:

recommended that various activities undertaken jointly by OAU and FAO be strengthened, especially in areas of nutrition and food and agriculture.

OAU and FAO collaborated in the preparation of an Inter-Agency Consultation on a Common African Agricultural Programme (CAAP) and an African Decade for Food and Agriculture. In this connection, FAO prepared, at OAU's request, a Common African Agricultural Programme Framework (CAAPFRA). Further joint activities were carried out in the context of the African Regional Task Force on Food and Nutrition and in the field of trypanosomiasis, rinderpest control and food security. The close collaboration between OAU and FAO has facilitated a sharper focus of both organizations on priority concerns of the region, in the area of sustainable agricultural development, rural development and poverty alleviation, regional integration, women in development and disaster management.

expressed the wish that the two organizations revise and update the existing Cooperation Agreement between them signed in 1967.

FAO has initiated review of the matter in order to prepare appropriate proposals.

TWENTY-FIRST FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

New Delhi, India, 10-14 February 1992

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

FAO's Activities in the Region

The Conference:

underscored that FAO activities relating to environment and sustainable development, nutrition, forestry, fisheries, genetic resources, biotechnology, integrated pest management and policy analysis and advice should be accorded the highest priority.

This recommendation is essentially a reaffirmation of the priority areas of FAO's Programme of Work which the Conference duly underscored. The document on FAO activities in the Region 1992-93 to be submitted to the Twenty-second Regional Conference will confirm the priority given to all these important areas of work. Major emphasis was laid in most of the expert consultations and meetings held during 1992-93, on issues relating to sustainable agriculture and rural development (SARD). The Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAPA) also organized a number of regional expert consultations on different subjects, with major focus on environment and sustainable development. In connection with the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN), FAO/RAPA held an expert consultation of the Asian Network on Food and Nutrition to define measures included in the ICN Plan of Action. FAO has already initiated some regional programmes on animal and plant biotechnology, IPM, animal and fish genetic resources, agro-forestry and development/management of coastal fisheries. For policy analysis and advice, FAO has initiated steps for the establishment of a Regional Network on Agricultural Policy/Planning especially in relation to structural adjustment and sustainable development.

recommended that FAO continue to give priority to the policy advisory role on matters relating to environment and sustainable development.

In line with UNCED follow-up and implementation of Agenda 21, FAO is integrating SARD considerations at the macro-, sector- and project-levels in agricultural policy analysis and planning. The conceptual approach for this integrative process is being translated into an operational framework for policy advisory missions and use by national governments. An analytical study on "Agricultural Sustainability: Definition and Implications for Agricultural and Trade Policy" has been published. FAO assisted in reviewing policies and planning processes for sustainable agriculture and rural development in China, Iran and Laos.

Follow-up to UNCED is one of the two central priorities as elaborated in the Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95.

suggested that FAO should make renewed efforts to seek UNDP funds and also to explore alternative sources of financing in carrying out training activities to strengthen national capabilities in food quality and safety.

Training courses for improving the nutrition base on the desirable dietary pattern and dietary quality were conducted in China, Philippines and Indonesia. Also a training manual has been prepared. A regional training project on Training Network for Mycotoxin Control in Asia has been funded by UNEP, under which efforts will be intensified to train more people in food quality and safety.

observed that Regional Commissions of FAO, based at RAPA, facilitated the process of TCDC, often played a critically important role in providing policy advice to governments and, therefore, recommended that the activities of the regional commissions be summarized and reported to future Conference sessions.

and

recognizing the usefulness of the work being carried out by various regional networks, recommended that a synopsis of regional network activities be prepared and presented at future sessions.

A report on the activities of the regional commissions, regional networks and other regional bodies will be submitted to the Twenty-second Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific.

recommended that FAO prepare a supplemental report on FAO activities in the Pacific Island countries in order to facilitate evaluation of previous activities and assist in planning future activities.

A brief report on FAO activities in the Pacific Island countries will be included in the Report on FAO Activities in the Region: 1992-93, to be submitted to the Twenty-second Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific.

expressed a strong desire that FAO prepare a comprehensive study on selected agriculture and rural development issues in the Asia-Pacific countries, comparable to those prepared for Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Studies on selected agriculture and rural development issues in the Region have been initiated. To understand the agrarian transformation in socialist countries of Asia, case studies on the agrarian systems and production organization of China, Laos and Viet Nam were carried out. A subregional workshop on the subject was held at RAPA in April 1993. FAO continued to be involved actively in the Region in the follow-up of the Principles and Programmes of Action approved by WCARRD. The

Eighth Government Consultation to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific was held at RAPA in August 1993. FAO also continued to support CIRDAP in organizing training programmes in rural development. Collaborative work with ESCAP in agriculture and rural development also continued. An Expert Consultation on NGOs and Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Asia-Challenges for Policy and Practice was held at RAPA in September 1993. The Consultation identified strategy elements for sustainable agriculture and rural development.

recognizing the role of agricultural cooperatives in alleviating rural poverty, recommended that FAO, as well as other appropriate international agencies fully support the recently created network on agricultural cooperatives.

The proposal for the establishment of a Regional Network for the Development of Agricultural Cooperatives for Asia and the Pacific (NEDAC) has received the support of 18 Member Nations of the Region and ten regional and international agencies. 15 agricultural cooperatives from nine Member Nations (Bangladesh, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand) became members. International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), ILO and ESCAP have become associate members of NEDAC. Country level studies for the purpose of exchange of knowledge and experience were carried out by the cooperative members from Bangladesh, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Exchange of visits and a training workshop to enhance the capacity and capability of the middle level managers were also organized.

Enhancing Rural Employment and Incomes through the Development of Agro-Processing Industries

The Conference:

suggested that cooperatives in the Region should be networked to promote solidarity, improve product quality and enable access to wider markets.

FAO actively supports the regional Network for the Development of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia and the Pacific (NEDAC) composed of 15 agricultural cooperative members from nine countries. FAO provides a secretariat in RAPA and will support and participate in the next meeting of NEDAC, scheduled to be held in Beijing in October 1993.

expressed the desire that FAO should document an inventory of available agro-processing technologies in the crop sector.

Efforts are being made at FAO/RAPA to compile available information for an inventory of agro-processing technologies in the crop sector. FAO assisted UNIDO with the provision of information from selected LDCs in the region in late 1992. This information was consolidated in a series of country specific papers and used as

resource material for a regional workshop held in November 1992 under the auspices of UNIDO/ESCAP. Drawing up an inventory of agro-processing technologies in a more systematic manner is being considered for the 1994-95 biennium. This will begin with an examination of current information available on international data bases. In view of the enormity of task, it is proposed to focus initially on crops and technologies of special interest to the Asia-Pacific Region.

Regional Strategies for Arresting Land Degradation

The Conference:

strongly urged FAO to explore the possibility of strengthening collection and analysis of land degradation data.

FAO has expanded its activities in the collection and analysis of data on land degradation. In 1992 FAO, with funding from UNEP and UNDP, prepared a report and strategy paper on land degradation in South Asia for ECOSOC. This covered Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Additional data will be progressively collected for these and other countries in the region and be used as the basis for the development of policies and programmes to overcome the problems of land degradation. Under the auspices of the Asian Network on Problem Soils an expert consultation with participants from 14 countries was held in Bangkok, in October 1993. A common methodology for the monitoring and analysis of land degradation data was worked out.

recommended that FAO continue to assist Member Nations in formulating national strategies and policies in developing and applying appropriate technologies for arresting land degradation.

Experience indicates that land degradation can only be overcome through the formulation and implementation of sound, long-term policies, strategies and programmes, which take into consideration the underlying causes of land degradation. FAO will therefore continue to provide assistance to Member Nations which request assistance in this field. Under a new Special Action Programme FAO plans to develop a cooperative scheme for the conservation and rehabilitation of lands in the Region in the 1994-95 biennium. This scheme will be carefully developed in close collaboration with the appropriate national institutions and experts in the Region. This scheme will provide a framework for concerted national, sub-regional and regional action to overcome land degradation.

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

The Conference:

requested FAO to offer such assistance as would be necessary to strengthen the liaison between the CGIAR and the Region.

The Research and Technology Development Division of FAO, Rome, is actively pursuing this matter to ensure effective representation of the Region.

Update on International Conference on Nutrition (ICN)

The Conference:

emphasized that ICN should not be seen as an end in itself, but rather as a step in the continuing process of strengthening and reinforcing the commitment and actions necessary to prevent and alleviate hunger and malnutrition problems.

Several National Plans of Action for Nutrition have been drafted or are under preparation with FAO assistance. A Regional Expert Consultation on ICN follow-up, sponsored by RAPA, took place in June 1993 in Bangkok, Thailand. In addition to continuing efforts to eradicate micronutrient deficiencies and strengthen linkages between nutrition, agriculture and population education, FAO has further strengthened nutrition education activities in the Region - an Intercountry Workshop on Nutrition Education was held in 1993 and five Member Nations were assisted in developing nutrition training programmes.

Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources

The Conference:

endorsed the recommendation of the Twenty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference (Rome, November 1991) that FAO should organize the Fourth International Technical Conference for the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources in cooperation with other relevant organizations, in particular, the IBPGR and other CGIAR centres.

Action is being pursued in accordance with Conference directives and within the limits of extra-budgetary resources, as decided by the Conference.

EIGHTEENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE

Prague, Czechoslovakia, 24-28 August 1992

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

General Debate on the Food and Agriculture Situation in Europe

The Conference:

unanimously acknowledged that assistance to Eastern and Central European countries should be given high priority in FAO's regional action programmes with a view to developing the agricultural potential of these countries.

FAO's programmes in support of agricultural restructuring in economies in transition in the Central and Eastern European countries were discussed at the Hundred and Third Session of the FAO Council (June 1993) and the Twenty-eighth Session of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA - October 1993). The Council underlined that FAO's action should continue to be primarily of a catalytic and qualitative nature and expressed the hope that additional resources would be available to enable FAO to shoulder this growing responsibility. Highest priority is given to institution building and training of local experts in agricultural policy analysis.

considered that FAO, in addition to the above, ought to play a prominent role in defining new strategies for the future of European agriculture within the new global European context. Special attention had to be given to water resource management and forest protection.

East European countries in transition from centrally planned to market-oriented economies (Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia and Hungary) have been assisted in the design and implementation of agricultural development strategies and policies with special emphasis on sustainable agricultural and rural development, natural resource conservation and environmental protection. A study on "Transition and Price Stabilization Policies in Eastern European Agriculture" is currently under preparation. FAO continues to provide support for forest protection activities under Silva Mediterranea, and is involved in the follow-up to the Resolutions of the Strasbourg and Helsinki Ministerial Conferences on Forest Protection in Europe held in 1990 and 1993 respectively. Also, FAO has assisted the Mediterranean countries in the development of the Mediterranean Forest Action Programme for which funding support is presently being solicited.

called upon FAO to play a leading role in promoting cooperation endeavours in the use of particularly environmentally friendly technology.

FAO is promoting globally IPM, IPNS and farming systems which make more efficient use of agricultural inputs, and has undertaken a study on sustainable intensification of land use, including LEISA. The recently established FAO/ECE Working Party on Relations between Agriculture and the Environment agreed, at its meeting in Geneva in May 1993, on a work programme to exchange experience between countries on economic, legal, technological and regulatory measures for the promotion of environmentally sustainable agriculture, the production of healthy food and on the impact of environmental factors in agricultural production.

FAO Activities in the Region 1990-91

The Conference:

considered that future reports should include activities implemented in the current biennium.

The report on "FAO Activities in the Region 1992-1993", to be submitted to the Nineteenth Regional Conference for Europe (June 1994), will include activities implemented in the first quarter of 1994 and a programme for the 1994-95 biennium.

stressed that FAO's regional activities should be concentrated to allow for a more effective utilization of the limited resources allocated for Europe.

All efforts have been made for a more effective utilization of the limited resources through increased cooperation, joint planning and sponsoring of regional activities with NGOs and IGOs, appropriate priority setting and refining present priorities in the region and adjusting the programmes to the new situations. Special emphasis is given to those activities which result in the greatest possible multiplier effect.

expressed satisfaction with the improving cooperation established between FAO, UN/ECE and other organizations and requested that the Organization reinforce its cooperation with non-governmental organizations.

FAO's collaboration with NGOs has been reinforced through a reorganization whereby the Office for External Affairs has become the Organization's focal point for cooperation with a broad range of NGOs, whose objectives and activities are of relevance to FAO. These NGOs include the following categories: local and national people's organizations in the South, and networks of such organizations; development-oriented NGOs in the North and the South and their networks; international and national professional NGOs working in areas related to FAO's mandate; and NGOs and NGO networks which focus on specific issues of relevance

to FAO, such as environment and debt. In the follow-up activities of the ICN, FAO is actively supporting the establishment of international and regional NGO networks.

FAO's Medium-term Plan in the European Region 1994-99

The Conference:

noted the conclusions on this item would be taken into account in the preparation of the FAO Medium-term Plan 1994-99, to be submitted to the FAO Conference in 1993.

The conclusions and recommendations of the Eighteenth Regional Conference for Europe have been taken into account in the preparation of the Medium-term Plan 1994-99 (C 93/23) which was considered by the Hundred and Third Session of the Council (June 1993) and will be submitted to the Conference (November 1993).

agreed that the thrust of FAO's role in Europe should be catalytic, and that its work should seek to achieve the greatest possible multiplier effect.

The main thrust of FAO's role in Europe continues to be catalytic, seeking to achieve the greatest possible multiplier effect through the promotion of networks, organization of seminars, workshops, technical consultations and training activities. Technical assistance and policy advice provided under the TCP should also generally lead to greater investment funding by external donors.

recommended that FAO's basic priority in Europe should be the promotion of sustainable development in agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

This recommendation is pursued in action on the follow-up to UNCED, as one of the two central priorities in the Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95.

considered that the implementation and follow-up by FAO to the recommendations made by UNCED should be clearly specified and should take concrete form in specific projects, and that the Joint UN/ECE-FAO Working Party on Agriculture and Environment should provide an increasingly significant contribution to this effect.

The European Cooperative Research Networks on Rural Energy have followed a clear approach of making optimum use of local energy availability and support of environmentally friendly technologies. They focused on energy conservation, biomass production and conversion for energy, solar energy application, wind and hydro-power, agricultural use of thermal effluent and an integrated farm energy system. In 1993, as a follow-up to UNCED, these networks were reorganized, forming a single network on Sustainable Rural Environment and Energy operating within the ESCORENA system. At its second session (May 1993) the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Relations between the Environment and Agriculture reviewed research activities carried out within ESCORENA relevant to the implementation and follow-up of UNCED. In future programmes particular

attention will be given to technical norms and recommendations developed by research networks and to their implementation at country level.

considered that FAO could play a unique and specific role in Europe in expanding its activities in Europe to other parts of the world in the form of a more effectively organized and more intensive transfer of information, experience and technology to developing countries.

In order to facilitate the transfer of pertinent experiences, technology and information to developing countries, mainly in the Mediterranean region, the system of interregional cooperative research networks was expanded, covering those mutually interested commodities like olives, cotton, rice, nuts and buffalo production. Newsletters and other publications were widely distributed to national institutions in developing countries. Experts from these countries are invited to attend the meetings, workshops and training courses organized by or in cooperation with FAO in Europe.

noted and was assured that the preparatory phases of the next FAO Medium-term Plan would give full consideration to the conclusions and recommendations of the Regional Conference and should concentrate on the specific problems and needs of several Eastern and Central European countries.

Conclusions and recommendations of the Eighteenth Regional Conference for Europe are reflected in the FAO Medium-term Plan 1994-99, which contains a special part on assistance to transition economies in Central and Eastern European countries. The Plan has also been discussed at the Hundred and Third Session of the Council, which agreed that because of the Organization's universality and the impact of developments in these countries on policy concerns of global significance, FAO should be prepared to respond to future requests for assistance stemming from these countries. The Council stressed, however, that this assistance should not negatively affect FAO's capacity to meet the requirements of other regions.

Alternative Uses of Marginal Land and Set-aside Farmland in Europe

The Conference:

agreed that FAO had an important role to play, in cooperation with UN/ECE in the collection, analysis and dissemination of information relating to land-use changes and the factors underlying such changes.

In respect of assistance to Central and Eastern European countries in strengthening their capacities for collection, analysis and dissemination of information relating to land-use changes, FAO in cooperation with ECE, the European Space Agency and Italian Space Corporation Telespazio, has developed a new series of Regional Workshops for Decision-Makers from Central and Eastern Europe on the subject of agricultural and environmental applications of remote sensing and geographic

information systems. The first two Workshops took place in Hungary and Slovakia, and the third is planned in Romania. Following the recommendation of participants of these workshops and in order to promote regional cooperation in these fields, FAO prepared a project proposal for establishment of a regional network of institutions involved in agricultural and environmental applications of remote sensing and GIS.

recommended that the following areas receive increased attention at the national and international level: biomass for energy, afforestation, training, research into potential uses of marginal and set-aside farming land, a network for the exchange of information and impact on the preservation of natural resources.

A "Sustainable Rural Environment and Energy Network" (SREN) was established in 1993; it has a working group on biomass production and conversion for energy. A study on "potential new crops for European agriculture" using marginal and set-aside land was planned to be carried out in the next biennium. Increased attention was given to these areas within the Joint FAO/ECE Working Parties on "Relations between Agriculture and Environment" and "Economics of the Agri-Food Sector and Farm Management". Training courses were organized on Management and Implementation of Rural Development Projects.

urged the organizations working on matters related to land use to actively seek ways and means of promoting closer cooperation endeavours of avoiding duplication of efforts and of ensuring complementarity of these activities with those of FAO and UN/ECE.

Among UN agencies, FAO has taken the lead on the definition and classification of land cover and land use. The Organization is working in close collaboration with UNEP to establish a world land and water resources database. FAO also maintains technical contact with EEC land use mapping activities with a view to standardization of classifications and avoidance of duplication.

suggested that the results of activities carried out by FAO and UN/ECE bodies in this field should be drawn to the attention of Member Nations in the Region.

At meetings of the specific research sub-networks, the FAO Cooperative Research Network on Pastures and Fodder Crops analysed changes in land use in the Mediterranean and lowland areas in Europe. Research results and recommendations concerning extensive use of marginal lands for sustainable animal production and for the production of high protein fodders were published in proceedings of the meetings and brought to the attention of the appropriate authorities of the Member Nations in the Region. Furthermore, the FAO Cooperative Research Network on Sheep and Goats developed a project on the study of the problems of collectively used grazelands in the Mediterranean basin. This information was circulated to Member Nations in the Region and published in a specially edited volume. Similarly, Member Nations in the Region will be kept informed of the progress and results of the activities in this field.

**TWENTY-SECOND FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Montevideo, Uruguay, 28 September - 2 October 1992

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

**Effects on the Region of the European Single Market, the Political and Trade
Opening-up of Eastern Europe and the Outcome of the Uruguay Round**

The Conference:

suggested that FAO should look into the advisability of addressing the problems of the world sugar market, even though this was being taken care of by another international agency.

In collaboration with the International Sugar Organization, a special study "The World Sugar Market: Prospects for the Nineties", assessing market prospects and problems to the year 2000, was undertaken and published in 1992. The Organization continues to monitor market developments for regular publication in the FAO Food Outlook and the annual FAO Commodity Review and Outlook.

stressed the need for FAO to provide continuing assistance to enhance the countries' competitiveness as exporters and to bring about appropriate diversification in their agricultural sectors.

Within available resources, FAO continues, through its activities on commodity policy at country level and agricultural policy advisory services, to assist countries in their diversification and export competitiveness efforts. A High Level Consultation on External Trade and Sustainable Development in Latin America is being organized for implementation in early 1994. Technical documents for this event are already under preparation. The purpose of the Consultation is to examine, at a conceptual level, the relationships between external trade and sustainable development, as well as to analyse possibilities and experiences of Latin American countries in their efforts to increase competitiveness within a framework of sustainable agricultural development. A book on "The Agricultural Policy in the New Latin American Development Style" will be published in 1993. This publication deals with the new international environment, the new insertion of the Latin American agriculture in the international trade, Latin American integration, international prices of agricultural products, and strategic orientations. Case studies on "The Agricultural Policy in the Opening of the Economy" have been finalized for Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Uruguay.

underlined the need for a balanced solution to policy problems in the world banana market in the framework of the Thirteenth Session of FAO's Intergovernmental Group on Bananas, to be held in Honduras in November 1992.

Policy problems in the world banana market were discussed in detail, as recommended, at the Thirteenth Session of FAO's Intergovernmental Group on Bananas, held in Honduras in November 1992, on the basis of documentation prepared by the secretariat.

Current Status and Future Prospects of Modern Biotechnologies in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Conference:

suggested that FAO look into the feasibility of establishing a regional interinstitutional body to manage and follow-up biotechnology activities, mainly in the areas of genetic engineering and molecular biology.

The matter of setting-up a regional inter-institutional body to deal with highly technical aspects of biotechnology is still under study with a view to gaining more information on the likely activities, relevance and cost of such a body.

suggested that FAO organize a consultation on agricultural biotechnology in which representatives of governments, international technical and financial cooperation organizations, bilateral cooperation agencies and national programmes would participate to coordinate ongoing activities and define development strategies.

FAO is exploring all possibilities, including the identification of a donor, with a view to convening the recommended consultation.

proposed that FAO consider the possibility of implementing sub-regional biotechnology programmes with multi-agency coordination, using already-agreed mechanisms or networks.

This recommendation is under active consideration, as FAO attaches importance to improved multi-agency coordination.

requested that FAO supplement the current plant biotechnology data base with information on animal biotechnology, as part of an interdisciplinary approach.

FAO has been promoting the application of modern biotechnologies related to animal health, particularly towards developing recombinant vaccines, new diagnostic methods and linking with OIE, WHO and UNIDO on the subject. The current plant biotechnology database of FAO was supplemented with the above information in May 1993. A questionnaire, designed on the basis of the one used for constructing the database on laboratories working in Plant Biotechnology (CATBIO), has been

prepared for distribution to all the laboratories which are members of the TCN of Veterinary Research and Diagnostic Laboratories. It is expected that the data regarding Animal Biotechnology will be received during the second semester of 1993 and, after processing, will be incorporated into the CATBIO database in early 1994.

emphasized the need to adapt advanced technologies produced in developed countries to conditions in the countries of the Region, promoting vocational training, horizontal technical cooperation and the procurement of funds through a differentiated approach based on each country's requirements.

A training course on Conventional Genetic and Molecular Biology Improvement Methods, organized jointly with CIP, was held for the South Cone Countries. A technical meeting on Citrus Bioclimatology was held in early 1993. A technical manual on Food Crops Genetic Engineering is being prepared by CINESTAV (MEX), under a Letter of Agreement. A training course on Genetic Engineering of Food Crops is being organized, to be held in late 1993.

Food Protection and Control in Latin America and the Caribbean with Special Reference to Street Foods and Other Products of Potential Risk for the Consumer and International Food Trade

The Conference:

called for FAO assistance in preparing manuals for food control officers and expressed the hope that FAO assistance could be extended to all the countries of the Region.

FAO has significantly expanded its Food Quality and Safety Programme in 1993 to extend technical assistance and policy guidance to almost all countries of the Region. During the reporting period, FAO, in cooperation with Member Nations of the Region, developed and disseminated training manuals, covering the following subjects: hygienic practices in street-food preparation (Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Central America); training the trainees of street food vendors (Colombia, Central America); inspection of street foods (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Central America); good manufacturing practices in meat industries and inspection of food industries (Ecuador); and quality assurance in the food industry, with emphasis on fish products (Peru). In addition, Spanish versions of the FAO Food and Nutrition Papers, Manuals of Food Quality Control No. 1, 7 and 8 were prepared.

TWENTY-FIRST FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE NEAR EAST

Teheran, Islamic Republic of Iran, 17-21 May 1992

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

FAO Activities in the Region

The Conference:

requested FAO to survey and analyse forestry curricula in the Near East and advise governments on their adaptation to meet the emerging needs of the countries concerned.

A project proposal for revising and updating forestry curricula in the Near East has been prepared and is under consideration by donors for extra-budgetary support.

requested FAO to organize a regional seminar on community forestry to enable participants to exchange information and experience.

The meeting of Senior Forest Project Officers in the Near East Region in May 1993 provided the opportunity to consider methodologies and applications to support communications in the participatory approach to forestry. A project proposal to extend the special action programme "Forest, Trees and People" with special focus on the Near East, has been proposed to the EEC. Activities proposed include research in collaboration with institutions and the establishment of a network of information exchange. A regional project "Forestry and Food Security in the Mediterranean and Near East Region" involving Jordan, Syria and Turkey was initiated in 1992.

requested FAO to organize a regional seminar on range management to study all technical, socio-political and economic aspects, and suggest other possible means of livelihood for the range communities.

A regional Workshop on Plant Genetic Resources was held at Aleppo in 1992, jointly with IBPGR and ICARDA, resulting, among others, in the establishment of a Working Group on Pasture and Forage. A Round Table on Pastoralism was organized under FAO Project TCP/IRA/2255(c), in Asfahan, Iran, September 1992, where issues on nomadism pastoral ecology and organization, land tenure, marketing, services, and sedentarization were discussed. At the Workshop on the Maintenance and Development of the Rangeland in the Arab Region and its Role in Combating Desertification (Amman, Jordan, April 1993), organized jointly with the League of Arab States, all aspects of range development were reviewed and concrete recommendations were formulated.

requested FAO to provide advice on policies, timing and sequence of changes in the public and private sectors' roles in providing services and inputs to farmers.

Agricultural Sector Policy Reviews have been conducted in six countries in the Near East Region (Cyprus, Egypt, Jordan, Malta, Sudan and Yemen). These studies analyse available options for privatization and provide policy guidance on the timing and sequencing of the privatization process for state and public sector organizations in the food and agricultural sector.

requested FAO to continue to provide technical support to strengthen national food control programmes in the Region; assist Member Nations in the development of appropriate training curricula for food control personnel; and organize national and regional training programmes in food control-related subjects.

FAO has continued to provide technical assistance to Member Nations of the Near East Region (Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Sudan and Syria) to sustain their efforts in strengthening food control systems and activities either under the Regular Programme or as part of field projects. In the field of training, two sub-regional training activities were carried out under the Regular Programme. In cooperation with the Government of the United Arab Emirates, a Sub-Regional Workshop on Food Additives and Contaminants was organized. Two sub-regional training courses on food hygiene for the food service personnel of the hotel industry were organized, one in collaboration with the World Tourism Organization and the Bahrain Government for the Gulf States and one for francophone African countries in Tunisia.

requested FAO to provide technical advice to Member Nations in establishing import/export quality control and certification systems.

The FAO manual on import food inspection, currently under preparation, will be distributed to all Member Nations, for use as a guide in developing their own import food inspection programmes.

requested FAO to assist in designing and implementing national and regional seed policies and programmes and organize training programmes to strengthen the capabilities of professionals and technicians in the seed production industry.

Technical advisory support services were extended to Member Nations on the importance of seed quality to increase yield and production for major crops in the Region, also stressing the role of national institutions to develop policies of certified seed production, through two important regional meetings: the Cotton Network Meeting, held in June 1992, and the meeting of the Interregional Cooperative Research Network on Rice, held in October 1992. An Expert Consultation was organized, in Tunisia, 30 March - 1 April 1993, on the Review of Status of Seed Technology in the Near East Region. Participants from 20 Member Nations were invited to attend this Consultation, during which country papers were presented and

discussed. Other interested regional organizations and institutions attended the Consultation: ICARDA and AOAD. The results and recommendations of the Expert Consultation are currently being finalized for publication and distribution to Member Nations.

requested FAO to prepare a regional project on integrated pest management (IPM) for protected vegetable cultivation and approach donors to ensure its funding.

A regional project document on Integrated Pest Management for Vegetables Grown under Protected Cultivation in the Near East was prepared. The development objective of the project is to promote vegetable production under cover, through the implementation of IPM and the rational use of pesticides, thereby alleviating the hazards to man and the environment, and ensuring sustainable availability of vegetable products for the local population, for processing industries and for exports. The budget envisaged for the project is US\$3 million, for a duration of four years. FAO is in the process of identifying potential interested donors to finance this project.

requested FAO to submit a document to the Twenty-second FAO Regional Conference for the Near East, providing information on the status and achievements of the Near East Cooperative Programme (NECP), highlighting its impact on recipient countries and proposing alternatives for its reactivation and continuation.

A Report on the Status and Achievements of the Near East Cooperative Programme (NECP) will be presented to the Twenty-second Regional Conference. This document will highlight in a detailed and analytical manner, the NECP's achievements and positive impact on the agricultural development in the participating countries. It will also propose alternatives for the reactivation and continuation of the programme, thus enabling FAO/RNEA, in cooperation with the Member Nations of the Region, to pursue the useful and beneficial role of this unique programme in strengthening further regional cooperation in the field of rural development and agricultural production.

Policies Leading to the Efficient Use and Conservation of Water Resources in the Near East Region

The Conference:

requested FAO to assist Member Nations to formulate comprehensive national policies for the efficient use and conservation of water resources.

Country programming missions under the Action Plan on Water and Sustainable Agricultural Development were carried out in Egypt and Syria. A donors' conference has been called to follow-up on the recommendations formulated for Egypt. In the context of the impending water crisis in the Nile Basin, funds have been mobilized for a Nile Basin project dealing with operational water resources

management and information system. Guidelines on water policy have been developed and are expected to be ready for publication in due course.

requested FAO to assist Member Nations to organize national/regional workshops to prepare an action programme for the control and/or prevention of sea-water intrusion.

An Expert Consultation on the subject matter has been organized and will be held in Cairo in October 1993. The Consultation will focus on the exchange of information and experience among countries of the Near East and the Mediterranean Basin.

requested FAO to assist Member Nations to establish or strengthen national information systems for water management and water quality monitoring systems.

This recommendation is being implemented simultaneously with that on the establishment of a regional data bank for land and water resources, which is explained below.

requested FAO to assist Member Nations to strengthen agricultural extension services in the area of on-farm water management.

FAO will continue to assist interested Member Nations in the field of on-farm water management. A project was operated in Tunisia with a view to improving water management at the farm level.

requested FAO to assist Member Nations to establish a regional data bank for land and water resources specifying quality, use and management considerations.

In respect of establishing or strengthening national information systems and a regional data bank for water management, the Nile River Basin Programme started by FAO in 1989 will provide a major contribution towards improved water management, monitoring and forecasting in the Nile Basin. The advanced information technologies of remote sensing and geographic information system (GIS) are used for strengthening of regional and national geographic databanks. They also provide reliable reference data for monitoring of changes in surface waters and for modelling the river hydrological regime. FAO is developing a geo-referenced Global Water Information System (GWIS) for which a questionnaire has been prepared and is currently in a testing phase in six countries (Bangladesh, Morocco, Ghana, Mali, Mexico and China). The questionnaire is addressing all aspects of water development and management (221 questions) at the sub-country administrative level. The implementation of this project is expected to take place during the next biennium. The Near East countries will be deeply involved in this exercise.

requested FAO to assist Member Nations to establish a regional laboratory for testing and quality control of irrigation equipment and materials.

FAO is pursuing the feasibility of establishing a regional testing laboratory. A technical paper was developed on the irrigation equipment performance testing and quality standards and was presented at the Regional Commission held in Tunis in September 1992.

requested FAO to assist Member Nations to carry out necessary studies on water valuation as a means of establishing cost recovery systems.

It is envisaged that during the next biennium, FAO will extend collaboration to interested Member Nations with a view to undertaking studies on water valuation.

requested FAO to assist Member Nations to prepare a manual or guidelines for safe and efficient use of fertigation/chemigation.

The subject of fertigation/chemigation was reviewed at the Commission held in Tunis in September 1992. FAO will explore ways and means to assist interested Member Nations to develop a manual or guidelines for safe and efficient use of fertigation/chemigation.

requested FAO to study, in consultation with Member Nations of the Region, the need to establish a Regional Land and Water Resources Centre.

FAO will continue to consult Member Nations in order to determine the need and cost to establish a Regional Land and Water Resources Centre.

Regional Cooperation for Animal Disease Control and Eradication

The Conference:

requested FAO to assist Member Nations in preparing and implementing FMD control programmes and study the possibility of initiating a regional project for that purpose.

In response to a request for TCP assistance, the Secretary of the FAO/EUFMD Commission visited Morocco and advised the Government on various aspects of foot-and-mouth disease control, including the selection of the most appropriate vaccine strains, vaccine strategy and animal movement control. The need for regional cooperation was stressed.

requested FAO to convene a regional meeting to discuss the future of MINEADEP.

A meeting of the MINEADEP Project Steering Committee was convened in July 1993 with the participation of representatives of four Member Nations. The Steering Committee agreed to extend the project until 31 December 1993. They requested

Information Network. The latter will include the establishment of a regional Epidemiology Investigation Service. The Forum and Network are envisaged to focus on country-specific animal health problems. The regional/international focus will be on control and prevention of foot-and-mouth disease, brucellosis, rinderpest and rabies. These activities are being developed by a joint FAO/IFAD consultancy and meeting of chief veterinary officers from concerned countries to be held in early 1994. This represents a follow-up to veterinary service strengthening activities under the Preventative Phase of the SECNA campaign. In particular, this involves a follow-up of two consultancies (Tunisia and Algeria) to prepare background material to implement the above animal health surveillance network.

Representation of the Region in the CGIAR

requested FAO to continue its assistance to Member Nations of the Region in the formulation and implementation of operational programmes to improve the efficiency of national research institutions.

and

requested FAO to provide technical assistance in institution building and human resource development to improve organization, management and implementation of national agricultural research programmes.

FAO continues to assist Member Nations in improving the efficiency, impact and sustainability of their national agricultural research systems. A project has been prepared for strengthening the role of universities in some selected Near East and North African countries. A Seminar on Research Management is planned to be held in conjunction with AARINENA's Fourth General Conference in Cairo, Egypt, from 8 to 10 February 1994.

requested FAO to provide secretarial services and technical assistance to AARINENA, in improving coopération and coordination among Member Nations.

FAO continues to provide services and technical assistance to AARINENA and to assist its development into a viable and effective association. A Joint meeting of AARINENA and co-sponsors to boost its activities was held at RNEA Headquarters on 1 - 15 April 1993. Another meeting in preparation for the Association's Fourth General Conference is planned for early September 1993 in Nicosia, Cyprus. RNEA is providing AARINENA with secretarial services and continues to manage its financial affairs.

FAO to implement a base line study of the situation of animal health and production in the concerned countries. This study would evaluate MINEADEP technical activities to date and serve as a base for future projects. The outcome will be discussed by the Steering Committee at a meeting in December 1993.

requested FAO to strengthen WARECC by preparing a cooperative agreement to cover and fund vaccination and sero-monitoring activities in Member Nations on an annual basis.

Vaccination against rinderpest in WARECC Member Nations has always been a country responsibility. Technical assistance on vaccine quality, sero-surveillance and procurement of limited amounts of vaccine in emergency circumstances were provided by FAO, UNDP and other donors. Sero-monitoring activities in Member Nations may be an essential part of a second phase of WARECC; to date no donor has been identified for an extension. Countries may fund these activities from national budgets as they endeavour to receive OIE certification of rinderpest disease-free status.

requested FAO to prepare a regional programme, in collaboration with WHO, the countries of the Region and donors, to control and eventually eradicate major zoonoses in the Region and prevent the entry and spread of exotic diseases.

Two project documents were prepared, i.e. "Formulation Guidelines for a Regional Brucellosis Control Programme for the Middle East" and "Formulation of Guidelines for a Regional Echinococcosis/Hydatidosis Control Programme for the Maghreb Countries." Regarding brucellosis control, consultants visited countries which expressed an interest in the regional control programme. Country reports were prepared providing information regarding current status of brucellosis control and evaluation of proposed strategies for the future. A Regional Workshop was held in Amman, Jordan, and attended by representatives from Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Sudan, Syria and Turkey along with representatives from WHO, OIE, IAEA and FAO. Draft guidelines from each country were formulated and submitted to all participants for approval. FAO, in collaboration with the Veterinary Public Health Unit of WHO, is formulating a draft proposal for a preparatory phase for brucellosis control to assist in the preparation of country project documents and a document for the regional coordination programme. Upon completion, the proposals will be submitted to potential donors.

requested FAO to service the establishment of a Regional Epidemiology Investigation Service (EIS) in the Near East Region to address regional cooperation efforts regarding disease diagnosis and information sharing, coordination of animal disease control programmes and establishing disease control priorities within the Region.

In collaboration with IFAD, FAO is developing a programme for five Maghreb countries plus Sudan and Egypt to form (i) a North Africa Regional Animal Health Forum and (ii) Regional Epidemiology and Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

requested FAO to support efforts by the representatives of the Region in the CGIAR to facilitate the flow of information from national research institutions to CGIAR and ensure feedback.

and

requested FAO to continue to provide information, and operational and administrative services to the regional representative in the CGIAR.

FAO provides the regional representatives to the CGIAR with the required information and briefing on the Group's agenda, to enable them to express the views of their constituencies and safeguard their interest in the system. FAO pays utmost attention in this respect, facilitating greater and more effective flow of information between national research institutes and CGIAR. FAO continues to cover the travel expenses of the regional representatives when they attend the CGIAR meetings.