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REPORT OF THE

**Held at Libreville, Gabon
14-30 September 1972**

**SEVENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE
FOR AFRICA**



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

REPORT
of the
SEVENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE
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AFRICA

LIBREVILLE - GABON
14-30 September 1972

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Regional Office for Africa

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I. INTRODUCTION

Organization of the Conference

1. The Seventh FAO Regional Conference for Africa was held in the Maison du Parti, Libreville, Gabon, from 14 to 30 September, 1972. The Plenary session of the Conference was preceded by meetings of two Technical Committees which met from 14 to 22 September, 1972. Delegations from the following Member Nations participated:

Algeria	Mali
Botswana	Mauritania
Burundi	Mauritius
Cameroon	Morocco
Central African Republic	Nigeria
Chad	Rwanda
People's Republic of the Congo	Senegal
Dahomey	Sierra Leone
Ethiopia	Sudan
France	Swaziland
Gabonese Republic	Togo
The Gambia	Tunisia
Ghana	Uganda
Ivory Coast	United Republic of Tanzania
Kenya	Upper Volta
Lesotho	Zaire Republic
Liberia	Zambia

2. Representatives of the United Nations family participating were:

(i) United Nations Operating Agencies:

United Nations (UN)
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
World Food Programme (WFP)

(ii) United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

(iii) Specialized Agencies

International Labour Organization (ILO)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
World Health Organization (WHO)
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)

(iv) Intergovernmental Organizations

East African Community (EAC)
Organization of African Unity (OAU)
West African Rice Development Association (WARDA)
European Economic Community (EEC)

and the following were represented by observers:

United Kingdom
United States of America
Holy See

3. A full list of participants is contained in Appendix I of this Report.

Inaugural Ceremony

4. In his opening remark, the Director-General paid tribute to Gabon's past and continuing interest in the work of FAO and requested the Vice-President, on behalf of the Conference, to convey to H.E. Mr. Albert Bernard Bongo, President of the Gabonese Republic, sincere thanks for hosting the Seventh FAO Regional Conference. He pointed out that the choice of holding the Conference in Libreville was a symbol of Gabon's efforts to seriously tackle the problems of the agricultural sector within the context of the Gabonese national economy. Then, the Director-General invited the Vice-President to address the Seventh FAO Regional Conference for Africa.

5. E.E. the Vice-President welcomed all the participants to the Conference, on behalf of the President of the Republic, the Government and people of Gabon.

6. He stressed the importance of agriculture as the basis of the economic development of African countries. He underlined the complexity of agricultural development and the possible solutions which could be decisive in acquiring meaningful economic independence of African countries.

7. The Vice-President recalled certain essential elements for development of the African continent, such as the promotion of intra-African trade in agricultural products and its relationship with international trade flows, planning and harmonization of policies, on a regional level, for the agricultural export commodities (coffee, cocoa, etc) and adjustment of food production on a national level with a view of attaining self-sufficiency. The Vice-President further suggested that the cooperation in the field of agricultural research and the adaptation of educational methods to African conditions, were also important factors in further development of the African continent.

8. The Vice-President then referred to the periodical food shortages, mainly accounted for by infrastructural weaknesses, high cost of inputs and insufficient international cooperation in technical know-how. He expressed the hope that FAO would intensify its assistance to Member countries to overcome these difficulties.

9. The Vice-President concluded that 80% of Africa's population was still in the rural sector and that agriculture would remain the basic industry for years to come. That fact alone demonstrated the paramount importance of FAO in the Region. Wishing successful deliberations, he declared the Seventh FAO Regional Conference for Africa open.

10. On behalf of FAO and of all participants, the Director-General expressed sincere thanks to H.E. The Vice-President of the Gabonese Republic for the encouraging address.

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen

11. At its first working session, the Conference unanimously elected H.E. Mr. F. Nguéma-Ndong, Ministre d'Etat chargé de l'Agriculture, de l'Elevage, de la Recherche scientifique et de l'Environnement, Gabonese Republic, as Chairman of the Conference.

12. In accepting his nomination, the Chairman expressed his thanks for the honour bestowed on him and through him on the Gabonese Republic and sought the cooperation of all delegates to enable him to accomplish the important duty of effectively conducting the Conference's deliberations.

13. The Conference then elected H.E. Mr. R.C. Kamanga, Minister of Rural Development, Zambia; H.E. Mr. Mama Chabi Fourdouna, Ministre du Développement rural et de la Coopération, Dahomey and H.E. Mr. M.E. Hamza, Minister of Animal Production, Sudan, as First, Second, and Third Vice-Chairmen, respectively.

Adoption of the Agenda

14. The Conference considered and adopted its Agenda and timetable. The Agenda as adopted is reproduced in Appendix III.

II. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Situation and Prospects of Food and Agriculture and FAO's Activities in the Region

Introductory Statement by the Director-General

15. The Director-General expressed his pleasure to be back in Africa, which he described as a young, dynamic continent, where vigorous efforts were being made to bring about a new and more worthwhile life for all its people. He warmly thanked the Gabonese Republic for having invited the Conference to meet in Libreville and for all the excellent facilities that had been laid down. He welcomed all the Conference participants and addressed a special word of welcome to Swaziland, which was attending the Regional Conference for the first time since joining FAO in November, 1971.

16. Recalling developments which occurred since the last general Conference as well as FAO's future work in the Region, the Director-General informed the Conference that in 1971, agricultural production in the developing world, as a whole, recorded increase, was between one and two percent, compared to three percent achieved in 1970. The Director-General, however, added that Africa was the only developing Region which reached the Second Development Decade target of an increase of four percent a year. That, he believed, was clear evidence of the high development priority that was being accorded to agriculture in many African countries which accepted the challenge of the Second Development Decade (DD2).

17. The Director-General warned that Africa should not be over-impressed by a single year's achievement as in many countries, the growth of agricultural production did not keep pace with the increase in population and, in about one-third of the countries of the Region, there was an actual decline in per caput production. In the Director-General's view, it was not incapacity to produce enough food as much as the insufficient growth of internal and external demand, which reduced farmers' incentive to increase production.

18. The Director-General emphasized the need for governments, especially those which had not yet achieved the proposed target, to intensify their efforts. In this respect, he advised the Conference on the extent to which FAO could be of assistance in preparing their Country Programming under the leadership of the UNDP.

19. Referring to the supporting factors, vital to agricultural growth, the Director-General continued that in agricultural research, everything possible must be done to step it up in the developing countries. To this end, FAO was cooperating with several major donor countries, private foundations, the World Bank and the UNDP in the recently established Consultative Group on Agricultural

Research. This overall endeavour permitted to identify priorities for action such as the setting up of the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA); Computerized Agricultural Research Information System (CARIS) and the West African Rice Development Association (WARDA). FAO was also preparing the implementation of International Information System for the Agricultural Sciences and Technology (AGRIS) whose creation was endorsed by the last FAO Conference.

20. With regard to economic aspects of agricultural production, the Director-General commented on UNCTAD III which, he said, did not live up to the expectation to extend external demand for commodities produced in developing countries. In his statement in Santiago, he stressed the need for raw and processed agricultural products of the developing countries, vital to their national economies, obtain easy access to the expanded markets of the industrialized nations. This view, unfortunately, did not win general acceptance. However, he said, it would be going too far to say that UNCTAD III was a complete failure. It was agreed that the developing countries should participate in negotiations such as the monetary reform and in GATT - hitherto largely reserved for high income countries. UNCTAD was also requested to assist the developing countries in their participation in the 1973 GATT trade negotiations.

21. The Director-General went on to explain that FAO would continue to strive for a better deal for the developing countries in their agricultural trade. However, FAO, in its efforts to advance the just interests of the developing countries, must take account of the situation in the developed countries as well, in order to serve the best interest of all Member countries. In the context of agricultural trade, that meant, FAO should above all be searching for policies that would help reduce the present disparities and distortions of world agriculture and bring it into a healthy and more balanced shape.

22. In connection with the preparatory studies on world agricultural adjustment, the Director-General informed the Conference of the presentation at the European Regional Conference in Munich, of such a study covering the developed countries. According to FAO's analysis, if the agricultural self-sufficiency ratios of the developed countries were reduced by two per cent, that could be an increase of about \$4 billion worth of agricultural exports a year from the developing world. That indicated the value of serious analytical work on agricultural adjustment for finding possible solutions to the problems which now bedevil the world agricultural scene. However, he warned the Conference, the problems which call for adjustment would need to be considered in a long-term process.

23. Reviewing the social aspects of agricultural growth and rural development, the Director-General stated that while FAO would keenly pursue its endeavours in relation to social issues, the main responsibility for resolving these problems laid with the countries themselves. In this connection, he pointed out that agricultural growth and rural development were not always identical and that there were times and places where, in the short run, the claims of social justice had to take precedence over production objectives. It was also noted in the past that in some areas virtually nothing could be done to increase production and productivity unless the social problems were first resolved. Therefore, economic and social necessities must go hand in hand and it could be achieved by following an integrated approach.

24. In applying this integrated approach, one should keep in mind, Mr. Doerma said, that the long-term objectives of rural development in Africa must be the transformation of existing subsistence economic systems into monetized economy. He stressed that these objectives would call for a radical change in human attitudes. First of all, the people should not simply be instructed to carry out development plans but they must themselves be involved in the planning and decision-making. In this regard, a whole series of measures had to be called for, such as increased economic and social research in order to find out about rural people, new approach to education and training, reorientation of the rural communication media and improvements in the rural infrastructure. He further remarked that another essential feature of integrated rural development was the removal of institutional and economic obstacles through such measures as the reform of outdated agrarian structures and the provision of economic services to improve the provision of farm supplies, credit, marketing and storage facilities and the possibilities for savings and capital formation.

25. Referring to FAO's capacity to assist developing countries, the Director-General proposed that it would be to the advantage of both the developing countries and FAO if the idea of partnership were to be further strengthened. The more FAO knew about the problems of the countries, the more effective its assistance would be in relation to the national policies and planning in the agricultural sector. With this in view, FAO had already taken steps to make these activities much more country-oriented, chiefly through country perspective studies. In addition, these studies would include many other information, which were found to be so useful for consultations with governments in other regions. The Director-General expressed the hope that the initiative would receive full cooperation and support of Member countries.

26. Underlying the need for a closer relationship between FAO and individual Member countries in the Region, Mr. Boerma reiterated that he was in full agreement with the countries' wish to have a Country Representative in each one of them and he expressed the hope that this would one day be possible. However, he said that at

the moment this could not be realized because of the financial difficulties which the Organization was facing at the time. The Director-General stressed the important role Permanent Government Representatives to FAO play in bridging relationship and understanding between FAO and the Member Nations to mutual advantage.

27. On FAO's cooperation with various organizations in Africa, he expressed that working relationships were effective with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), through the Regional Office and the Joint Division of Agriculture. He particularly referred to common efforts in promoting intra-regional trade in agricultural products as well as the joint ventures in fisheries and animal production and health. He also indicated that FAO's cooperation with the Organization of African Unity acquired a new field of activities since the statutes of the FAO/WHO/OAU Joint Nutrition Commission were adopted at the Conference of Heads of State in Rabat last June. Finally, he noted increased cooperation with the African Development Bank (ADB), through the Regional Office and the ADB/FAO Desk in Abidjan and stressed that with the increased use of the Regional Consultant Fund, more investment-oriented agricultural projects were identified and considered for finance by the Bank.

28. The Director-General further elaborated on the various factors which contributed to the current financial difficulties and their implication on the programme of the Organization, especially regarding the sharpening of priorities.

29. The Director-General then examined the impact of the 10 percent cut which he introduced as a result of the financial difficulties. Although all the details were not worked out, he expanded, it was clear that there would be a reduction in some programmes because it would not be possible to keep on a number of staff with short-term and fixed-term contracts.

30. He further commented on the more general concern to the Conference, the role and functions of the Regional Offices. He said that a study was prepared on this problem and, before proceeding further, he particularly wished to have the views of the Regional Conference in order to be able to come to decisions that would best reflect the interests of the Region. The Director-General believed that the question must be viewed in terms of priority functions rather than purely financial considerations. Mr. Boerma was convinced that there was a need for a clearer definition of the role of the Regional Offices, in order to delineate their responsibilities in relation to Headquarters and Country Representatives. He stated that henceforth, this role should be strengthened as regards the Organization's policy and programme formulation. This was the normal development of a clear policy adopted since the past few years in order to increase the influence of the Regional Conferences in the selection of the Organization's priorities and

formulation of its programmes. For this purpose, the Regional Conferences required the support of the Regional Offices in analysing the definitions of problems and problem areas, and the Director-General felt that the Regional Offices should be strengthened to fulfil this function with professional competence. At the same time, he suggested the Regional Offices give less emphasis than in the past to direct technical assistance activities which could be provided from other resources of the Organization and foreseen in Country Programming.

31. The Director-General indicated that the subject of FAO's priorities had to be tackled in three ways. First, with regard to FAO's Areas of Emphasis, there were certain broad, general priorities on the world agricultural scene that derived from them and to which FAO's efforts were naturally drawn. Second, there were few other priority orientations in the structure of FAO's own work. Third, the whole question of priorities was to be considered in terms of the Medium-Term Plan.

32. In addition to the three broad priorities he had already mentioned - agricultural research, agricultural adjustments and social factors affecting rural development - the Director-General referred to the fourth one - the question of the environment which was of major concern to FAO due to the very nature of its work. Mr. Boerma remarked that there was no doubt that the search for a solution to this problem would have considerable repercussions on some of FAO's programmes.

33. With regard to other priority operations in the structure of FAO's work, he informed the Conference of his decision to centralize responsibilities for coordinating FAO policy analysis on all aspects of agricultural development in what was now to be known as the Economic and Social Policy Department. He further informed the Conference of his decision to strengthen the policy work of the Rural Institutions Division, and in order to improve field operations, he had established a Field Programme Review Board, which would be responsible for project delivery and provide a continuing review of the field programme and its problems.

34. With regard to the whole question of priorities in terms of the Medium-Term Plan, the Director-General informed the Conference that in order to better define the relative priorities to be attached to the various programmes set forth in the Plan, the 16th Session of the Conference turned the matter over to the Committees of the Council - on Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry and Commodity Problems - which were requested to come up with recommendations for priorities that could be judged in the first instance by the present series of Regional Conferences. The Director-General further explained that because of similar difficulties on the choice of priorities encountered at the meetings of these Committees and also because of the financial crisis, the presentation of recommendations

to the Regional Conference was not possible, and the full procedure would be completed in time for the next Council Session in November. Given these circumstances, the Director-General therefore invited the Conference to set the Medium-Term priorities on the basis of the paper prepared by the Regional Office on proposals for the Medium-Term Plan and related activities. He further invited the Conference that in working on medium-term priorities, it should bear also in mind what he said about the way in which he thought the Regional Offices should be strengthened as the definition of priority problems in the Region by countries themselves could have an important influence on this revision of the Regional Office structure.

35. Mr. Boerma then concluded that although the vast majority of the African countries for reasons which were not of their own making or choice, were mostly among the last comers to the Organization, they had already shown remarkable dynamism and capacity for change. They were reaching eagerly and impressively fast for the future, and, with equal rapidity, they had embraced as their own the concept of international cooperation which is humanity's best hope for a better future.

Statement by the Executive Secretary of ECA

36. Mr. F.E. Pinder, Special Adviser, delivered the statement on behalf of Mr. R.K.A. Gardiner, Executive Secretary of ECA.

37. Mr. Gardiner raised the problems and challenges that faced agricultural development in Africa. He remarked that in spite of the efforts by governments with the assistance of UNDP, IERD, FAO and bilateral donor programmes, food production was lagging behind growing demand and food imports in the Region still represented 20 percent or more of total imports in value. Two-thirds of West African food imports came from outside the continent and the requests for food aid was increasing, due to seasonal and inter-regional price differences of food. This was the result of transport and communication difficulties as well as the lack of effective and economic distribution of food products. He suggested that time had come to examine seriously ways of creating new distribution services for local food products in cooperation with foreign expertise in this field.

38. The recognition that agriculture was the principal foreign exchange earner, he said, had created concern about both the volume of output for export and the unit price of commodities. The price fluctuations of the latter often resulted in reduced earnings in spite of increased production. One of the solutions proposed for stabilizing income from exports was diversification, which could not be considered as panacea in every case, because diversification in one country might mean an increase in output in commodities which were already being supplied by other countries and whose prices might

be declining. He felt that a combination of formal price agreements and judicious marketing on the part of producers' organizations might lead to a more flexible and remunerative arrangement. He stressed that it was time for African countries to be realistic about production for export, to examine the competitiveness of their products, and to try to stake out a place for themselves in world markets.

39. Concerning the importance of agriculture in the national capital, he expressed that capital invested in agriculture as well as the income in cash and in kind which farmers earn were underestimated. Appreciation of these two factors, capital and income, he said, could lead to new approaches to agricultural development. In fact, there was no doubt that the setting up of institutions for research and training and assistance in securing vital inputs were legitimate claims which the farming community could demand from the governments. But other capital-formation activities, such as the organization of working parties during the off-season to help in building irrigation schemes, clearing paths and constructing roads, building storage and distribution facilities, could be financed and executed by farmers as it was practised in other parts of the world.

40. Referring to the price policies of African governments, he claimed that food prices had risen but not in proportion to the cost of manufactured and other imported goods. That led to the question of whether the producer in Africa was receiving a fair price for his products, especially those for local consumption. The suggestion that a price which induced the farmer to increase production might be considered fair was rather a simplistic definition which had a bearing on the changing structure of agriculture. He suggested one answer to the current food shortages might be found in the examination of price structures, consumers' needs and the farmers' estimates of their earnings. One might even add that what the farmer was able to spend his money on - availability of inducement goods - played a very important role in stimulating farmers to produce more.

41. He turned then to examine the problem of taxation of the farmer and said that since the creation of the marketing boards, the reserves for price stabilization were used for financing development projects and therefore deprived the farmer of a part of his earnings. This practice with all its limitations was taken for granted in development plans by national and international advisers. However, he said, one might ask what was the role of the farmer's earnings in national economic development since more money in the rural areas meant extension of the market economy, the growth of a market for local manufactures, and a potential source of encouragement for development in all sectors of the economy. Keeping in mind these aspects of agricultural development, he suggested that at some future date, the FAO Regional Commission assist in formulating a charter for the African farmer in order to define his working conditions and minimum wage rates.

42. Commenting on some agricultural programmes which ECA was involved in, he mentioned the Joint ECA/FAO project on intra-regional trade and economic cooperation in the field of agriculture which was designed to help solve some of the problems of marketing and distribution. He stated that the first phase of the study for West Africa was examined at the Seminar in Bathurst last December, whose report was before the Conference. Phase II of the project was expected to start soon along the lines of the recommendations of the Bathurst Seminar. Another project, in which ECA was cooperating actively, was WARDA, which provided the possibility for solving the problem of rice shortage in West Africa. The Association for the Advancement of Agricultural Sciences in Africa (AAASA) provided the opportunity for the exchange of views and experiences among the agricultural scientists. He further mentioned the project of Food Reserves for Eastern Africa, being undertaken in cooperation with the OAU and FAO, and the livestock development study which, as a first phase, covered seven Southern African countries and would be extended to West Africa in the following phase. He also referred to the involvement of ECA in promoting the establishment of an international animal production and research centre in Africa in cooperation with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research.

43. Examining the adequacy of the structure of International Organizations, he questioned whether they constituted, at present, an effective instrument for tackling the problems of Africa. He further wondered whether it would not be better to have in the Regional Office and at ECA a nucleus of staff to deal with correspondence, provide documentation services, service conferences and prepare reports, assist in determining the terms of reference of task forces and in checking studies and reports for acceptance. Under such arrangement, task forces could be constituted on an ad hoc basis to deal with specific issues and could be financed out of funds now allocated for regular staff. On the idea of task forces, he indicated that international civil servants at present were increasingly pseudo-diplomats who did not reach the farmer in the field and the national technicians who assist him so that they could assist them in solving specific problems of development. In that respect, the argument in favour of task forces and specific projects was reinforced by recent experience acquired in different countries of the Region. Mr. Gardiner underlined the value of a single-minded pursuit of a specific objective through specific projects jointly sponsored by ECA, such as the rice project (WARDA), the livestock project and the project for the promotion of trade in food and foodstuffs.

Statement by the Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative

44. The Regional Representative reviewed the situation of agriculture in the Region during the past two years. He stressed the importance of weather conditions on much of Africa's

agricultural production and its adverse effects on food crops in 1970. He indicated that per caput production rose only by one percent for agricultural production and by two percent for food production in 1971. Although Africa had about ten percent of the world's cattle, the Region's beef production was only about four percent of the total world production. The forest production for export remained stagnant during the period under review. Only the fishery production in Africa continued to rise in 1970-71, showing an increase of about 4 percent which had been the yearly growth rate for over a decade.

45. He noted that diversification of agricultural production continued to be an important element in most development plans which helped to reduce excessive dependence on mono-culture production and that countries were giving increasing attention to agricultural planning. Not less than 30 countries in the Region were now implementing their development plans. However, the high priority given to agriculture in development plans was not always reflected in adequate funds allocated to Ministries responsible for agricultural development.

46. Referring to trade in agricultural, fishery and forest products, he stressed that, at world level, the results of the international crisis, which reached the culminatory point in December 1971, were felt in Africa as the flows of African trade were mainly directed towards developed countries, intra-African trade representing only 7 percent of imports and 6 percent exports in the Region. Thus the sharp increase in foreign exchange earnings noted in developing Africa in 1970 declined in 1971. The volume of exports fell sharply the largest decrease being in food and feed groups. This reduction in exports of food products was, however, in some countries the result of deliberate policies to divert the benefits of increased food output to domestic consumption. This tendency was particularly well illustrated for cereals, oilseeds and sugar where greater production was accompanied by lowered exports. On the import side, the results of allocating more food and feed to domestic consumption were reflected in the moderate volume increase for agricultural imports, only 1 percent as compared to 1970, but 7 percent in value due to generally higher prices. This high percentage in value demonstrated the need for more effective substitution policies.

47. The Regional Representative continued that following the recommendation of the Fifth FAO Regional Conference for Africa, the Secretariat produced the document ARC/72/INF/4 summarizing the follow-up to the recommendations made by the Sixth FAO Regional Conference. He explained that FAO endeavoured to stimulate integrated approach in rural development within the Areas of Emphasis, improvement of productivity, war on waste, increased protein production, mobilization of human resources, earning and savings of foreign exchange and planification. He indicated that several important and promising activities took place during the past biennium such as the

assistance to Member governments to identify disease-free areas for the production of exportable meat; and "Industrial Twinning", a new venture in the field of food and agricultural processing, giving small and medium enterprises in developing countries the opportunity to cooperate with similar enterprises in developed countries.

48. Referring to agricultural planning, he noted that FAO assisted, in cooperation with UNDP/SF, in the establishment of planning units within the Ministries of Agriculture. In this connection, he drew attention of the Conference to the new cycle of UNDP Country Programming, in which the countries were the principal decision-makers. In order to implement recommendations of the present Conference, he invited delegates to ensure that adequate funds in UNDP Country Programming were reserved for the execution of national and regional agricultural development projects.

49. He referred to the important aspect of FAO's activities in the Region of strengthening working relations with the UN and other regional organizations participating in the various sectors of development. He noted that the Director-General and Mr. Gardiner had treated this problem in their statements, which could not be overemphasized.

50. On the future activities of FAO in Africa, he indicated that these must be considered not only in the light of the resolutions of the previous Conference, but also on the basis of the International Strategy for the Second Development Decade and the African Development Strategy for the 1970s. Moreover, the Agricultural Adjustment Study and the United Nations Conference on Human Environment, mentioned already by the Director-General, might also have some implications on FAO's activities in the Region. He invited the Conference to make specific and concrete recommendations on priority basis within the framework of the Medium-Term Programme proposals.

51. As rural development was a long-term process, he said, the proposed areas of concentration had not changed since the Sixth FAO Regional Conference. He therefore advised Member countries to focus their attention on the following areas: expansion of intra-regional trade, development of agricultural planning with particular emphasis on planification of food and nutrition policies, continued efforts for self-sufficiency in food crops, accelerated livestock, fishery and forestry development, intensification of agricultural research and human promotion and training at all levels. He further said that the recommendations made at the present Conference, together with those of the previous Conferences, would enable the Governing Bodies of FAO to define FAO's immediate, medium-term and long-term actions in Africa.

52. On the difficulties encountered during the execution of programmes, he stated that there were problems due either to FAO's rather complex working procedure or to difficulties in government counterpart obligations and the training of personnel. However, he

was convinced that all these impediments could be overcome if the existing partnership between the Member countries and FAO was further strengthened.

53. He assured the Conference that FAO would continue to meet the priority needs in the Region as defined by the Technical Committees of the Seventh FAO Regional Conference. He concluded by expressing his conviction that only continuous efforts and close cooperation between all concerned would make it possible to prepare a better future for African rural communities.

Statement by the Executive Director of the World Food Programme

54. Mr. J.S. Annan, on behalf of the Executive Director of WFP, read a statement with regard to the Programme's activities. The importance of the Programme to the Region, he suggested, was illustrated by the fact that all African independent nations, with the exception of two, were voluntary participants as either contributors in commodities and/or cash, or recipients of multilateral food aid, or both. The Programme's reserves showed a steep rise from \$28 million in 1963, to about \$150 million a year in 1969/70. For a number of factors, this trend had been reversed and in the current pledging period, 1971/72, the figure was down to nearly \$125 million, showing that the proposed target of \$300 million, by 1975, appeared as things stood now, unlikely to be attained. However, the interest in the Programme continued to grow, as evidenced by the fact that the total number of countries voluntarily subscribing to the resources of the Programme had grown beyond 80, with the cumulative pledged resources of \$1,051,171,707.

55. He stated that the available resources had now proved inadequate to meet the increasing demand. Moreover, he indicated that the composition of the Programme's "food basket" had deteriorated as the quantities of protein-rich food now available were so low that there was a concern of not being able to fulfil the nutritional objectives of many projects, especially those for the vulnerable groups. Rice was also a scarce commodity and it had never been in plentiful supply to the Programme since its inception. He further indicated that one way of correcting the inadequacy of supplies was to increase proportionally the cash resources of the Programme, as it was recommended by the First United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. This would have the double advantage of helping to increase export trade in food commodities, especially from developing countries, and improve the level and composition of WFP's commodity basket. He informed the Conference that the Programme, to the extent of its limited cash resources, had already purchased commodities from exporting developing countries and ten countries of the African Region had already benefited from WFP purchases of about \$1.3 million. In order to increase the Programme's capacity for purchasing food commodities from developing countries, he invited especially the oil-rich countries to assist in cash and enable a greater application of this principle.

56. He drew particular attention to WFP development projects and humanitarian activities in Africa and he indicated that out of more than \$2,000 million committed in over 500 development projects all over the world, a total of 153 projects costing over \$165 million or 15 percent of the total, were in the African Region. He further said that Africa had the highest number of development of human resources projects, notably those relating to schools, colleges, universities, as well as to professional training centres, which is an indication of the desire of the newly independent nations to step up the production of skilled manpower at all levels and in support of their development plans. WFP, in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner's Office and FAO, was helping to resettle a number of refugees and a total of over \$23 million has been spent on 56 emergency feeding operations due to the drought and crop failure in Africa. Other agricultural pursuits in the Region supported by WFP related to crop diversification, animal and dairy production, forestry and, to a lesser extent, inland fisheries development. In connection with dairy development, he particularly stressed the importance that WFP attached to the newly established International Scheme for the Coordination of Dairy Development (ISCDD) in which the Programme was fully cooperating with FAO to help developing countries to design dairy development plans.

57. The statement concluded that although in WFP-assisted projects failures and unsatisfactory performances occurred from time to time, there was however, much that was heart-warming in the results and achievements of the Programme's activities. Failures were providing an exciting challenge, and achievements with encouragement to further together with participating governments, the objectives of this experiment in international cooperation for as long as the multilateral food aid was found desirable.

Country Statements

58. Country statements commented mainly on the Director-General's policy statement. However, statements also broadly reviewed the main agricultural activities and achievements in their countries.

59. Many delegations expressed appreciation of FAO's programmes and activities in Africa and reaffirmed their support to the United Nations in general, its Specialized Agencies and to FAO in particular because they believed that it was only through such international cooperation, coupled with the spirit of individual self-help that the developing countries could raise the standards of living of their populations.

60. The country statements stressed that agriculture being the predominant sector in most of the countries of the Region, increasing emphasis was being placed on the development of the sector in national development plans. Most of the countries in the Region had set targets and rate of growth of their economies during four or

five-year development cycles. The objective of these targets was to improve the standard of living of the fast increasing population. Although these targets and objectives were achieved in many countries represented at the Conference, the problems which they had expected to solve had become even more alarming. In fact, the income gap between the industrialized and developing countries had grown even wider. On the other hand, the value of industrial products continued to rise while that of primary products declined. The declining prices of primary agricultural products coupled with the relative increase of populations have forced countries to finance ad hoc and short-term projects aiming at solving the problems created by the expanding urban population, at the expense of long-term development programmes.

61. With regard to the items on the agenda, the Conference expressed its satisfaction at the procedure adopted for the Regional Conference whereby the Plenary Session was preceded by meetings of technical committees in which national experts had the opportunity to thoroughly consider the technical aspects of most of the items of the agenda. Some delegations, however, remarked that discussions on fisheries, of great importance to Africa, were not included in the agenda, and they appealed to the Director-General not to omit such major fields from the agenda of future Regional Conferences.

62. Many delegations stressed the need for self-sufficiency of the Region in basic food crops. They underlined the need to increase food production through intensification and increased productivity to ensure adequate and balanced food supplies for the rapidly increasing populations. Some delegations urged that since self-sufficiency in food crops was a universally accepted objective, greater emphasis should be given to the agricultural research on local cereals such as maize, sorghum, millet and rice, as well as on improved food storage, processing and distribution especially in the rural areas.

63. Many delegations commented on the possibilities of increased livestock development in the Region with unlimited demand for beef on the world market. In this connection, they welcomed the endeavour of FAO in the establishment of disease-free zones for livestock and meat production. They also commended the joint campaign to eradicate rinderpest and urged that greater emphasis be laid on the control of the major diseases affecting both production and trade. It was also noted that low productivity, over-stocking, malnutrition, water supply, were all problems impeding the development of a viable livestock industry in Africa and urged FAO to give increased assistance to Member countries for rational exploitation of livestock potentialities of the Region. Some delegations also noted the increased assistance provided by the World Food Programme for the development of milk production.

64. Some countries emphasized the problem of fishing along the African coasts and called for full cooperation between African countries in the exploitation of these resources for their mutual

benefit. They also appealed to FAO and IBRD for increased assistance for the development of fisheries projects in order to bridge the protein gap in the Region.

65. Some delegations stressed the importance of forestry for the regional economy as one of the important sectors for foreign exchange earnings. The delegations supported FAC's efforts to develop forestry activities in Africa and appealed for increased assistance for better logging methods, regeneration and reforestation, the establishment of the transformation of wood industry and better exploitation of secondary species. The delegations also noted that forestry was of unquestionable economic significance and necessary to effective land use practices, land reclamation, soil erosion control and wildlife management.

66. Most delegations endorsed the Director-General's views about the vital role research and manpower training play in the growth of agriculture in developing countries and emphasized the need for further regionalization and internationalization of research studies organized in programmes similar to that of the West African Rice Development Association (WARDA). Some delegations noted that this concept was not new in the Region, for in the past, there existed many other sub-regional institutions such as the West African Cocoa Research Institute and the West African Institute for Oil-Palm Research.

67. Delegations welcomed the Director-General's proposal to have international agricultural adjustment as the main theme for the Seventeenth Session of the FAO Conference next year. This would give the opportunity to confront views and wishes of the developed and the developing countries on the subject. Many delegations stressed the fact that the concept of adjustment was broader than trade and included economic, financial social, agricultural, institutional and political factors.

68. Some delegations commented on achievements of UNCTAD III and said that the developed countries were not yet prepared to make any concessions to the developing countries concerning the liberalization of trade policies. They indicated that that was a field in which there was a lot of scope for international adjustment and FAO and other United Nations Agencies would have to bring pressure to bear on the developed countries, for without fair trade, the Second Development Decade of the United Nations was also doomed to failure. Other delegations felt that financial aid, loan repayments, prices and conditions under which capital and manufactured goods were supplied to the developing countries, should be considered within the framework of international adjustment, if the gap between the rich and poor nations was to be narrowed in the Second Development Decade. Another problem mentioned by the Conference which should be given serious consideration during the next FAO Conference was the impact of synthetics on trade in agricultural products.

69. Several delegations stressed the importance of the development of agro-allied industrial projects in the Region, whose viability depended on regional or sub-regional markets and urged the joint ventures with developed countries or among African countries for the establishment of these industries.

70. The Conference emphasized that one of the major objectives of international adjustment should be to work on an agreement to phase out, by the end of the Second Development Decade, the activities of developed countries in the field of processing of primary agricultural products imported from developing countries. The encouragement should also be made for the importation of processed and semi-processed agricultural products from African countries. Such an adjustment would lead to the creation of job opportunities for the African population expected to reach about 370 million by 1980.

71. Member countries were unanimous that intra-African trade and cooperation in the field of agriculture was an area on which greater emphasis should be laid and they fully endorsed the report of the Technical Committee on this subject, as well as the conclusions of the West African Seminar held in Bathurst in December 1971. Many delegations indicated that it was high time to take early and concrete steps at the political level to facilitate the early implementation of the recommendations made at this Conference into reality. Several delegations indicated that the major hinderances to trade, among others were the problems of communication and currency convertibility and noted that the countries were considering the matter seriously, as evidenced by the proposed East-West and Trans-Saharan African Highways. Delegations urged FAO and BCA to intensify their efforts to assist the countries to implement the findings and conclusions of all the studies into active programmes of cooperation between countries or group of countries of the Region. The countries requested that Phase II studies on intra-regional trade, as recommended at the Bathurst Seminar, be undertaken immediately.

72. Several delegations agreed with the Director-General that the long-term objective of rural development in Africa must be the transformation of existing social and economic systems so as to bring about the transition from a subsistence economy to a fully monetized and commercial one. Commenting on the Director-General's request for increased productivity in agriculture, some delegations remarked that this objective was seriously hampered by the **increasing cost** of imported inputs while the prices of agricultural commodities were stagnating. Many delegations stressed that if the proposed transformation of existing social and economic systems was to be achieved, increased support to African farmers should be given in extension services, better storage, marketing and transportation facilities, guaranteed minimum prices for food crops and better rural social amenities.

73. Several delegations emphasized that, to achieve social justice for African populations, there was a need for more education among the people to improve their eating habits and achieve much

nutritional balance by better use of available food. Nutrition programmes and food production policies as part of the national economic development plans was also advocated.

74. The overriding importance of the mobilization of human resources and the training of personnel at all levels was equally emphasized. Several delegations stressed the role that FFHC National Committees play in the mobilization of human resources and urged FAO to assist reactivate their activities at the national level.

75. Many delegations indicated that there was a greater demand now for experienced planners, investment economists and skilled administrators. FAO was urged to assist Member countries in strengthening the national planning machineries and in establishing priorities for development.

76. Several delegations expressed growing concern on the multiplicity of locust control organizations in the Region and suggested that an attempt be made to merge some of them in order to economize manpower and finance. Other delegations remarked that the regional projects such as the Quelea control project needed further consolidation by participation of Member States which had not yet joined and expressed their interest in the possibility of setting up a regional project for Water Hyacinth Control.

77. Some delegations noted with grave concern the possible implications imposed on FAO activities in the Region by the Director-General's statement about the financial crisis that FAO was facing just at the beginning of the Second Development Decade. While they sympathized with the consequent financial strains suffered by FAO, they however stressed that this crisis should not impede the increased activities of FAO in the Region.

78. Member countries unanimously supported the Director-General's statement that the Regional Offices should be strengthened with high level staff skilled in policy and planning matters. However, all delegations stressed that this should not lead to a substantial reduction of specialists, for such expertise was needed in countries of the Region. Several delegations strongly urged that Regional Offices be equipped with necessary staff and other resources and that more authority should be delegated in decision-making, concerning regional policies, to the Regional Representative. Most delegations also stressed that if FAO was to play an ever-increasing role in Africa, more African, particularly young scientists, should be given the opportunity to receive suitable training to equip them to serve the Region through the Organization.

79. With regard to the Country Representatives, most delegations believed strongly that immediate strengthening of the country offices was absolutely vital for the future work of FAO in the Region. They also recommended that the Country Representatives, while working in close liaison with UNDP, be directly responsible to the FAO Regional Representative.

80. Many delegations also underscored the need for recruiting qualified Africans in SAA/CR posts and other levels of the Organization, which no doubt, would go a long way to improve the image and performance of FAO in the African countries.

81. Commenting on FAO field projects, several delegations stressed the need for the improvement of recruitment of FAO specialists, to ensure their competence, experience and their attitude towards development. Understanding of the socio-economic milieu and dedication with positive involvement was emphasized.

82. Furthermore, many delegations pointed out the necessity for FAO to improve its capacity for effective and timely implementation of field projects.

83. Some delegations enquired about the state of implementation of FAO Resolution 8/71 on Decolonization, which authorized the Director-General, in cooperation and consultation with OAU and concerned governments, to assist the people struggling to liberate themselves from colonial oppression, apartheid and racism, in Southern Africa, Rhodesia, Namibia, Angola, Mozambique and Guinea Bissau.

Director-General's Concluding Statement

84. The Director-General commented on various issues which emerged at the conclusion of the country statements. He expressed his full agreement with the Chairman on the level of the discussions, which justified holding Regional Conferences. He stressed the need for Regional Conferences if FAO were to reflect, in its programme of work, the wishes of all Member countries which might not always have the same interests. He was convinced that the discussions of the Conference would help him build up the programme of FAO reflecting the wishes of the Region.

85. Referring to the remark made by some delegations on the omission of fisheries on the agenda, he emphasized that fisheries activities played a significant role in FAO Fisheries Department and that during the Sixth FAO Regional Conference for Africa, the item on fisheries was adequately discussed and came up with a series of recommendations, including the problem of inland and sea fisheries. Furthermore, he said, all major items could not be possibly covered in one Regional Conference.

86. He was gratified by the statements made by some delegations that Organizations like FAO were there to provide the assistance required but that the implementation of approved programmes must rest primarily on the shoulders of the governments. Meaningful development, he said, must be based on self-reliance and dedication of the people involved.

87. Regarding the intra-regional trade, he noted that identical problems came out in force at the Latin American and Near East Regional Conferences. There was a clear indication that more emphasis should be laid on trade between countries of the Region and greater attention should be given to obstacles hampering trade such as currency problems, communication and transportation links. More attention, he stressed, should be given to intra-regional trade by studies on international adjustment to be prepared for the 17th Session of the FAO Conference.

88. With regard to foreign aid, the Director-General supported the views of delegations that the developed countries could do better, for out of 0.7 percent of their national income proposed to be channelled to developing countries, they barely reached half that amount. He also agreed that the developed countries should intensify their efforts in order to increase the trade of processed and semi-processed products from developing countries. The deadline for the phasing out of certain industries should also be established and FAO was prepared to give more assistance to the developing countries in processing and marketing of various commodities.

89. Referring to the priorities in agricultural production adopted by Member countries in the Region, he agreed that increased attention should be provided to food crops in order to substitute imports. This was certainly a healthy development and FAO should do more in this field especially in connection with nutrition. He informed the Conference that the FAO Nutrition Division had reoriented its approach and was prepared to assist Member countries in planning a balanced food production and food policies.

90. Regarding the promotion of livestock development, he agreed, there were potential possibilities for both local consumption and for earning foreign exchange, for there exists a great demand for meat on the world market. He also emphasized that forestry was extremely important for the Region and FAO should increase its assistance in order to ensure new markets for wood products.

91. The Director-General expressed satisfaction at the importance which countries attached to social aspects of rural development. Social objectives, he said, were distinct from purely economic ones and people's involvement was an extremely important factor in the complex process of rural development.

92. Referring to UNCTAD III, Mr. Boerma felt that one of the positive results achieved was the decision to increase aid to the "least developed countries" of which 16 were in the Region. All these countries had agriculture as the basis of their economies and needed attention from FAO. In this connection, he pointed out the establishment of an FAO Internal Working Group to study the problems of these countries.

93. Referring to the appeal made by many delegations to recruit more Africans in the Organization, the Director-General replied that the number of experts from the Region was increasing in Headquarters as well as in the Regional Office and requested their full cooperation in facilitating the release of their experts whenever the opportunity arises for recruitment into the Organization. He also said that the Junior Staff Training programme had to be suspended for one year, but he hoped that it would be possible to obtain funds for the programme in the next budget.

94. He took note of the unanimous recommendation made by the delegations for strengthening the Regional Office, but as Mr. Yriart, the Assistant Director-General, Development Department, had yet to introduce the subject on the Role and Functions of the Regional Offices he only wished to say, at that stage, that the opinions expressed at the European Regional Conference were quite different from those voiced in Africa and other regions.

95. Regarding FFHC, he said that FAO was reviewing the activities of the Campaign and in future more emphasis would be laid on the national committees and the participation of people in developing countries rather than on charity as was the case in the past.

96. The Director-General accepted the criticisms made by some delegations concerning FAO's capacity for effective implementation of field programmes. The impression of inefficiency came from the fact that FAO was a growing Organization and during the last four years the staff had not been increased, whereas the number of projects had more than doubled. Regarding criticisms addressed to FAO staff, Mr. Boerma said that FAO had a dedicated staff in Headquarters, Regional Offices and in the field and on the whole the quality was good, but of course, there were exceptions and he asked Member countries to inform FAO of such cases.

97. Mr. Boerma then specifically referred to the question raised by some delegations concerning the resolution on decolonization adopted at the 16th Session of the FAO Conference. He was, he said, in full sympathy with this resolution. FAO was cooperating with OAU and countries concerned on this issue and was trying to prepare action-oriented programmes and obtain financial assistance from UNDP and other sources.

98. In conclusion, the Director-General thanked the Member Nations for all the valuable advice and guidance provided to FAO on policy and programme aspects which affect the agricultural development of the African Region. He assured the Conference that he would do his best to accommodate the wishes and needs of the Region within the programme activities of the Organization.

Role and Functions of the Regional Offices and Country Offices and their respective Relation to the Role and Functions of Headquarters

99. The Conference considered document ARC/72/12 which gave the outline of the report on the role and functions of the Regional Offices and Country Offices and their relation to the role and functions of Headquarters, to be prepared by a consultant at the request of the Director-General, and noted with regret that the Director-General was not in a position to submit to the present session the substance of the completed report for discussion.

100. The Conference recalled that the Authority, Terms of Reference and Constitutional Status of Regional Conferences were specified in Resolution 14/69 adopted by the 15th Session of the FAO Conference and that, among others, one of the main functions of the Regional Conferences was to examine the adaptation of the policy objectives of the Organization to the needs of the region concerned. The Conference further recalled that the same Session of the Conference approved the Director-General's proposals for strengthening the Regional Offices and Joint Divisions.

101. While appreciating the need to restructure different sections of the Organization, many delegates considered it impractical to discuss the substance of the consultant's report based only on a framework of an outline. Some delegates were also of the opinion that the outline of the report came rather late and that adequate time was not available for them to formulate their views on the role and functions of the Regional Offices within the framework of the proposed restructuring of FAO.

102. The Conference welcomed with satisfaction the Director-General's intention, expressed in his introductory statement, to strengthen further the Regional Offices, especially as regards the Organization's policy and programme formulation. In this connection, the Conference strongly expressed the view that there should be no further concentration of power at Headquarters.

103. Considering the global responsibility of FAO for promotion of food and agricultural production policies and the assistance to Member countries, and considering the role that the Regional Conference has to play in advising the Director-General on regional priorities, the Conference unanimously stressed the need for strengthening the Regional Office in order to assist the Member countries of the Region in preparing and implementing their agricultural policies and programmes.

104. While noting that the structural reorganization of FAO which was undertaken in the past was primarily with a view to increasing the efficiency of the Organization, the Conference was concerned that this time the restructuring was essentially dictated by the imperative need to make economies which might have an adverse effect on the effectiveness of field programme and project implementation.

105. The Conference expressed the view that the strengthening of the Regional Office should lead to increased power and authority in decision-making by the Regional Representative. The Conference also recommended that, in order to avoid duplication at different levels of the Organization, FAO regional policies and programmes be handled through the Regional Office.

106. The Conference recommended that there should be a delegation of responsibilities from Headquarters to the Region, with a view to decentralizing FAO regional activities, to enable the Regional Office to face its new functions. The Director-General should take appropriate measures to provide the Regional Representative with suitable manpower and adequate finance, in order to enable him to respond to the needs and wishes of the African Member States. With this in mind, the Conference recommended that the Organization, with the fullest cooperation of the Member Nations, intensify its efforts to recruit and employ African experts at all levels of the activities of FAO.

107. In the light of the paragraph above, the Conference requested the Director-General of FAO to invite a working Committee composed of Algeria, Kenya, Nigeria and Zaire soon to advise and assist the Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative in formulating appropriate proposals with a view to strengthening the FAO Regional Office for Africa, with adequate manpower and financial resources.

108. With regard to the Country Offices, the Conference expressed concern about the present status of the Senior Agricultural Advisers/ Country Representatives serving three masters. Noting that the present relationship between the Regional Representative and the SAA/CR was not clearly defined, the Conference strongly recommended that Country Offices be strengthened and that SAA/CRs be directly responsible to the FAO Regional Representative.

109. At the request of some delegations, the Secretariat informed the Conference that while the preceding Regional Conferences for Latin America and the Near East had expressed similar views to those presented at this Conference, that is, in favour of strengthening and giving authority to Regional Offices, in the European Regional Conference, most delegations had said that considerable economies should be made in the budget for Regional Offices. It was also pointed out that the Director-General clearly found himself in a conflicting situation where (a) the Member governments of developing countries felt that Regional Offices should stand ready to assist at least in the identification and formulation of technical assistance needs and that the planning work that would feed into FAO's policy-making and priority establishment work at Headquarters should be done at the regional level and (b) the other Member governments generally thought that those tasks could be accomplished from Headquarters. It was against this background that the Director-General would have to make his own recommendations to the Council.

110. The Conference adopted the following Resolution on the item discussed above:

RESOLUTION I ON THE ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE REGIONAL
OFFICES, OF THE COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES AND THEIR
RELATION WITH THE HEADQUARTERS OF FAO

The Conference,

Considering the terms of reference and constitutional status of Regional Conferences, as specified in Resolution 14/69 adopted by the 15th Session of the Conference;

Considering further that the same Session of the Conference approved the Director-General's proposal for strengthening the Regional Offices and Joint Divisions;

Considering that one of the main functions of the Regional Conferences is to examine the adaptation of the policy objectives of the Organization to the needs of the regions concerned;

Aware of the importance of the agricultural sector in the African Region and of the considerable tasks facing the Region in terms of agricultural development;

Aware of the vital role to be played by FAO in assisting the African countries to solve their agricultural problems;

Considering the need for adapting FAO structures to the tasks which the Organization must assume;

Recommends to the Director-General to strengthen the structure of the Regional Offices by providing both trained personnel and financial resources according to priority activities defined by the African Regional Conference;

Recommends a decentralization of responsibilities in favour of the Regional Office in order to enable it to take the main decisions concerning the action of FAO in the Region;

Recommends that more efforts be made by FAO in cooperation with the governments of the Region to recruit more African experts at all levels of the Organization;

Recommends that the Country Offices maintain the closest liaison with UNDP, without being dependent on the latter, and that the JAA/Country Representatives work directly through the Regional Representatives.

Sectors of Significance for Agricultural Development and
Future Orientation on Major Problems in the Region

International Aspects of Agricultural Adjustment in Africa within
the Framework of the African Strategy for Development during DD2

111. The Conference discussed problems of agricultural adjustment in Africa as outlined in document ARC/72/3. The complexity of the problems, with their wide-ranging and political implications, was stressed and the Conference fully endorsed the attention which the Director-General was giving to this important issue. To ensure that considerations of particular concern to the African Region were adequately covered in the study which was being prepared for the 1973 Conference, it was recommended that there should be close collaboration and participation in the study by representatives from African countries.

112. Problems of agricultural adjustment extended beyond international trade and in the African continent, involved a wide range of changes to the whole agricultural production system, and therefore the Conference urged FAO, as the technical agency having primary responsibilities and experience in this field, to provide assistance, as may be requested by Member governments, to plan and implement agricultural adjustment programmes.

113. As a major factor in achieving successful adjustment for the development of agriculture and economic growth in the Region, the Conference placed particular emphasis on expanding trade and economic cooperation between African countries. In total, the Africa Region constitutes a large market, has a wide degree of complementarity and the Conference urged that the strategy should be greater continental self-reliance, even if this involved some sacrifices in the short-term.

114. In addition to greater intra-regional trade in agricultural products, the Conference recommended that possibilities should be studied of producing in the African Region standardized agricultural equipment and other farming inputs.

115. The Conference emphasized the need for a positive approach to reducing the imbalance between developing and industrialized countries which is perpetuated through adverse terms of trade between the two sectors of the world economy. Although some reservations were expressed on the effectiveness of international commodity agreements, the Conference gave general support to this approach to securing more equitable and stable prices for agricultural export products. Negotiations between the two groups must be directed to securing wider markets in the developed countries and to this end the Conference called attention to the following important issues:

- (a) Reduction and ultimate removal of restrictions on import from developing countries, such as import duties, sales taxes, etc., as well as unjustified non-tariff barriers imposed by phytosanitary regulations, or commercial monopolies;
- (b) Reduction in production of primary products such as sugar and vegetable oil seeds in developed countries, which can be supplied by expanding production in developing countries;
- (c) Progressive increase in processing of export produce in the developing countries, synchronized with the phasing out of outdated and subsidized industries in the developed countries, so that by the end of the 1970 decade this activity will be completely transferred to the developing countries.

116. The development of synthetic substitutes for an increasing number of primary agricultural export products from developing countries imposes a serious threat to their economies and the Conference requested the Director-General to give this issue detailed examination in the adjustment study paper for the 1973 Conference.

117. In line with the importance which the Conference placed on development of livestock production and trade in the Region, special attention should be given to programmes which will increase productivity and output, leading to increased trade including the establishment of disease-free zones.

118. The Conference recognized that active steps must be taken to expand both external and intra-regional markets for agricultural and particularly for processed products, and urged FAO, in collaboration with UNCTAD-GATT, to provide the necessary assistance for export market promotion.

119. The various implications of adjustment on the agricultural and rural systems of Member countries were considered and the Conference noted in particular the following:

- (a) High priority to increase domestic food production, together with storage for larger reserve stocks, to remove nutritional deficiencies and dependence on imports from outside the Region;
- (b) Programmes to intensify and raise productivity, with increased employment through small-scale family units utilizing improved techniques and inputs;
- (c) Strengthened problem-oriented research to support farmer training programmes;
- (d) An integrated approach to rural development, spearheaded by improved farming systems, together with functional education and an adequate infrastructure of economic and social services and amenities;

- (e) The decentralization of agro-industries as far as possible, to rural centres where lower-cost labour would contribute to economic viability.

120. Observers from developed countries noted that the studies on agricultural adjustment could make a valuable contribution to discussions in international venues such as UNCTAD-GATT Commodity Agreement negotiations and the FAO Conference.

121. The Conference agreed that international adjustment would require the goodwill and genuine collaboration of the industrially advanced countries. France, observers from U.K. and the U.S.A. informed the Conference of their Governments' keen interest in this subject, particularly as relating both to consideration of the complementary adjustment which would be called for in their economic and trade policies and in their aid programmes for developing countries. In this connection, the Conference was informed that during discussion on this subject in the European Regional Conference, FAO had been invited to undertake a study of the agricultural situation and adjustment policy implications for the developed countries.

122. The Conference concluded that the adjustment process would in effect call for extensive diversification programmes and while maintaining the important role of the major traditional exports crops, increasing attention would be focussed on new crops, processed product and new markets, notably within the Region. This would call for a much greater flow of investment for agriculture and agro-industries and support from the developed world should be reoriented accordingly, giving special consideration for the needs of the poorest and land-locked countries.

Intra-Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture

123. The Conference considered document ARC/72/8 on Intra-Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture, which gave a progress report on the studies made to promote economic cooperation and intra-African trade in agricultural and agro-based industrial products.

124. The Conference discussed the obstacles to economic cooperation and to the promotion of intra-African trade. It considered that inconvertibility of national currencies and the resulting payment difficulties were among the main obstacles. It, however, noted that proposals for overcoming these difficulties were under consideration by the African Central Banks and needed political decision for their implementation. Other obstacles of no less importance were inadequate and costly transportation systems, including foreign control of shipping; communications; and lack of well-organized marketing and export channels for products traded within Africa.

125. However, the Conference noted that action was already being taken to improve the transportation links, notably the Trans-African Highway project and the proposed highway between North Africa and West Africa. It considered, however, that more should be done to improve the transportation links both between neighbouring countries and between the sub-regions. This should include the development of coastal shipping services, harmonized measures to facilitate transport services and better coordination of airline operations, particularly the fixing of lower air freight rates for agricultural produce now under negotiation.

126. With regard to the lack of well organized marketing and export channels and inadequate marketing facilities and services, the Conference noted that the African Trade Centre in ECA was already expanding its activities in this respect and that a conference of African importers and exporters would be convened in 1973. .

127. The Conference also stressed that equally important obstacles were the economic relations, historical trade links and preferential trade agreements with non-African countries. It recommended that in-depth study be carried out to ascertain the effects of these historical trade links and trade agreements on the expansion of intra-African trade, the comparative contributions of production for export and for intra-regional trade to the Net National Income, and the appropriate balance that should be maintained between the two. The attention of the Conference was invited to UNCTAD's work in this field, and particularly to a study on the question of reverse preferences by developing countries in favour of developed countries.

128. The Conference also considered that expansion of intra-African trade should be pursued within the context of international trade in general. The African countries, with the support of FAO, UNCTAD and other bodies, should continue to seek better terms and expanded markets for their export products to the developed countries and aim at pursuing a common external trade policy for the disposal of surplus products, while intra-African trade should be viewed as providing additional markets for the increase of production and of income. In this respect, study of inter-sub-regional trade possibilities should also be made. The Conference also noted that the ECA was carrying out a study on the harmonization of trade agreements between the African countries (including the countries in the Yaoundé Convention and the BEC). The Conference particularly noted the willingness of UNCTAD to participate in carrying out studies on intra-regional trade and intra-sub-regional trade expansion.

129. While noting that differences existed in the national and sub-regional economic development objectives and philosophies, the Conference considered that this was an inevitable situation which did not necessarily militate against economic cooperation and intra-African trade. It should also be the objective of Phase II studies to show how the pursuit of national self-sufficiency could be undertaken within the context of economic cooperation and intra-African trade.

130. The Conference also believed that, while there was some lack of complementarity in agricultural production, the variations that existed in ecological conditions and the limitation of resources together provided much possibility for specialization and relative dependence on the countries for the supply of agricultural products.

131. The Conference took note of the scheduling of Phase II studies and the content of the study for each of the sub-regions. With regard to the East African Sub-Region, the Study of the Prospects for the Production, Marketing and Trade in Livestock and Livestock Products in the sub-region up to 1985 was ready. The Livestock Development Study for six countries of the Central and Southern Sub-Region and Zaïre was being finalized. A multi-sectoral study on cooperation in the sub-region was already completed and had been considered at an Expert Meeting on Economic Cooperation in East Africa in November 1971. Several of the recommendations were made on cooperation in the agricultural sector and consideration was being given to their implementation.

132. For the Central African Sub-Region, the Conference noted that, following the recommendations of a mission sent to that sub-region to discuss the Intra-Sub-Regional Trade study, a request was already being considered by the UNDP to supply UDEAC with an agricultural economist who would undertake a study on a group of commodities of interest to the sub-region.

133. A similar mission sent to the North African sub-Region reported that opportunity for expanding intra-regional trade was limited, instead, there was more opportunity for expanding trade between that sub-region and the rest of Africa, particularly West Africa. The Conference took note of this mission's recommendations that cooperation in the field of agricultural research and high-level training be promoted and that a general study of the potentials in agricultural production be made by taking into account the comparative production costs and advantages.

134. The Conference noted that the crop production programme of Phase II studies would first be started in the West African Sub-Region. One of the reasons for this choice is to take into account the important trade links between Maghreb countries and the West African Sub-Region. The Conference recognized that this in-depth study would be conducted as recommended by the Seminar on the Promotion of Intra-Sub-Regional Economic Cooperation and Commodity Trade Policies in Agriculture held in Bathurst, The Gambia, in December 1971. The Conference further reiterated its earlier recommendation that the second phase of the Livestock Development Study be undertaken in West Africa in 1973.

135. The Conference approved the proposals for these Phase II studies. It also took note of other activities or developments on cooperation and trade in agriculture. These included the West African Rice Development Association, which became operational in September 1971, with membership open to all African states.

136. A draft request for UNDP assistance in the establishment of an Advisory Group on Food and Agricultural Industries Development had been circulated to the governments for their approval. The Conference expressed full support for this project and recommended that the governments, who had not as yet expressed their official support, send in their approval of the request in order to expedite action by the UNDP.

137. Furthermore, a symposium on Intra-African Trade organized by OAU and ECA in Nairobi, in February/March 1972, where FAO participated as observer, recommended the setting up of an Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations and the holding of a meeting of African Ministers of Commerce and Trade to help provide political support for the development of Intra-African Trade. It also appealed to the governments to take steps towards harmonization of their development plans. The Conference expressed satisfaction that these recommendations were being implemented by ECA.

138. In considering the objectives of the Phase II studies, the Conference recommended that the studies establish a strategy for the promotion of intra-regional trade. The studies should include analysis of the potential demand and of consumption habits with a view to promoting the consumption of local products. Use should be made of the existing institutions and of the local expertise as well as the professional bodies. The Conference welcomed the readiness of UNCTAD to participate and assist in carrying out the studies.

139. The Conference further considered that cooperation could be readily achieved in the field of agricultural processing industries to increase the value of domestic production which is frequently exported in raw form and reimported as a processed product at a very high price. Multinational industrial undertakings having economies of scale could be established for this purpose. It was also suggested that an inventory of possible industrial undertakings of this kind be made.

140. The Conference laid great emphasis on the need for political will and determination for promoting economic cooperation and intra-regional trade. It was considered that governments should take the political decisions to cooperate and promote intra-regional trade, even if this involved short-term sacrifices. The governments might best be persuaded if the studies could show what benefits could be derived from cooperation. In this connection, the fact was brought to mind that some economic groupings had been established on a political basis but had made little progress in achieving the economic objectives.

141. The Conference proposed that steps should be taken now to establish, under the aegis of the OAU, an African Common Market Commission rather than waiting until the Phase II studies would be completed. This Commission would provide the forum for negotiations for the promotion of intra-African trade as well as provide the guidance for Phase II studies. It would also provide the necessary

political backing and help break the economic dependence of African countries on developed countries. In the discussion, some delegates considered that it might be preferable to start with sub-regional institutions which would eventually lead to the bigger institution, and that faster progress might be made in this way.

142. The Conference unanimously recommended that the African governments should take positive steps to promote economic cooperation and intra-African trade in agricultural and agro-based industrial products. This would provide a great opportunity for the increase of agricultural production and of rural income and employment as well as the means for overcoming the problem of uncertain markets in developed countries. The governments should regard these objectives as a challenge which they must meet.

143. The Conference adopted the following Resolution in relation to the subject discussed above:

RESOLUTION II ON THE PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL AND
INTRA-REGIONAL TRADE IN AGRICULTURE AND
AGRO-INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS

The Conference,

Considering that the present markets in development countries for the agricultural products of the African countries are uncertain;

Considering that trade in agricultural products provides an important opportunity for the expansion of agricultural production and thereby for the increase of rural income and employment;

Considering that intra-African trade would provide additional markets for the agricultural and agro-industrial products of the African countries;

Considering that African countries need to obtain a major share of the increasing demand within Africa itself and a fair share of the increasing world demand for the agricultural and agro-industrial products resulting from increasing income;

Considering that there are important obstacles to the expansion of intra-African trade, including payment problems, the historical trade and economic links with the developed countries and the inadequate transportation system;

Considering that unfavourable policies have affected processed and semi-processed agricultural products from African countries;

Considering that no country in the world has reached the "take-off" stage in economic development without some measure of industrialization;

Considering that African countries desire to promote industrialization with emphasis on agro-based industries;

Considering that the recent UNCTAD and other negotiations have produced no encouraging change of policies on this matter;

Recommends that the African governments take very early action to solve the currency convertibility problem;

Recommends that governments of the African Region hold early discussions on the implications of intra-regional trade with a view to accelerating the realization of the objective of optimum intra-regional trade;

Recommends that FAO, ECA and other UN Agencies, in collaboration with OAU immediately undertake an in-depth study for the promotion of intra-African trade in agricultural and agro-industrial products, including studies of the framework within which such trade can best be promoted and harmonized with external trade policy;

Recommends that these studies include the comparative analysis of the benefits accruing from the economic relations and historical trade links with the developed countries on the one hand, and from economic cooperation and production for intra-African trade on the other hand;

Recommends that African experts should participate more in preparing these studies and member governments should readily release their specialists when and as required for these studies;

Recommends that steps be taken to establish, under the aegis of the OAU, an African Common Market Commission in order to provide both the framework for the promotion of intra-African trade and the forum for negotiations for the achievement of this objective;

Recommends that African countries make every effort to develop their processing industries with a view to increasing the value of their agricultural products;

Recommends that the developed countries should phase out by 1980 their activities in the field of processing of primary agricultural products from developing countries so as to encourage the import of processed and semi-processed agricultural products from the African countries.

Livestock Development in Africa

144. The Conference studied paper ARC/72/6 "Livestock Development - Beef - A Challenge for Africa" which outlined the present and future capability of the industry to meet the Region's needs of animal protein and to provide a surplus for earning foreign exchange.

However, it was noted that, although the paper was oriented towards cattle production, particularly beef production, other farm animals such as small ruminants, pigs and poultry should have been included as they also contribute to the supply of animal protein.

145. The Conference stressed that livestock development ought to be treated in an integrated way including not only animal husbandry, health and processing but with greater emphasis on feed and pasture production as well as marketing. The initiative taken by FAO in establishing inter-divisional working groups for meat and dairy development to ensure a more integrated approach than in the past was welcomed. Several Member Nations requested FAO assistance in integrated livestock development planning and action-oriented programmes. In this regard, the Conference recommended that FAO undertake livestock and grassland surveys in the West and West-Central sub-region as well as in the Sudan, similar to those carried out for the East and South Central African countries. The Conference further recommended that FAO, through the International Scheme for the Coordination of Dairy Development, pay more attention to the problems of African countries, particularly those that have unexploited potentials.

146. The Conference emphasized the need for a stratification of livestock production, for example, a system where the raising of young stock takes place on the extensive grasslands and finishing in areas close to the main consumption centres. Where the conditions were favourable and inputs available, livestock finishing could be undertaken in feed lots based on agricultural by-products and surplus grain. The Conference also recommended that integrated livestock and crop husbandry systems be developed and adapted to the socio-economic situations in the various countries in the Region. It was noted that this integration of livestock and crop production in many cases required a change in the land tenure systems.

147. Recognizing the potential for expanding production through pasture and animal husbandry improvement, provision of water, feed supplementation, including minerals, the use of feed lot fattening, good breeding practices including artificial insemination practices and the implementation of a policy of stratification, the Conference recommended that both national and international action programmes be initiated. The Conference further stressed the need for coordinated action between various ecological zones.

148. The Conference urged that even greater emphasis be laid on the control of the major diseases affecting both production and trade. Particular attention was drawn to rinderpest, contagious bovine pleuro-pneumonia, East coast fever and foot-and-mouth disease. The Conference recommended that follow-up action, at the national level of disease control programmes, be pursued in order to make the control of these diseases more effective. FAO was urged to continue and intensify its efforts to establish internationally accepted criteria for the establishment of disease-free zones.

149. The Conference recommended that WFP should give increased attention to the livestock sector by providing feed aid particularly in areas being affected by periodic drought.

150. The Conference being aware of the vast potential areas for livestock production which remain unusable because of the presence of tsetse and trypanosomiasis, strongly supported measures to strengthen national and international efforts to eradicate trypanosomiasis in order to provide land for livestock development and human settlement.

151. Having considered the action taken for multi-national control of diseases, the Conference stressed specifically that OAU/STRC plans in collaboration with FAO, be accelerated to implement JF-28 for the control of contagious bovine pleuro-pneumonia (CBPP) in Africa. It was also noted that the FAC/SIDA programme for the establishment of a training course for participants from countries in Central and West Africa in the diagnosis and control of CBPP would shortly be implemented.

152. The Conference endorsed the programme of FAO in the field of education and training in the livestock sector as outlined in the paper, but greater attention must be given to training at the farmer's level. It was recognized, however, that FAC could make the best use of its limited resources in intermediate and post-graduate training which will provide a cadre of staff for extension services and training of farmers at the national level.

153. Considering the special conditions in which livestock has developed in Africa, compared with other developing regions, and the status of transhumance livestock producers, the Conference stressed the need to give attention to the sociological aspects connected with livestock development in the Region and particularly to the need to integrate the transhumant livestock producers with the rest of the population. The Conference particularly urged that special assistance be given to improve the productivity of extensive animal production and to reduce disease hazards.

154. The Conference recognized the need for improved marketing of livestock and livestock products and urged FAO to assist Member governments in formulating programmes in this sector. The overall programmes for livestock development should pay due regard to price policies and producer incentives.

155. The scope for increased trade in livestock and livestock products within the Region was recognized by the Conference. The Conference pointed out that the large investments required for the development of the livestock sector made it necessary also to aim at exports to the higher priced markets. In order to facilitate trade, attention should be given to the establishment of disease-free areas, hygienic slaughtering facilities and product quality.

156. The Conference stressed the need for greater research efforts into identified problems which limit livestock development in the Region, notably the major diseases, productivity of local breeds of livestock and exotic breeds and crosses; methods to increase forage production and the use of local feed resources, management methods, marketing, as well as socio-economic aspects of livestock production.

157. The Conference noted the statement by the Representative from IBRD that the Bank was very interested in the increasing opportunities which were being identified for investment in livestock development in the Region. The Bank was now investing in projects and also in livestock sector programmes in a number of African countries, some of which were a follow-up to FAO/UNDF surveys and pre-investment activities.

158. The Conference considered and adopted the following two Resolutions in connection with agricultural production and appraising of agricultural projects:

RESOLUTION III WITH REGARD TO
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

The Conference,

Considering that there exists a great need for significant increase in the production of (i) food crops, including fruits and vegetables; (ii) vegetable oils and fats for human consumption; (iii) meat, milk and other livestock products;

Considering that the African Region possesses the potential and natural resources to produce these foods in sufficient quantities to satisfy both local and external demands;

Considering that, on the other hand, the Region is in great need of, among others, (i) efficient organizations and services; (ii) efficient, modern managerial and production techniques and suitable cultural practices; (iii) adequate agricultural statistics, e.g. of fodder crops and livestock numbers; (iv) sufficient and cheap supply of agricultural requisites, notably high-yielding varieties of seeds and animal feedstuffs;

Recommends that FAO should assist in close cooperation with national, regional and international institutions, in the introduction and evaluation of high-yielding food crops and vegetable varieties resistant to diseases, pests and adverse soil conditions; in the use of modern cultural techniques including out-of-season production, especially for vegetables, to extend the harvesting season and in the organization of food and vegetable seed improvement programmes;

Recommends that a regional post in seed production be established to assist Member countries of the Region in planning and implementing programmes on seed production and training in seed activities, in the preparation of seed project requests and in compilation of information on seed production throughout the area;

Recommends that FAO assist countries by carrying out studies at national and sub-regional levels on oil seed production, evaluate work in progress, assess the needs of the various countries and prepare action programmes for oil seed crop development to meet country and/or regional food and feed demands;

Recommends that FAO, in close cooperation with Member governments and national, regional and international institutions, organize training courses at different levels on subjects related to pasture and forage crops, as well as animal husbandry;

Recommends that FAO and Member governments carry out an evaluation of fodder resources at the ecological zone level as a basis for livestock development programmes, bearing in mind that evaluation should be continuous in order to detect ecological and socio-economic changes and make the necessary corrections in the programme;

Recommends that governments should, as needed, request FAO to assist in pasture and fodder seed production including: collection and selection of desirable genetic material, breeding and seed production programmes, as well as in the organization of animal husbandry research institutions and services.

RESOLUTION IV ON THE CRITERIA FOR THE APPRAISING OF AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS

The Conference,

Aware of the importance of improving agriculture in the Region;

Considering the great significance of agricultural projects in economic planning in African countries, especially large-scale projects financed from outside sources;

Recommends that FAO undertake, in collaboration with international lending agencies, including IBRD and the IDA, studies, with a view to relaxing the criteria required by financing agencies, for the acceptability of agricultural projects, taking into consideration the special problems of African countries.

Forestry Activities in Africa

159. The Conference discussed the state of forestry in Africa based on document ARC/72/5 and on the reports of the Third Session of the African Forestry Commission and the Fourth Session of the Ad Hoc Working Party on Wildlife Management, both of which were held in Nairobi, Kenya, in February 1972.

160. The Conference acknowledged that significant progress had been made by African forestry during the last decade: in the preparation of trained manpower, in growing recognition of the manifold benefits from the forestry sector and in appreciation of the need for development planning of forestry and forest industries.

161. Several delegates announced recent institutional innovations in their countries designed to enhance and facilitate the contribution of forestry to national development. However, there was a consensus that two factors continued to prevent African countries from realizing the full potential of their forestry sector, namely, the persistent shortage of trained manpower at all levels, and the failure, in many instances, to give forestry services the necessary status and resources. Many delegates drew attention to the need to assure, to all those participating in the planning and implementation of forestry programmes in the Region, a steady flow of information bringing up-to-date the state of knowledge of techniques and working methods.

162. The Conference stressed that information on the role of forestry in economic and social development should be directed towards the planners and decision-makers. It was no less important to organize campaigns at all levels which demonstrate how forestry activities contributed to agriculture, environment and rural development.

163. Various views were expressed on the relative importance to be given to the regeneration of natural forests and the establishment of new plantations of indigenous and exotic species. It was emphasized that forest ecosystems were still imperfectly understood, and the more decisive the intervention of the forest manager, the greater the need for concomitant research. The Conference regretted that, so far, research into methods of assuring the regeneration of natural forests in the tropics had failed to yield encouraging results. It requested FAO to strengthen its efforts to stimulate research in, and promote the exchange of information relating to appropriate silvicultural methods for assuring the natural regeneration of tropical forests.

164. The Conference noted that, in Africa as elsewhere, attention was being paid to man-made forests. One reason, among others, was the high cost of harvesting, transporting and processing wood from mixed natural forests. Since adequate prior experimentation and research was a precondition for successful plantation establishment, countries contemplating the creation of man-made forests were urged to undertake controlled species trials without delay. The Conference requested FAO to continue to provide countries of the Region with up-to-date information on suitable species and establishment techniques.

165. The Conference noted with concern the problems of Africa's marginal lands and the need to halt the progress of desert encroachment. It noted that FAO had a pilot mission in the Near East and urged that a similar mission be mounted for the countries bordering the south of the Sahara. The Conference recalled that FAO had submitted material on marginal lands to the Stockholm Conference on Human Environment in order to focus attention on the seriousness of this problem, and that it was likely that funds would be forthcoming for an international programme for research and demonstration. The Conference recognized that a multi-disciplinary effort was required to find a solution to this problem.

166. The Conference emphasized the problems encountered in valorizing secondary species. An explanation was given of some of the difficulties encountered in attempting to establish an International Tropical Timber Bureau. It was pointed out that excessive preoccupation with the promotion of timber exports was leading to neglect of opportunities to develop local and intra-regional markets. The effective utilization of secondary timbers on the home market provided a valuable springboard for export promotion, and there were several other wood products for which demand was rising fast in Africa, and which might move into intra-regional trade, notably transmission poles, fencing materials, charcoal, and low-cost housing for both urban and rural populations, bearing in mind the need for preservation against termites and other destructive pests. The Conference considered that market research could help to identify opportunities for the development of intra-regional trade in forest products.

167. The Conference emphasized that it was difficult to obtain international funds for investment in industrial forestry operations and for plantation projects concerned with soil protection and land improvement. The representative of the IBRD explained that the World Bank was prepared to consider such projects, but that all projects had to satisfy the Bank's conditions as to technical soundness and the required rate of return. The Conference paid tribute to the efforts of FAO in assisting countries in the preparation of projects, including industrial feasibility studies, in a form suitable for submission to potential investors and lenders.

168. The Conference noted with satisfaction FAO's rapidly expanding programme in Africa in wildlife management, national parks and recreation. Different aspects of this programme were, however, accorded varying emphasis by different countries. Some delegates stressed the significant contribution made by game meat to daily protein needs; others emphasized the foreign exchange earnings to be derived from tourism. Some delegates felt that national parks development should not be oriented solely towards the predilections of foreign tourists, but should take full account of African needs for supplementary protein, recreation and conservation education. The IBRD representative explained that the Bank was prepared to give serious consideration to financing projects concerned with wildlife management and national parks development if the economic justification could be clearly established, as, for instance, within the context of a comprehensive tourist development package. The Conference looked forward to the assessment of the role played by game meat in the protein intake of African countries, which was shortly to be carried out by FAO, and urged member countries to cooperate fully in this enquiry.

169. It was also pointed out that two schools, receiving UNDP/FAO support, were successfully fulfilling a regional function in providing training in wildlife management at the intermediate level, but that the Region still lacked sufficient facilities for training in these disciplines at the professional level.

170. Many delegates approved the priority being accorded in FAO's programme to forestry development planning, and the Conference noted with satisfaction that the manual "Planning a Pulp and Paper Enterprise" should be available shortly. A first draft of a manual on Forestry Development Planning was being tested at the current Forestry Development Planning Training Centre prior to being finalized and released.

171. Finally, the Conference fully endorsed the several recommendations (both those addressed to Member governments and those addressed to FAO) included in the reports of the Third Session of the African Forestry Commission and the Fourth Session of the Ad Hoc Working Party on Wildlife Management. Several of these recommendations had already been carried out and, among those still awaiting full implementation, the Conference laid particular stress on those relating to:

- (a) Forestry education and training: in this connection, the Conference appealed to donor countries to make scholarships, bursaries and fellowships, which they offer, tenable at institutions already established in the Region;
- (b) The reclamation of marginal lands and the halting of desert encroachment;
- (c) Development planning for the forest and forest industries sector;
- (d) Strengthening the capacity of the Regional Office to service Member governments in the forestry and wildlife sectors.

Food and Nutrition Development Policy

172. The Conference reviewed the background document ARC/72/4. While agreeing that it dealt with a general subject, the Conference felt that more proposals for action-oriented programmes might have been incorporated.

173. The Conference observed that during the last decade the notion of food and nutrition policy had become more precise with the development of food balance sheets and econometric models of nutrition. This policy had now achieved such a level as to integrate educational, economic, social, technical and legislative measures aiming at reconciliation of projected levels of demand and of both food supply and nutrition requirements.

174. The Conference noted that, indeed, food and nutrition policy could not be separated from the overall economic and social development policy, and ought to have a definite place in national and agricultural development planning so as to take full account of the whole range of related factors such as population growth, accelerated

urbanization, increasing disparity in income distribution between rural and urban populations, changing patterns of food consumption, increasing food imports, endemic malnutrition among the vulnerable groups (particularly pregnant women and children), stagnation of per caput agricultural production and food supplies and distribution and marketing of foodstuffs.

175. Recognizing the lack of adequate statistical data for projections and the definition of targets, the Conference stressed the value of integrated household/consumption surveys. Since such surveys were quite costly for many African countries where the financial resources were often earmarked for higher development priorities, the Conference felt that external assistance might offer the best solution to carry out these surveys.

176. The Conference recognized the high priority given to cash crops over food crops in the economic development plans of many African countries, and it strongly emphasized that appropriate measures be taken to ensure a balance between the two patterns of production. The Conference observed that all too often the foreign exchange brought by cash crops was used to import food products. It was also noted that appropriate measures, including distribution and storage techniques, price stabilization and import control, could facilitate the regular flow of food supplies from rural areas to urban markets whereby the producer would be assured of an equitable regular income.

177. The Conference considered that regional specializations in food production and processing should promote intra-regional trade on a complementary basis within Africa itself in order to minimize dependence on external sources for food (imported calories) whose cost per "unit calorie" is higher than those supplied from the domestic production, without endangering the fulfilment of food and nutrition targets.

178. The Conference recognized the vital role of the African women in food production and the preparation of food in the home, in bringing up children and in the community life of rural areas. Governments were advised to give particular attention to the training of rural women in agriculture, nutrition, home economics and extension work.

179. Some delegates drew attention to certain social and demographic problems in their countries related to unemployment, migration, social security and growth rate of population. In the Conference's general view, these problems should be solved by appropriate national policies and measures in each country.

180. The Conference considered that administrative measures should provide for horizontal coordination of various government agencies and private organizations concerned with nutrition, and stressed that nutrition ought to be approached as a multidisciplinary subject in respect of both development and application. While appreciating the

efforts made in this direction by many countries, the Conference felt that existing national food and nutrition bodies should be strengthened so that they might play their full role in food and nutrition planning. The Conference recommended that such bodies be created in countries where they did not exist as yet.

181. The Conference realized that, besides direct food production, other factors were associated with the process of quantitative and qualitative improvement of food for human consumption. It stressed the role of agricultural research in improving the nutritional value of high-yielding varieties, availability of agricultural credit for increasing production, cooperative and marketing facilities including storage and distribution channels, agricultural extension and nutrition education services for improving food production, farm storage and household consumption, and the role of Community Services in organizing agricultural shows to stimulate producers. The Conference advised governments to give particular consideration in economic planning to all these factors.

182. The Conference noted the important role which research could play in food storage and preservation in rural areas in order to alleviate seasonal shortages of food supplies. In the same way, the Conference recommended that applied research on local diets be undertaken with a view to ensuring a better utilization of available local foodstuffs. The results obtained should be disseminated to all countries of the Region.

183. The Conference supported the holding of interministerial meetings within the countries to foster understanding and the exchange of information on food and nutrition and to draw attention of government authorities to the development of the concept of nutrition as a factor not only in social welfare but also in economic development. For the same purpose, the Conference recommended that FAO organize inter-African conferences for government authorities responsible for food policy and nutrition matters.

184. The Conference drew attention to the fact that nutrition training especially in French-speaking African countries, was not sufficiently widespread, particularly with regard to the intermediate personnel who were often responsible for implementing the nutrition measures adopted in the national food and nutrition policies. The Conference believed that FAO could assist in this respect mainly through seminars and training centres. In this connection, the Conference recalled the recommendation submitted by the Sixth FAO Regional Conference for Africa for the establishment of an African Institute for Applied Nutrition.

Land and Water Resources Development

185. The Conference reviewed the proposals contained in document ARC/72/7. Some delegates expressed concern that the diverse problems of land and water resources development in Africa were treated rather

too superficially and that insufficient reference was made to the experience of individual countries. Nevertheless, it was stressed that the development of land and water resources in Africa should be approached within the framework of an integrated development policy.

186. The Conference noted with interest that country-by-country inventories of land and water resources, essential as they were among others, would become available from FAO's Perspective Studies for Agricultural Development in more details than were already provided by the FAO Indicative World Plan.

187. The Conference suggested that any data-collecting process have as its main or immediate objective the solving of specific technical and economic problems. In order to replace costly expatriate services, the Conference requested FAO to assist in training African soil scientists and technicians and in the establishment of national soil survey institutes or departments.

188. Stressing the need for the establishment of standardized common methodology and terminology in soil surveying and noting that much information on soil field investigations and research did not in many cases receive regional dissemination, the Conference commended the initiative taken by FAO in organizing the Soil Correlation Committee for West Africa and urged FAO to explore the possibility of setting up similar committees in other sub-regions of Africa. The Conference also welcomed FAO's intention to convene a Seminar on Soil Resources Evaluation for East Africa.

189. Considerable attention was devoted to water as a limiting factor of great significance in much of Africa's agricultural development. Reference was particularly made to the importance of optimizing the use of rainfall and the need for meteorological early-warning systems, e.g. regional cooperation in prediction of rainfall to the benefit of rainfed agriculture. The Conference therefore noted with interest the existence at FAO of a programme of Ad Hoc Consultations on Crop Water Requirements and Supplemental Irrigation and urged that their scope be extended to benefit the Region.

190. The Conference stated that the highest priority should be accorded to water resources surveys. In this connection some delegates expressed satisfaction over joint ventures between UN technical agencies such as the FAO/WHO/UNESCO Lake Victoria Hydro-meteorological studies, and stressed the usefulness of hydrological mathematical models. FAO was further urged to explore similar possibilities for inter-agency cooperation.

191. Africa's great diversity in environmental conditions was cited as one of the main causes of uneven economic development among as well as within countries. The Conference further observed that land and water resources were unevenly distributed among different groups within a country, causing in some instances serious political and economic repercussions and that significant competition existed between farmers, livestock holders and foresters for the use of land and

water. The Conference therefore recommended that National Commissions for land and water utilization be established as an integral part of the economic planning process.

192. The Conference agreed that one of Africa's greatest challenges was the better utilization of land and water resources, and due regard should be given to the human factor involved in this development process. In this connection, the Conference took note of the effective assistance provided by FAO at the grassroot level in the form of self-help programmes through the gradual introduction of intermediate, yet labour-intensive technology, including animal traction, adapted to local soils and current cultural practices.

193. The Conference stressed the need for development of groundwater, in particular from shallow aquifers, for domestic supplies, stock watering and small-scale irrigation, and strongly urged FAO to initiate regional cooperation in the exploration and exploitation of such aquifers.

194. Recognizing further the potential for small-scale irrigation development using surface or sub-surface water resources, the Conference requested FAO to proceed with the organization of a "Seminar on Small-scale Water Resources Development for Agriculture in West Africa". A similar recommendation was made with respect to the East African sub-region. In this connection, the Conference also took note of the warning by the representative from WHO of the hazards to health caused by water-borne diseases and stressed that FAO continue its cooperation with WHO activities in this field.

195. The Conference stressed that the use of fertilizers ought to be promoted with prudence, and not without taking various factors into consideration. Among those mentioned were the need to establish an efficient distribution network, the general provision of government subsidies, which would make fertilizers available to farmers at reasonable prices and as close as possible to the farms, and application of the results of trials and demonstrations such as those of the FAO Fertilizer Programme. FAO was urged to ensure that its fertilizer trials were integrated with soil classification programmes and cultural practices. In this connection, the termination of the post of Regional Fertilizer Adviser in both East and West Africa sub-regions was noted with much regret.

196. The Conference, recognizing the need for organizing specialized services of fertilizer distribution, credit and marketing facilities, welcomed the joint FAO/DANIDA Programme of Regional Seminars on the Planning and Organization of Fertilizer-Use Development. Note was taken of the statement by the IBRD representative that the World Bank was actually financing fertilizer and other inputs under integrated rural development schemes.

197. With regard to local production of fertilizers, the Conference observed that the price of imported fertilizers was often prohibitively high and, as a general rule, national markets were not large enough

for local production ventures to be financially viable. FAO was requested, however, to join UNIDO in further exploring the technical feasibility of indigenous fertilizer production for intra-regional markets.

198. The growing importance of rice in Africa was emphasized by several delegates and the Conference noted with interest that the West African Rice Development Association (WARDA), with the support of FAO, had prepared a programme of symposia on fertilizer use, rice breeding and water control. It was further observed that much valuable information on experience gained in growing rice on other continents should be made available. A proposed meeting between WARDA and the International Rice Commission was endorsed in this connection.

199. Concern was expressed by several delegates that reduction in soil fertility and soil degradation, particularly aggravated by reduced fallow rotation cycles, had reached critical extents. While recognizing that the problems involved were complex and that their solution demanded a long-term approach, the Conference supported the forthcoming FAO Seminar on Soil Conservation and "bush-fallow" Rotation in Africa.

200. Reference was made with much concern to problems of severe degradation of the range. It was noted that the carrying capacity of the range varied with availability of stock watering supplies as well as the quality of range land soils. With this in view, the Conference fully endorsed FAO's suggestion that livestock development planning should be intimately linked with stock water supply and range land surveys.

201. Appreciation was expressed for FAO assistance in the formation of River Basin Commissions, which enabled regular national consultations on the technical, institutional and legal implications of the basin-wide approach to international river basin developments. The Conference attached considerable importance to similar regional cooperation which could be stimulated through the establishment of Sub-regional Land and Water Use Commissions. It was, however, noted with regret that little headway had been made in their establishment. Along the same lines, room existed for a better coordination among the various water users at the national level and FAO was urged to provide assistance in the establishment of National Commissions on Land and Water Utilization.

202. Frequent reference was made to the importance of land reform and water legislation. The Conference recognized the considerable documentation and experience available at FAO and requested the Organization to advise Member Nations on the subject.

203. Although factual information on cost and benefit analyses of land and water resources development was lacking in Africa, it was known that successful water development schemes have brought considerable benefit to numerous farmers, particularly in the dryer

areas of the Region. There is however a need for more information on the costs and benefits of such schemes. The Conference therefore noted with interest FAO's intention to undertake an inventory of the various types of irrigation schemes including an assessment of the capital and recurrent costs involved.

Rural Employment Problems as related to Agricultural Development Programmes

204. In the discussion of document ARC/72/9, the Conference examined the problems of rural employment and development programmes in Africa. It acknowledged that, for African countries to lay down a proper foundation for their economic and social development, it would be necessary to intensify agricultural production with a view to raising the productivity of agricultural labour. This approach, the Conference acknowledged, would not be incompatible with the generation of maximum employment opportunities in agriculture. The Conference therefore recommended that national policies should ensure that all sectors of the economy should be called upon to absorb excess manpower in both rural and urban areas. These policies should be implemented with proper vocational training.

205. The Conference recognized that national planning with particular regard for employment aspects required a specialized multi-disciplinary approach and, to this end, FAO should strengthen its collaboration with ILO to provide advice and assistance to Member governments.

206. In attempting to diagnose the root causes of unemployment and underemployment, the Conference agreed that the primary cause was the excessive dependence on traditional agriculture. However, it was recognized that the form and dimensions of the problem varied widely in the different countries though a feature common to all was the high rate of urbanization resulting from rural migration.

207. Many delegates elaborated on the causes of the rural exodus and it was generally agreed that, while the illusory glamour and excitement of a new way of life in the cities will always attract rural people, the real reason was the expectation of finding better-paid jobs and social amenities. The Conference stressed the importance of measures to reduce the wide disparity and imbalance between rural and urban areas, as reflected in low incomes and wages, inadequate economic infrastructure and lack of social services and amenities.

208. The Conference also drew attention to fiscal policies, such as export taxes on primary produce, which, together with low export market prices, compared with high costs of imported goods or local manufactures, weighed the terms of trade very unfavourably to farming. It also stressed the need to improve marketing systems including the establishment of cooperatives, to ensure that farmers receive fair and equitable prices.

209. A particular factor leading to the rural-to-city drift, stressed by the Conference, was mainly due to the failure of the educational system to equip and condition young people for life and work in farming and rural society. A number of countries outlined their national programmes to reorientate education on a functional basis aimed at developing the capacity of a liberated farming community to accept and apply both new technologies and beneficial social activities.

210. The Conference noted that many African countries were now undertaking a variety of programmes and projects for developing agriculture which were directly aimed at providing more jobs. A particular difficulty, which was often encountered in carrying out such projects involving an integrated approach to provide a package of improvements, was that they were costly and poorer countries could only afford external financial assistance on soft terms, which should not be tied to technologies and equipment which suited the developed countries. In this connection, the Conference welcomed the statement from the representative of IERD that the Bank was very sympathetic to supporting development projects which had a large employment component and that such projects usually had a satisfactory economic return when the real social cost (shadow price) of the labour element was calculated.

211. The World Food Programme (WFP) assistance had been making a useful contribution to employment-oriented rural development schemes, including resettlement schemes in several African countries, but the Conference urged that FAO and international and bilateral sources of assistance should give more attention to resolving difficulties in financing this very important type of development, particularly in the poorer and land-locked countries.

212. The Conference was in general agreement with the conclusion that intensification of agricultural production with increased use of new technologies and inputs on small-scale family farms was a most effective method for increasing employment and incomes. However, it was noted that in a number of countries the small farms were being organized successfully into larger units of management and servicing through cooperatives or village groupings.

213. The application of new technologies, including mechanization, high-yielding varieties, fertilizers and pesticides was considered by the Conference to be fundamental to the process of intensifying small farm units and raising their productivity. But a number of delegates drew attention to the need to introduce the right type of mechanization most suited to the system of farming. The Conference took note of a mechanization project which was being undertaken by FAO with funds provided by bilateral assistance. In this project, small mechanized equipment would be tested at IITA, Ibadan, and at Richard Toll in the Senegal and results should be available after three years. Then, the proposed Farm Mechanization Centre for West Africa would extend the range of these trials.

214. The Conference fully endorsed the view that services for agriculture together with processing industries should be decentralized to smaller towns in the rural areas and thereby provide more employment including part-time jobs. However, while supporting the principle of locating industries close to raw materials and available (rural) labour, the Conference noted the caution sounded by the representative of IBRD that rural industries must be viable and competitive in their costs.

215. The basic concept of maximizing utilization of human resources through providing opportunities for remunerative and worthwhile employment was firmly established by the Conference. Towards this goal the Conference agreed that in most African countries agriculture must continue to provide employment and a way of life for the majority of the people. The Conference urged that this aspect of planning should be given special attention by agricultural policy makers and planners and, while noting the action which FAO was now taking in this respect, requested the Organization to provide more assistance for strengthening Member governments' statistical services; at the same time FAO should give consideration to the creation of posts for production economists at the Regional Office and Headquarters to assist the countries of the Region in their efforts to develop detailed agricultural sector planning.

The State of Agricultural Education

216. The Conference discussed the state of agricultural education in Africa on the basis of document ARC/72/10(a). From the deliberations it was clear that agricultural education, as a vital element of African rural development, was beset with stubborn and complex problems of a social, economic and historical nature. The experience of many countries showed that various measures, both novel and radical, were required to tackle these problems.

217. The Conference considered that agricultural education and training should generally aim at improving the overall educational standards of the rural population. It was felt that extension workers should devote more of their time to non-formal activities in rural development which would not normally be included in formal education at primary and even secondary levels. In this respect, the Conference noted with satisfaction FAO's activities in Africa in assisting governments in improving extension methods and in supporting in-service training.

218. The Conference stressed that national meetings for planning and improvement of agricultural education and training with major emphasis at the intermediate level ought to receive particular attention. It was recommended that FAO continue to assist in promoting such activities by making the best use of its resources in intermediate training programmes. This should also enable the training of the teaching staff at extension training institutions.

219. The Conference welcomed FAO's attempt to prepare comprehensive country profile studies on trained manpower as input to the development of adequate national plans for agricultural education and training, and to manpower planning in general, with particular orientation to the whole rural sector. The Conference particularly urged FAO to provide assistance for adjusting educational and training needs to the countries requirements and assist governments in the development of coordinating machineries for planning the systems of agricultural education and training.

220. The Conference recognized the need for adopting improved agricultural education systems in order to serve the objectives of developing countries. It was noted that considerable scope existed for the development, on a regional basis, of non-formal systems of education and training for farm families. The Conference urged FAO to assist Member countries in formulating programmes in this respect, with particular attention to the development of new forms of communication for farm families and utilization of mass media, and the production on an inter-country basis, of new teaching materials for the intermediate level.

221. Considering the contribution of women to agricultural and rural life in most countries of Africa and the conditions leading to the migration of youth to urban areas, the Conference endorsed the FAO-assisted programme with regard to women and youth extension work. It was stressed that full support should be given by governments to the establishment of an Inter-Country Centre for the training of instructors in youth development programmes. The Conference also recommended that the Regional Office be strengthened by a Youth Extension Expert so as to meet individual requests of Member countries.

222. The Conference stressed the need for sociological considerations with regard to the changes caused by technology in the traditional ways of village life. FAO was urged to continue giving assistance in developing non-formal training units in training institutions to identify ways of maximizing the efficiency of teaching methods and techniques on a regional basis and to make such material available through a regional documentation centre.

223. The Conference emphasized that significant possibilities existed for a greater cooperation between Member countries in high level education in the fields of forestry, veterinary and agricultural engineering to facilitate the training of technicians within the Region. FAO, together with UNESCO and ILO, was requested to assist in formulating appropriate projects in order to strengthen the existing training facilities, particularly in specialized fields such as agriculture, planning and research.

224. The Conference felt that more assistance should be given, at both regional and sub-regional levels, to support national efforts, such as encouragement of national meetings and workshops and the provision of fellowships, as well as the work of country profile studies.

225. Several Member countries requested FAO to continue giving assistance for in-service training of extension workers, and for the development of more innovative approaches to farmers' training such as extension of functional literacy. It was emphasized that assistance should be given for both strengthening training facilities and promoting exchange of information between institutions of higher learning level of the countries in the Region. In this connection, it was felt that consideration be given to the harmonization of the of the standards of training in these institutions so as to increase self-sufficiency in training within the Region.

226. The Conference believed that extension schemes in the rural sector should encompass basic environmental problems of the farming community. It was, therefore, stressed that extension workers should receive adequate multidisciplinary training which would include among other subjects those of general ecology and natural resources.

The State of Agricultural Research

227. The Conference discussed the background paper ARC/72/10(b) which outlined present and future development in research in Africa. While the document should have contained more concrete proposals for action-oriented programmes, the Conference expressed interest in FAO's work in the field of agricultural research. The Conference was informed of the establishment of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and its Technical Advisory Committee.

228. In reviewing future activities of FAO, the Conference considered research in its wider sense, including organization, services, information and documentation activities, and the transfer of research results into practical application as well as research in the field of training and education of research staff.

229. The Conference paid particular attention to the determination of priorities, recognizing, however, the difficulty of identifying them at the level of the Region. It was suggested that improvement of research information was essential to increase inter-country and intra-regional cooperation.

230. The Conference expressed a favourable view regarding the CARIS (Computerized Agricultural Research Information System) and AGRIS (International Information System for the Agricultural Sciences and Technology) projects and recommended that Member governments should associate themselves with these two international projects.

231. The Conference particularly emphasized the necessity of making better use of existing institutions and facilities at the national level before building up new ones. Therefore, it requested FAO, as well as other organizations, to take this into account when assisting in the establishment of agricultural research programmes.

232. In dealing with more specific research priority problems, the Conference stressed that major emphasis should be given to the following research problem areas (listed without any order of priority): (a) Increase of food crop production; (b) Fodder crops, range lands and agricultural by-products for animal feeding; (c) Livestock production (including nomadism) and animal diseases; (d) Plant pest and disease control; (e) Industrial crops and agro-industries; (f) Inventory of natural resources, land and water use; (g) Farming systems, farm management and the development of more productive and integrated systems of agriculture; (h) Socio-economic research; (i) Nutrition and food technology; (j) Forestry and forest industries; (k) Marine and inland fisheries.

233. The Conference stressed the need to avoid generalization in evaluating the relative importance of research priorities between the technical, social and economic aspects. It emphasized that optimal balance should be established in the light of local conditions and country needs.

234. While noting the proposals of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, the Conference recognized that this new orientation of research ought to complement and strengthen the research efforts made at national and sub-regional levels in order to take into account what is already being achieved as, for example, in the East African Community. International research ought to solve global and fundamental problems requiring interdisciplinary research approach. However, international research should not be a substitute for national or sub-regional research nor be detrimental to financial support required to strengthen national research infrastructure.

235. The Conference therefore recommended increasing support and assistance for research at the national level and, particularly, for organization, management and overall infrastructure. The Conference underlined also the great importance of training research workers, administrative and especially highly qualified technicians.

236. The Conference recommended that FAO should continue to stimulate and encourage research at national and international levels. With respect to the latter, FAO should concentrate its activities in elaborating procedure for research cooperation and assist countries to determine priorities according to their requirements. FAO should further assist countries in research planning, research project formulation, coordination of research programmes, implementation of research information systems and dissemination of scientific knowledge.

237. The Conference endorsed the proposals concerning the establishment of an Agricultural Research Bureau at the national level as described in the document ARC/72/10(b) and recommended that Member countries set up such Bureaux.

238. The Conference considered the establishment of an inter-African Commission for Agricultural Research under the aegis of OAU/STRC. Some delegates felt that members of the Consultative Group should not be also members of the Commission. The Conference further requested that more detailed information be given with regard to composition, objectives, functions and legal status of the Commission. It was recommended that FAO prepare a comprehensive document on this subject, to be submitted to Member governments for consideration.

239. Considering the insufficient number of fellowships provided by FAO and the importance of assisting Member governments in the training of scientific research manpower, the Conference recommended that FAO should expand its fellowship programmes to meet increasing needs of Member countries.

240. Noting the shortage of expertise such as plant breeding, plant pathology, ecology, soil sciences and agricultural economics, the Conference urged FAO to assist the training of specialists and to establish a pool of high-level expertise for provision of assistance to Member countries as the need arose.

241. The Conference recommended that control and operational research on Red Locust be strengthened, especially with UNDP/FAO assistance. The Conference also urged that projects with regard to pest and disease control, such as *Quelea* and plant quarantine problems be given high consideration.

242. The Conference recognized the lack of food and cereal crop research stations in the humid, equatorial, low-altitude zone. It recommended that FAO provide assistance for the establishment of a sub-regional research station in the equatorial zone.

243. Noting that in certain countries the status of research workers was not yet clarified, the Conference recommended that Member countries concerned should give attention this important problem so as to make maximum use of their researchers' potential and offer better career opportunities. It considered further that standardization of qualifications and status of research workers could facilitate their exchange between countries in Africa.

244. The Conference recommended that FAO study the possibility of establishing research network programmes similar to those of WARDA, by regions or groups of countries, to cover agricultural commodities of recognized significance to the Region.

245. The Conference noted that many research results were of such nature that they could not be directly extended to farmers because of the highly technical aspects of such results. This reduced the effective use of available research results and created a gap between the research and extension workers. The Conference recommended that national social laboratories be established to study research results

in the context of socio-economic circumstances and reduce them to language and techniques which the farmers could readily understand and apply.

246. Noting that a number of private foreign research institutions continue to carry out research programmes in the African Region, the Conference recommended that their work should be relevant and geared towards the development needs of the African countries.

247. The Conference adopted the following Resolution relating to agricultural education and research activities in Africa:

RESOLUTION V CONCERNING RESEARCH
ACTIVITIES AND EDUCATION

The Conference,

Considering that gaps exist in the network of agricultural research centres in Africa in general, and in the low-altitude equatorial zone in particular;

Considering that there is urgent necessity for the Region to increase agricultural production by applying the most appropriate and advanced techniques, and lack of trained agricultural staff at all levels;

Considering that foreign schools fall short of satisfying the needs of the Region, taking into account their entrance and training conditions; that the facilities of the Region are very insufficiently used by Africans;

Considering that the African woman plays an important role in the rural areas of most African countries in producing most of the food crops, but that the extension services do not reach her;

Considering that special type of training in the various sectors of agriculture and home economics will help in promoting the status of the African woman;

Recommends that a centre for agricultural research and experimentation be created in the Atlantic Equatorial Humid Zone, mainly for food crops;

Recommends that FAC assist, at the regional level, in the study of agricultural training programmes adapted to the specific conditions of the Region and set up a Regional Centre for the production of agricultural training material.

Recommends that Member governments accelerate, whenever the situation is not yet satisfactory, the integration of the African woman in every aspect of agricultural training, not forgetting the need for improved health and social facilities, especially in the rural areas.

Proposals for the Medium-Term Programme

248. The Regional Conference noted that the Sixteenth Session of the FAO Conference had requested the Director-General to adopt the following procedure in preparing a revised Medium-Term Plan for the period 1974-79 in a clear and simplified format:

- (a) Re-examination of programme and sub-programme trend indicators so as to arrive at economical and effective use of resources of the Regular Programme and extra-budgetary funds;
- (b) Submission to the individual Committees on Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry and Commodity Problems, preliminary sub-programme proposals in a form which firstly, would permit each of these Committees to make recommendations on the priorities assigned to their sub-programmes, and secondly, would result in marked elimination of low-priority activities for consideration in preparing the 1974-75 Programme of Work and Budget;
- (c) Consideration of these recommendations by the Regional Conferences to be held during 1972 for their views on their priority recommendations;
- (d) Consultation with the Programme and Finance Committees and submission to the Council of a balanced and coordinated presentation of programme priorities for inclusion in the Programme of Work for 1974-75, with indications for readjustment of objectives, priorities and needs;
- (e) Finally, presentation of a revised Medium-Term Plan for the period 1974-79 to the Sixtieth Session of the Council and to the Seventeenth Session of the Conference, on the same general format to be adopted for the Programme of Work and Budget.

249. From the procedure adopted for the Medium-Term Planning exercise, it was clear that Member Nations and the Governing Bodies of FAO were fully involved at relevant stages of its planning and programming process. In this respect, mention was made of the important role to be played in the medium-term programming exercise by the Regional Conferences and the Regional Offices. The latter would submit for consideration at the Regional Conferences their view of the broad problem areas affecting agricultural development in the Region. This would allow the Regional Conference to develop regional medium-term objectives for FAO's work, to be taken into account in programming the Organization's world-wide action.

250. The Conference agreed that the Medium-Term Plan was a complex document and endorsed the Director-General's intention to improve and simplify its format for presentation in the next biennial revision. This called also for more sharply defined strategies and more selective indication of priorities both as regards the balance between the Areas of Emphasis and between the various sub-programmes and programme elements.

251. A number of delegates expressed the view that some confusion had arisen because the Technical Committees had not considered the Regional Medium-Term Programme, which in fact, encompassed the same questions discussed by them relating to employment problems in the rural areas, food and nutrition policy, land and water resources development, livestock development, intra-regional trade, research and agricultural education. However, it emerged from the general debate that the Conference was ultimately responsible to express its views on each of these problems by setting up appropriate and specific areas of priority for consideration during the formulation process of the overall 1974-75 Programme of Work and Budget of FAO.

252. Several delegates considered that the majority broad areas of activity listed in the document were of equal importance to their countries and an attempt at assigning a priority order was extremely difficult. However, suggestions were made by the delegates as regards a number of specific problem areas of particular importance to them. It was agreed that these suggestions would be used as indication of priorities for the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget of FAO. The consensus emerged in favour of grouping the main areas of activities in two categories of equal and related importance, viz, firstly, substantive physical production activities covering food crops, fisheries, livestock and forestry; and secondly, development factors, facilities including trade, research, training; and servicing covering disease control, processing, marketing, credit.

253. The Secretariat also introduced the document CL 59/18 entitled "Implications of the UN Conference on the Human Environment on FAO Programmes". A Plan of Action had been adopted by the Stockholm Conference calling inter alia for strengthening existing FAO activities in this field. The Conference proposed that strengthening beyond the present level of FAO activities should be achieved through extra-budgetary sources of funds, namely those expected to be provided by a new UN Environment Fund.

254. Some delegates were of the opinion that environmental problems were chiefly caused by developed countries and therefore were of secondary importance in Africa whose primary need was development. Other delegates considered that developing countries should avoid, as far as was feasible, mistakes and distortions which resulted from development in some industrialized countries. Considering that environmental problems of developing countries were mostly related to rural areas, some delegates welcomed the initiative taken by FAO in this field and expressed interest and support to the organization and financial arrangements recommended by the Stockholm Conference for the implementation of its Action Plan.

III. CONCLUDING ITEMS

Adoption of the Report of the Conference

255. The Conference endorsed the reports of the two Technical Committees which were incorporated within the Report of the Conference in preceeding pages of this document. The Conference also adopted the reports of the items of the agenda discussed at the Plenary Sessions, together with the five Resolutions.

Any Other Business

FAO Regional Conference Membership

256. Some delegates expressed the view that a European nation, which continued to enjoy active membership of the FAO African Region, should withdraw on its own will and participate in an observer capacity in future Regional Conferences, following the example set in similar circumstances earlier by the Government of the United Kingdom.

Distribution of FAO Documents and Publications

257. The Conference requested FAO to despatch documents and publications in adequate numbers to the Ministries of Agriculture and take measures to ensure that Conference documents reach their destinations in time to enable Member Nations to consider and study them seriously.

Invitations to the 8th FAO Regional Conference for Africa

258. The Conference heard statements from the delegations of Sierra Leone and Mauritius who extended their invitations to host the next Regional Conference for Africa. The Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative thanked both Governments, on behalf of the Director-General, for their kind invitations to host the Eighth FAO Regional Conference for Africa. He continued, the Director-General, in consultation with all Member Nations, taking into account a number of factors which contribute to the success of the Conference, would consider these invitations in making the final decision. Furthermore, he said, the date will be fixed in due course, after consulting the Member Nations.

Closing Ceremony

259. The closing ceremony took place on Saturday, 30 September, 1972 at 11.00 hours with the presence of His Excellency Mr. Albert Bernard Bongo, President of the Gabonese Republic.

260. The Chairman of the Conference, His Excellency Mr. François Nguéma-Ndong, Ministre d'Etat Gabonais, Chargé de l'Agriculture, de l'Elevage, de la Recherche Scientifique et de l'Environnement, expressed, on behalf of the Conference, honour and pleasure for the presence of H.E. the President, at the closing session of the Seventh FAO Regional Conference. He briefly reviewed the general conclusions of the Conference and the success of the technical committees in their comprehensive review of priority areas for the Region.

261. Mr. M.C. Mensah, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative, informed the President that the deliberations of the Conference were animated by the spirit of solidarity, which he referred to as the "spirit of Libreville", with a view of promoting a policy of self-reliance and self-sufficiency in food production in African countries. He expressed the hope that, due to this new spirit and need for change, Africa would succeed in raising the standards of living of its people and in promoting the economic development of the continent. Finally, he expressed his appreciation at the mutual understanding with which the delegations worked with the Secretariat in accomplishing their task. He also expressed his gratitude for the facilities provided by the Gabonese Government.

262. On behalf of the President, H.E. Mr. Léon Mebiame, Vice President of Gabonese Republic stressed that measures proposed by the Conference would certainly help to improve the terms of trade for African agricultural products if the developed countries show in future more understanding to cooperate in solving trade problems. He also said that in this dialogue, African countries should take the initiative.

263. On behalf of all participants in the Conference, the Head of the delegation of the Republic of Dahomey spoke of the spirit of sincerity which prevailed during the deliberations of the Conference. He expressed the appreciation of all delegations for the cooperation and generosity of the host Government. His thanks went to the Chairman and his colleagues who assisted in so ably conducting the sessions. He also commended the Secretariat and all those who contributed in many ways to the efficient preparation and servicing of the Conference.

264. The Conference paid particular tribute to the Government and people of Gabon for the programmes laid down and their friendliness and hospitality which contributed to the success of the Conference.

Vote of Thanks to the Conference Secretariat

265. The head of the Ethiopian delegation, on behalf of the Conference, extended his sincere appreciation for the commendable task accomplished by the FAO Conference Secretariat and for the efficient arrangements and organization of the Seventh FAO Regional Conference for Africa.

266. The Minister de l'Agriculture, de l'Elevage, de la Recherche Scientifique et de l'Environnement of Gabonese Republic, Chairman, then declared the Seventh FAO Regional Conference for Africa officially closed.

APPENDIX I

ANNEXE I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

Chairman
Président

His Excellency
Son Excellence F. NGEUMA-NDONG
Gabonese Republic
République Gabonèse

Vice Chairmen
Vice-Présidents

His Excellency
Son Excellence R.C. KAMANGA
Zambia - Zambie

His Excellency
Son Excellence C.F. MAMA
Dahomey

His Excellency
Son Excellence M.E. HAMZA
Sudan - Soudan

MEMBER NATIONS IN THE REGION

ETATS MEMBRES DE LA REGION

A. DELEGATES - DELEGUES

ALGERIA - ALGERIE

ALLOUM, Djafeur	Directeur de la Production végétale Ministère de l'Agriculture
HAKKA, Behaïssa	Directeur des Forêts et de la Défense et Restauration des Sols, Ministère de l'Agriculture
ERAHIMI, Boualem	Sous-Directeur de la Réglementation Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Réforme agraire
DELARDI, Mohamed A.	Ingénieur, Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Réforme agraire
SEGHIRATE, Abderrahmane	Ministère des Affaires étrangères

BOTSWANA

MASISI, Edison Setlhomo	Minister of Agriculture
SEKGOMA, M.S.P.	Extension and Conservation Officer Ministry of Agriculture

BURUNDI

BIGAYIMPUNZI, P.	Ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Elevage
KAFURERA, Joseph	Directeur du Département central technique de Planification agricole
RUVAKUDUSA, Jacques	Directeur du Département de l'Elevage Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Elevage

CAMEROON - CAMEROUN

AWUNTI, J.C.	Vice-Ministre de l'Agriculture
ASSOUMOU MBA, Daniel	Directeur Adjoint de l'Agriculture Ministère de l'Agriculture
ONANA SHE, Robert	Docteur Vétérinaire, Ministère de l'Elevage et des Industries animales
DANG MEKOULA, Daniel	Secrétaire permanent, Comité national FAO/CMCF

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC - REPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE

LE DOUBER, Jean-Pierre	Chef du Bureau d'Etudes Ministère du Développement rural
PASSOROCOU, Robert	Directeur des Forêts, Direction générale des Eaux et Forêts
POULCUGOU, Ambroise	Docteur Vétérinaire Ministère du Développement rural

CHAD - TCHAD

CCLO, François	Secrétaire d'Etat à l'Agriculture
MATTA, Raymond	Directeur, Eaux et Forêts
ALYO, Service Joseph	Chef de Service administratif à la Direction de l'Elevage (Contrôleur d'Elevage)
NONCA, Enoch	Directeur ad interim de l'Agriculture

CONGO, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF - REPUBLIQUE POPULAIRE DU CONGO

SITA, Sebastien	Directeur de Cabinet du Ministre de l'Agriculture, des Eaux et Forêts
TCHICAYÂ, Joseph	Directeur général des Services agricole et zootechnique
N'COUCLALI, Rigobert	Directeur des Eaux et Forêts

DANOMIEY

MAMA, Chabi Fourdouna	Ministre du Développement rural et de la Coopération
GRIMAUD, Maximilien	Directeur de l'Agriculture
D'ALMEIDA, Francis	Directeur du Service d'Alimentation et de Nutrition

ETHIOPIA - ETHIOPIE

HAILE SELASSIE, Belay	Head, Regulatory, Research and Services Department
YESHEWALUL, Ayele	Assistant Minister, Ministry of Agriculture

DERHE, Derhane	Head, Soil and Water-Conservation Division, Ministry of Agriculture
GETACHEW, Araaya	Head, Technical Assistance Division Ministry of Agriculture

FRANCE

CHOUILLOU, Jacques	Sous-Directeur des Relations internationales et de la Coopération technique au Ministère de l'Agriculture
GLOANNEC, Camille	Conseiller à la Mission d'Aide et Coopération, Libreville

GABONESE REPUBLIC - REPUBLIQUE GABONAISE

NGUEMA-INDONG, François	Ministre d'Etat chargé de l'Agriculture de l'Elevage, de la Recherche scientifique et de l'Environnement
LANDJI, Rigobert	Ministre des Eaux et Forêts
BEKALE, Georges	Ingénieur agronome, Directeur des Services agricoles
KOUNDA KIKI, Paul	Ingénieur agronome, Directeur de l'Economie rurale
ROGOMBE, Jacques	Ingénieur des Eaux et Forêts, Directeur des Forêts
ADANDE, Jean-Félix	Docteur Economiste, Premier Conseiller d'Ambassade du Gabon à Paris
ENGONE, Eyariste	Ingénieur de Techniques agricoles, Attaché à la Direction des Services agricoles
AZIZET, Mme Fall Ndiaye	Infirmière Sage-Femme - Monitrice Directrice des Affaires sociales
AMELOURGUET-DEMEAT, J.P.	Professeur de Philosophie, Président de la Commission gabonaise pour l'UNESCO
REVICHNET, Henri	Pharmacien, Directeur-adjoint de la Santé publique
BIDANG, Léon	Contrôleur d'Elevage-Adjoint au Chef de Service d'Elevage

THE GAMBIA - GAMBIE

N'JIE, Aliou Badara	Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources
M'DOG'E, Francis	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources
MARBHAM, L.J.	Director of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture
M'DOW, W.G.M.	Chief Veterinary Officer, Veterinary Headquarters, Abuko

GHANA

ADDO, D.K.	Commissioner for Agriculture Ministry of Agriculture
NICHOLAS, M.S.O.	Agricultural Development Coordinator Ministry of Agriculture
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APPENDIX II

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Role and Functions of the Regional and Country Offices

For attention by FAC

1. Strengthen further Regional Offices, with less concentration of power at Headquarters. (94, 102, 103)
2. Ensure Regional Offices assist countries in the preparation and implementation of agricultural policies and programmes. (103)
3. Increase power and authority in decision-making by the Regional Representative. (105)
4. Ensure FAO Regional policies and programmes are handled through the Regional Office. (105)
5. Delegate responsibilities with decentralization of FAO regional activities to the Regional Offices with suitable manpower and adequate finance. (106)
6. Intensify efforts to recruit and employ African experts at all levels of the Organization. (80, 93, 106, 110)
7. Invite Committee composed of Algeria, Kenya, Nigeria and Zaïre soon to advise and assist the Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative in formulating appropriate proposals for strengthening the Regional Office for Africa. (107)
8. Strengthen SAA/CR Offices, independent but with close liaison with UNDP and be directly responsible to the FAO Regional Representative. (79, 108, 110)
9. Ensure improved recruitment system for field experts and effective implementation of field programmes. (81, 83, 96)

For attention by Governments

10. Cooperate with the Director-General to recruit and employ African experts at all levels of the Organization. (80, 93, 106, 110)

International Aspects of Agricultural Adjustment in Africa within the Framework of the African Strategy for Development during DD2

For attention by FAC

11. Invite collaboration and participation of African representatives in the 1973 study on agricultural adjustment. (68, 111)

12. Assist in the planning and implementation of agricultural adjustment programmes. (112, 119)
13. Assist in studies for producing standardized agricultural equipment and other farming inputs within the African Region. (114)
14. Assist in securing equitable and stable prices and expanded markets for agricultural export products. (67, 68, 87, 88, 92, 115)
15. Study in detail, in the 1973 adjustment conference paper, the impact of synthetics and substitutes on primary agricultural products. (68, 115)
16. Assist in export market promotion in collaboration with UNCTAD/GATT. (88, 92, 115, 118)

For attention by Governments

17. Cooperate with the Director-General on the study of agricultural adjustment. (111)
18. Stimulate trade and economic cooperation between African countries. (113)
19. Encourage greater continental self-reliance. (113)
20. Cooperate with studies for standardized agricultural equipment and farming inputs. (114)
21. Invite developed countries cooperate genuinely in the question of agricultural adjustment. (121)

Intra-Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture

For attention by FAO and ECA

22. Provide assistance in improving road, sea and aerial transportation links between countries and between sub-regions. (125)
23. Analyse the effects of the existing economic and trade links with developed countries on intra-African trade. (127)
24. Undertake Phase II in-depth studies on intra-regional trade and economic cooperation in the field of agriculture, starting with the West African sub-region, with a strategy for the promotion of intra-regional trade. (129, 131, 134, 138, 143)

25. Assist in the implementation of the recommendations made with regard to agriculture by the Expert Meeting on Cooperation in East Africa. (131)
26. Undertake study on agricultural processing and on possibilities of multinational undertakings in this regard, with an inventory of possible industrial undertakings. (139)
27. Assist in the establishment of an African Common Market Commission under the aegis of CAU. (141, 143)

For attention by Governments

28. Seek better terms of trade and expanded markets with a view of pursuing a common external trade policy. (128)
29. Give approval to the draft request to the UNDP for the establishment of an Advisory Group on Food and Agricultural Industries Development. (136)
30. Reorientate the national development strategies with a view to making them more compatible with the long-term objectives of intra-African cooperation and trade. (137)
31. Provide to FAO and ECA data necessary for Phase II studies and ensure full support from national technical experts to FAC/ECA missions carrying on the studies. (138, 143)
32. Ensure political will and determination for promoting economic cooperation and intra-regional trade. (140)
33. Take measures for the establishment of an African Common Market Commission. (141, 143)
34. Take positive steps to promote economic cooperation and intra-African trade in agriculture and processed agricultural products. (142)

Livestock Development

For attention by FAC

35. Assist in integrated livestock development planning and action-oriented programmes. (145)
36. Undertake livestock and grassland surveys in the West and West-Central sub-region as well as in the Sudan. (134, 145)
37. Provide assistance to African countries in milk production through the International Scheme for the Coordination of Dairy Development. (145)

38. Assist countries in their efforts towards the stratification of livestock industries. (146)
39. Provide assistance in the eradication of major animal diseases. (148, 150)
40. Intensify in formulating internationally acceptable criteria for the establishment of disease-free zones. (63, 90, 148)
41. WFF provide increased attention to feed for livestock. (149)
42. Support the implementation, in collaboration with OAU/STRC, of disease control programmes. (151)
43. Assist Member Nations in intermediate and post-graduate training. (152)
44. Assist in the establishment of improved livestock and livestock products marketing. (154)
45. Accelerate, in cooperation with IBRD, UNDP and bilateral agencies, the establishment of an Animal Production and Health Research Institute for Africa South of the Sahara. (152, 158)

For attention by Governments

46. Develop integrated livestock and crop husbandry systems adapted to the socio-economic situation in the various countries in the Region with the required change in the land tenure systems. (146)
47. Initiate national and regional action programmes in the rational use of feedlot fattening and good breeding practices including artificial insemination. (147)
48. Give more attention to follow-up action at the national level for disease control programmes in order to render more effective the control programmes initiated at the regional level. (148)
49. Put greater emphasis on training at all levels and enhance the status of the livestock breeder. (152)

Forestry

For attention by FAO

50. Stimulate research in, and promote the exchange of information relating to appropriate silvicultural methods for assuring the natural regeneration of tropical forests. (163)
51. Provide countries of the Region with up-to-date information on suitable forest species and establishment techniques. (65, 164)

52. Mount pilot mission on problems of marginal lands for African countries bordering South of the Sahara. (165)
53. Undertake marketing research to identify opportunities for the development of intra-regional trade in forest products. (166)
54. Assist in the promotion of forestry education and training at all levels, including the provision of bursaries and fellowships at institutions already established in the Region. (171)
55. Provide assistance for the reclamation of marginal lands and the halting of desert encroachment. (171)
56. Strengthen the capacity of the Regional Office to service Member governments in the forestry and wildlife sectors. (171)

For attention by Governments

57. Improve information on the role of forestry in economic and social development directed to planners and policy decision makers. (162)
58. Undertake controlled species trials for man-made forests. (164)
59. Cooperate with the FAO study on the assessment of the role played by game meat in the protein intake of African countries. (168)
60. Formulate development planning for the forest and forest industries sector. (171)

Nutrition and Food Development Policy

For attention by FAO

61. Assist in conducting integrated household budget/consumption surveys. (175)
62. Assist in applied research on local diets to ensure better utilization of available foodstuffs. (73, 89, 182)
63. Convene interministerial conferences at the national and regional levels to discuss the role of nutrition in economic and social development planning. (183)
64. Provide assistance in training of national staff responsible for the formulation of food and nutrition policies. (183)
65. Convene seminars and training centres and investigate the possibilities for the establishment, as soon as possible, of an African Institute of Applied Nutrition, in line with the recommendations of the Sixth FAO Regional Conference for Africa. (184)

For attention by Governments

66. Reorientate, whenever necessary, national agricultural policies to adjust food production to nutritional needs and reduce external dependence for food supplies. (176, 177)
67. Give more attention to nutrition and agricultural training for women. (178)
68. Strengthen the role of national nutrition policy coordinating bodies or establish them where they do not exist. (181)
69. Undertake applied research on local diets to ensure better utilization of available local foodstuffs. (73, 89, 182)
70. Hold interministerial meetings to foster understanding and exchange of information on food and nutrition development policy. (183)

Land and Water Resources Development

For attention by FAO

71. Assist in training soil scientists and technicians and in the establishment of national soil survey institutes. (187)
72. Explore the possibility of establishing a Regional Soil Correlation Committee for East Africa. (188)
73. Provide assistance for water resources survey and in the establishment of National Committees on Land and Water-Use. (190)
74. Initiate regional cooperation in the exploration and exploitation of aquifers. (193)
75. Conduct a Seminar on small-scale water resources development for agriculture in West and East Africa.
76. Integrate fertilizer trials with soil classification programmes and cultural practices. (195)
77. Explore the possibility of indigenous fertilizer industries for intra-regional markets in cooperation with UNIDO. (197)
78. Establish Regional Land and Water Use Commission. (201)

For attention by Governments

79. Establish National Committees on Land and Water Use as an integral part of the economic planning process. (191)

Rural Employment Problems in Relation to Agricultural Development

For attention by FAO

80. Strengthen collaboration with ILO to advise and assist African Member countries in national employment planning. (205)
81. Assist, in cooperation with international and bilateral sources in the implementation of employment-oriented rural development schemes including resettlement programmes. (211)
82. Assist and advise in rural employment-oriented planning and in strengthening national statistical services. (215)
83. Create production economist posts at the Headquarters and the Regional Office. (215)

For attention by Governments

84. Ensure all sectors of the economy be called upon to absorb excess manpower in rural and urban areas. (204)
85. Reduce imbalances between urban and rural areas in income, wages, social services and amenities. (207)
86. Improve marketing systems including the establishment of cooperatives, to ensure to farmers fair and equitable prices for their products. (208)
87. Reorientate national educational systems to suit the economic and social needs of the population with a view to adequate employment opportunities. (209)
88. Introduce the right type of mechanization most suited to the systems of farming. (213)
89. Decentralize services for agriculture and processing industries to smaller towns in the rural areas. (214)

Agricultural Education and Training

For attention by FAO

90. Assist in the establishment of intermediate level training programmes. (218)
91. Assist in establishing relevant educational and training systems. (219)
92. Assist in formulating programmes for the development of non-formal systems of education and training for farm families on a regional basis. (220, 222)

93. Create a regional post in Youth Extension. (221)
94. Strengthen existing training facilities in agriculture, planning and research, in cooperation with UNESCO and ILO. (223)
95. Assist in national and regional agricultural education meetings, workshops and provide more fellowships. (224)
96. Assist in the organization of in-service training of extension workers and functional literacy training for farmers. (225)

For attention by Governments

97. Orientate agricultural education and training to improve the overall educational standard of the rural population. (217)
98. Pay better attention to rural women education and training. (221)
99. Support the establishment of Inter-Country Centre for the training of instructors in youth development programmes. (221)
100. Stimulate greater cooperation between Member countries in high-level education in the fields of forestry, veterinary and agricultural engineering. (223)
101. Harmonize the standards of training in African educational institutions. (225)
102. Provide to extension workers adequate multidisciplinary training including general ecology and natural resources. (226)

Agricultural Research

For attention by FAO

103. Improve research information for increased inter-country and intra-regional cooperation. (66, 229)
104. Increase support and assistance for agricultural research at the national level and training of technician research workers and scientists. (235, 240)
105. Assist countries in the elaboration of procedure for research cooperation and in the determination of research priorities. (236)
106. Assist in research planning, project formulation, programme coordination and implementation of research information system and dissemination of scientific knowledge. (236)
107. Prepare a comprehensive study on the establishment of Inter-African Commission for Agricultural Research under the aegis of OAU/STEC. (238)

- 108. Expand research fellowship programmes. (239)
- 109. Strengthen operational research and control on Red Locust with UNDP assistance. (241)
- 110. Give assistance in the establishment of a sub-regional research station in the equatorial zone. (242)
- 111. Study possibilities of research network programmes similar to WARDA for other key agricultural commodities. (244)

For attention by Governments.

- 112. Associate with CARIS and AGRIS. (230)
- 113. Establish National Agricultural Research Bureaux. (237)
- 114. Provide status and career opportunities for research workers and scientists. (243)
- 115. Standardize qualifications and status of research workers within the Region. (243)
- 116. Create national social laboratories to study research results and reduce them to language understood by small farmers. (245)
- 117. Ensure private foreign research institutions are relevant and development-oriented for the countries. (246)

The Regional Medium-Term Programme

For attention by FAO

- 118. Improve and simplify format and presentation of Medium-Term Programme. (250)
- 119. Define clearly strategies with selective indication of priorities. (250)
- 120. Give priorities to the following areas in the Regional Medium-Term Programme 1974/75: Food crops, Fisheries, Livestock, Forestry, with infrastructural facilities and supporting services, such as trade, research, training, disease control, processing, marketing, credit. (252)

General

For attention by FAO

121. Include item on Fisheries on the Agenda of the Eighth FAO Regional Conference for Africa. (61, 85)
122. Assist FEHC National Committees. (74, 95)
123. Implement Resolution 8/71 on Decolonization adopted by the Sixteenth Session of the FAO Conference. (83, 97)
124. Despatch expeditiously FAO publications and Conference documents. (257)

AGENDA

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen
3. Adoption of the Agenda

II. SITUATION AND PROSPECTS OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
IN AFRICA AND FAO ACTION IN THE REGION

4. Director-General's Introductory Statement
5. Statement by the Executive Secretary of ECA
6. Statement by the Assistant Director-General
and Regional Representative for Africa
7. Statement by the Executive Director of the
World Food Programme
8. Statements by countries
9. International aspects of agricultural adjustments
within the overall framework of the African strategy
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III. SECTORS OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
IN THE REGION IN RELATION TO THE AREAS OF CONCENTRATION

- A. Regional Action in Progress (Committee I)
 10. Nutrition programme activities in relation to food
development policy in Africa
 11. Forestry activities in Africa - Consideration of
the Report of the African Forestry Commission held
in Nairobi in January/February, 1972
 12. Livestock development - Beef - A challenge for Africa
 13. Land and water resources development in Africa
- B. Future Orientation for Regional Action on Major
Problems (Committee II)
 14. Intra-regional trade and cooperation in the field
of agriculture

15. Rural employment problems as related to the agricultural development programmes in Africa
16. The state of agricultural education and research - Current trends and future orientation

IV. FAC PROGRAMME IN THE REGION

17. The Regional Medium-Term Programme - Trends and orientation

V. ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF REGIONAL OFFICES, SENIOR AGRICULTURAL ADVISERS/COUNTRY OFFICES, HEADQUARTERS AND THEIR INTERRELATIONSHIPS

18. Outline of Consultant's study

VI. CONCLUDING ITEMS

19. Any other business
20. Consideration and adoption of the Report
21. Date and place of the Eighth FAO Regional Conference for Africa
22. Closing of the Conference

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

A. General Information

ARC/72/INF/1	Information Note
ARC/72/INF/1(a)	Registration Form
ARC/72/INF/2	Timetable (Plenary)
ARC/72/INF/2(a)	Timetable (Technical Committees)
ARC/72/INF/3/Rev.1	List of Documents
ARC/72/INF/4	Recommendations of the Sixth FAO Regional Conference for Africa and Action taken
ARC/72/INF/5/Rev.2	List of Participants
ARC/72/INF/6	Extracts from the Reports of the: Seventh Session of the Committee on Fisheries First Session of the Committee on Agriculture First Session of the Committee on Forestry Twenty-first Session of the Programme Committee
ARC/72/INF/7	Main Policy Lines in the Director-General's Introductory Statement to the Regional Conference
ARC/72/INF/8	Authority, Terms of Reference and Constitutional Status of Regional Conferences
ARC/72/INF/9	Opening Statement by the Assistant Director-General / Regional Representative for Africa (Technical Committees)
ARC/72/INF/10	List of FAO Staff attending the Seventh FAO Regional Conference for Africa

B. Background Documents

ARC/72/1	Agenda
ARC/72/1(a)	Annotated Agenda
ARC/72/2	Regional Representative's review of FAO's activities in the Region
ARC/72/3	International aspects of agricultural adjustments within the overall framework of the African strategy during DD2

ARC/72/4	Nutrition Programme activities in relation to food development policy in Africa
ARC/72/5	Forestry activities in Africa
ARC/72/6	Livestock development - Beef - A challenge for Africa
ARC/72/7	Land and Water resources development in Africa
ARC/72/8	Intra-regional trade and cooperation in the field of agriculture
ARC/72/9	Rural employment problems as related to the agricultural development programme in Africa
ARC/72/10	The state of agricultural education and research - Current trends and future orientation
ARC/72/11	The Regional Medium-Term Programme - Trends and orientation
ARC/72/12	The role and functions of Regional Offices, SAA/Country Offices Headquarters and their interrelationships

C. Conference Documents

ARC/72/CONF/1	Director-General's introductory statement
ARC/72/CONF/2	Statement by the Executive Secretary of ECA
ARC/72/CONF/3	Statement by the Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa

D. Reports

ARC/72/REP/II	Report of Technical Committees I and II
ARC/72/REP/III	Reports of the Plenary Session of the Conference
ARC/72/REP/IV	Report of the Seventh FAO Regional Conference for Africa

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE I

14-18 September, 1972

OFFICERS

M. Paul KOUNDA KIKI Directeur de l'Economie rurale République Gabonaise	Chairman
Mr. Alfred MACHAYO Head, Crop Production Division Ministry of Agriculture Kenya	First Vice-Chairman
M. Cheikh Youba BENANI Directeur de l'Agriculture Mauritanie	Second Vice-Chairman
Mr. L.J. MARENAH Director of Agriculture The Gambia	Third Vice-Chairman

Agenda

- (i) Nutrition Programme activities in relation to food development policy in Africa (Doc. ARC/72/4)
- (ii) Livestock development - Beef - A challenge for Africa (Doc. ARC/72/6)
- (iii) Land and Water resources development in Africa (Doc. ARC/72/7)
- (iv) Forestry activities in Africa (Doc. ARC/72/5)

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE II

18-22 September, 1972

OFFICERS

Ato Ayele YESHEWALUL Assistant Minister Ministry of Agriculture Ethiopia	Chairman
M. Joseph TCHICAYA Directeur général des Services agricole et zootechnique People's Democratic Republic of the Congo	First Vice-Chairman

Mr. G.D. MASON
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture and
Natural Resources
Sierra Leone

Second Vice-Chairman

M. Basile AMAIZO
Directeur Vétérinaire
Conseiller Technique au
Ministère de l'Economie Rurale
Togo

Third Vice-Chairman

Agenda

- (i) Intra-regional trade and economic cooperation in the field of agriculture (Doc. ARC/72/8)
- (ii) Rural employment problems as related to the agricultural development programmes in Africa (Doc. ARC/72/9)
- (iii) The state of agricultural education (Doc. ARC/72/10(a))
- (iv) The state of agricultural research (Doc. ARC/72/10(b))

