



منظمة الأغذية
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粮食及
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Agriculture
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the
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des
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pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación



COUNCIL

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AGRICULTURE

(Rome, 27-31 March 1995)

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MATTERS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

The Committee:

Programme Implementation Report; Medium- and Long-Term Perspectives in Food and Agriculture (1996-2001/2010) and Priorities for Major Programme: Agriculture 1996-97

- i) voiced reservations on the priorities for 1996-97 (para. 6);
- ii) acknowledged that replies submitted by Member Nations to the FAO questionnaire on programme priorities had been a useful tool to support programme formulation in 1996-97 but considered that this could not substitute for debate and consensus building at COAG; requested that results of such questionnaires be distributed (para. 7);
- iii) requested FAO to concentrate on those areas where it had a comparative advantage and it had a catalytic role to play; and to reduce activities in lower priority areas where its contribution was less urgent (para. 10);
- iv) encouraged FAO to work more closely and expand its partnership with other UN organizations and agencies as well as with other international, regional and national organizations, the NGO community and the private sector (para. 12);
- v) urged accelerated action in follow-up to UNCED and recommended that Agenda 21 should continue to guide activities, especially those for which FAO is Task Manager (para. 13);
- vi) stressed the necessity for better feedback of evaluation findings into the design phase of projects (para. 14);
- vii) endorsed the view that poverty alleviation, food security and nutrition should rank high among FAO's priorities (para. 15);
- viii) stressed the need for human development, to the greatest extent possible, as the primary resource for ensuring sustainable food security (para. 16);
- ix) agreed that, in order to improve agricultural trade, FAO should provide assistance and policy advice to member countries so that they may adapt to the changes arising from the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture (para. 19);
- x) urged that WAICENT statistics and information be made more readily available to Members requesting them (para. 20);
- xi) agreed that IPM should continue to receive high priority in 1996-97; encouraged the establishment of a joint programme co-sponsored by FAO, UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank (para. 25);
- xii) agreed on the priority accorded to rinderpest under the EMPRES programme and urged that foot-and mouth disease could also be addressed wherever it arises as soon as possible (para. 27);
- xiii) agreed that research development should have considerable priority (para. 29);
- xiv) stressed the importance of analysing the impact of changes in the trading environment for all Members as a result of the Uruguay Round, and especially the impact on food security for the least developed and net food importing countries; called for strengthening the development of food quality and safety standards by the Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission and phytosanitary standards under the IPPC, and for strengthened programmes to assist developing member countries to benefit from and fully implement the new agreements; strongly supported FAO's efforts in gaining observer status in relevant bodies of the World Trade Organization (para. 30);
- xv) in reviewing the status of implementing WAICENT, urged FAO: to provide electronic access to its information resources; to make determined efforts to strengthen the capacities of member countries in accessing the information and to develop national systems so that national data could be readily transferred to the WAICENT system; to continue improving the system by renewed efforts to consult with information users (para. 31);

The management of global animal genetic resources

- xvi) agreed that FAO was the appropriate institution to facilitate this programme regionally and globally and to assist countries to develop cost-effective and sustainable management strategies (para. 33);
- xvii) urged that the Global Strategy be structured as far as possible so as not to be unduly dependent on extra-budgetary resources (para. 35);
- xviii) welcomed the financial support that had already been made available by donors and recommended that FAO call a donor's meeting to determine the likely level of extra-budgetary funding realistically available for the medium term and the implication of funding availability on the programme's implementation rate (para. 36);

Broadening the mandate of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources (CPGR) to include other categories of organisms used for food and agriculture

- xix) agreed to recommend to the Council that the Commission's mandate be broadened to include other categories of organisms of interest for food and agriculture, and to encourage Council to recommend to the Conference that it do so at its session later in 1995; also recommended that the implementation of the broadened mandate take place through a step-by-step process, beginning with animal genetic resources, and felt that the broadened Commission should be assisted by sectoral working groups on plants, animals, forestry and fishery genetic resources; there was no consensus as to whether the working groups should be composed of government representatives or technical experts serving in a personal capacity (para. 39);
- xx) agreed that the mode of broadening the Commission should not adversely affect the important processes under way within the CPGR for the revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources and for the preparation of the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources, planned for June 1996; suggested to the Council that the broadening of the CPGR should commence in 1996 and that the practical modalities of implementing the broadened mandate could be considered at the earliest in early 1996 and at the latest during the CPGR's seventh regular session in April 1997; the financial implications should be further analysed and reflected in the 1996-97 Programme of Work and Budget (para. 40);
- xxi) suggested that in the interim period until the Commission can implement its broadened mandate and in the light of the Conference's decision as to the nature of the working groups and the timetable for the step-by-step process, FAO should undertake a number of detailed studies and analyses, beginning in 1996, to facilitate the implementation of the Conference decision; these tasks could be carried out by interim *ad hoc* technical groups to be established immediately following Conference action for animals, and at a later stage for fishery genetic resources; the recommendations of these groups would be brought to the attention of COAG and COFI respectively; in the case of forestry, there was already a panel of experts whose views had been brought to the attention of COFO (para. 41);

Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and preparations for the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development: reporting on the implementation of Agenda 21

- xxii) recommended that resources be allocated in the 1996-97 Programme of Work and Budget in order to ensure adequate support to UNCED follow-up (para. 42);
- xxiii) regarding Chapter 13, Sustainable Mountain Development, agreed with the need to devote particular attention to empowerment of mountain communities, particularly with respect to women, to the alleviation of poverty and the development of infrastructure and services (para. 45);

- xxiv) recommended that FAO give particular attention to the contribution of policies to employment generation and social integration and equity, especially with regard to women, and the optimal use of the natural resource potential; urged the development of agro-ecological and sustainability indicators for decision-making and monitoring purposes (para. 46);
- xxv) recommended due consideration of traditional systems and indigenous knowledge in fostering the development of environmentally sound technology (para. 47);
- xxvi) urged FAO to continue to ensure a concerted effort with all partners in support of national action for sustainable development (para. 49);

Review of Standards for plant quarantine harmonization

- xxvii) endorsed in principle the Standards on Guidelines for Pest Risk Analysis and the International Code of Conduct on the Import and Release of Exotic Biological Control Agents subject to a review by the CEPM of proposed changes, and consensus being reached on these amendments; recommended that both Standards be forwarded to Council for approval and to Conference for adoption (para. 52);
- xxviii) noted that the procedures adopted by the Twenty-seventh Session of Conference provided for Standards to be endorsed by COAG before being submitted to Council; however, in view of the urgency for the Standard "Requirement for the Establishment of a Pest Free Area" recommended that in this particular case Council and Conference consider this Standard without further reference to COAG provided that a consensus on the text could be reached by the CEPM; noted, however, that the procedures adopted by Conference were binding and that it was for Conference itself to decide whether strict adherence to the procedures could be waived in this particular case (para. 53);
- xxix) recommended that Step 9 of the Steps in the Development of Harmonized International Standards and Guidelines be removed from the procedure to develop and endorse Standards (para. 54);
- xxx) recommended that the amendment of the IPPC be discussed at the next Conference to bring it into line with the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement of the Uruguay Round and recent developments in establishing standard-setting machinery under the IPPC; recognized that this amendment process would have financial implications and requested the Secretariat to provide information to Council and Conference on the financial implications for the next biennium (para. 55);
- xxxii) recommended sufficient resources be made available to develop satisfactory plant quarantine harmonization procedures and to implement information exchange (para. 56);
- xxxiii) recommended that technical assistance be provided to enable Members to meet export requirements in relation to phytosanitary measures and to protect their plant health (para. 57);

Review of the implementation of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides

- xxxiiii) called on all parties concerned to ensure the safe, efficient and environmentally sound management of pesticides (para. 59);
- xxxv) expressed its concern at the continued use of highly toxic formulations of pesticides where these could not be used safely (para. 60);
- xxxvi) recommended that the Secretariat should start to collect views from all parties concerned on those parts of the Code which would require updating, with the aim of concluding the revision of the Code by the end of the century (para. 61);

- xxxvi) welcomed the initiative designed to develop a legally binding instrument on PIC and the close collaboration between FAO and UNEP, indicating that such an instrument should be developed on the basis of the present PIC procedure, and hoped that experience gained in the present procedure would contribute to the development of a legally binding instrument consistent with GATT principles (para. 62);

Follow-up to the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN) Plan of Action

- xxxvii) called upon FAO and WHO to examine the possibility of convening an ICN follow-up meeting for developed countries in late 1996 or early 1997 (para. 64);
- xxxviii) requested FAO to strengthen its efforts to report on the impact of ICN follow-up activities at the country level (para. 66);
- xxxix) called upon the UN agencies to strengthen their coordination and collaboration in initiating and supporting ICN follow-up activities (para. 67);
- xl) called upon the donor community to support and assist governments in addressing the priority nutrition problems identified in the overall development plans; urged FAO to continue its strong support to ICN follow-up, including greater use of the Technical Cooperation Programme for this purpose (para. 68);
- xli) called upon FAO to obtain up-to-date information from all Members and stressed that the report on ICN implementation for the 1995 Conference should be both analytical and forward-looking; several Members stressed that the report should be a key input into the World Food Summit process (para. 69);

Other matters

Shifting discussion of nutrition matters from the Committee on Agriculture to the Committee on Food Security

- xlii) provisionally supported the shift and requested the Secretariat to further analyse arguments for and against in order to present a formal proposal for Council consideration based on discussions at COAG and CFS of the issues involved (para. 70).

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Thirteenth Session (Rome, 27-31 March 1995) was attended by representatives of 93 of the 104 Members of the Committee, and by observers from six other Member Nations of FAO. Also participating were observers from two United Nations Member States and the Holy See, representatives of five United Nations and specialized agencies and observers from 22 Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations having status with FAO, and one institute of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research. The list of Members of the Committee is attached as Appendix B, and the List of Delegates and Observers as Appendix C.

Election of Officers

2. In accordance with Rule I of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee elected Mr Hans Popp (Switzerland) as Chairman of the Committee, Mr Mohamed Said Mohamed Ali Harbi (Sudan) as First Vice-Chairman and Mr Che Ani Bin Saad (Malaysia) as Second Vice-Chairman.

3. The Committee appointed the following members to the Drafting Committee: Germany, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mauritania, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Senegal, Tanzania, United States of America and Uruguay. Mr Mame Balla Sy (Senegal) was elected as Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable for the Session

4. The Agenda as adopted is set out in Appendix A and the List of Documents is given in Appendix D.

Statement by the Director-General

5. The Committee heard a statement by the Director-General which was delivered on his behalf by the Deputy Director-General. This statement is attached as Appendix E.

II. PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION REPORT¹ AND MEDIUM- AND LONG-TERM PERSPECTIVES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (1996-2001/2010) AND PRIORITIES FOR MAJOR PROGRAMME: AGRICULTURE 1996-97²

General

6. The Committee appreciated the reporting and coverage given to specific activities in the implementation report. Concerns were raised, however, about the partial coverage in the information, lack of critical performance data and information on how subjects had been selected for review. The Committee requested that future versions contain a summary overview of the Major Programme, including financial and output data, while still retaining analysis of selected issues. It deeply regretted that tentative resource data for the programmes and priorities for the next biennium had not been made available to the Committee which was normally done and which would have allowed a constructive and clearly expressed view from Members. The Committee noted the explanation from the Secretariat that this was due to delays arising from the organizational and programme restructuring process and was assured that such information would be available in future reports. Reservations were voiced on the priorities for 1996-97 and rapid distribution of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1996-97 was requested.

¹ COAG/95/3.

² COAG/95/4.

7. The Committee acknowledged that replies submitted by Member Nations to the FAO questionnaire on programme priorities had been a useful tool to support programme formulation in 1996-97 but considered that this could not substitute for debate and consensus building at COAG. A request was made that results of such questionnaires be distributed.
8. The Committee was assured that the changes in programme structure to be introduced in the Programme of Work and Budget would not affect coverage of the major programme areas considered by COAG.
9. The Committee, noting that food security and Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) were the overriding priorities, reaffirmed its commitment to the follow up to the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN) and the United Nations' Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). Although the lack of quantitative information on the programmes considered by COAG precluded an in-depth review of their relative priority, Members provided a number of comments regarding their individual programme preferences. As recognized by the Special Programme for Food Production in Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries, sustainable increases in food production and productivity were considered to be essential to food security, especially in low-income countries, taking into account the special needs of small farmers and preserving the environment.
10. Recalling the very substantial contributions of other important actors in the field of agricultural and rural development, the Committee requested FAO to concentrate on those areas in which it felt that FAO had a comparative advantage and where it had to play a catalytic role. In order to direct its efforts to high priorities and remain within its budget, FAO would have to reduce activities in lower priority areas where FAO's contribution was less urgent. The latter areas should include those which were better left to other institutions that had more specialized technical competence and where FAO had no normative role.
11. The Committee noted with interest the actions under way by the Director-General to restructure the Organization in order to strengthen it as a centre of excellence on food and agriculture with the ultimate view of improving its efficiency and effectiveness in implementing the approved programme of work. The importance of the agreements on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) was emphasized. Some delegations stressed the cost effectiveness of TCDC and advocated its use as a means to partly compensate for declining resources. The Committee recognized the value of this modality in transfer of techniques and sharing of experiences between developing countries. It encouraged FAO to devote greater attention to normative work to enhance its role as a centre of excellence and to assist capacity building in member countries.
12. The Committee endorsed the actions taken by the Director-General to enhance cooperation and collaboration between FAO and its partners. It encouraged FAO to work more closely and expand its partnership with other UN organizations and agencies as well as with other international, regional and national organizations, the NGO community and the private sector.
13. The Committee urged accelerated action in follow-up to UNCED and recommended that Agenda 21 should continue to guide activities, especially those for which FAO is Task Manager. It singled out areas within the purview of COAG, such as Chapter 10, Integrated approach to the planning and management of land resources, Chapter 13, Sustainable mountain development and Chapter 14, Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development.
14. The Committee took note of the review of selected field projects, which had highlighted some of the strengths and weaknesses in project design and implementation. It stressed the necessity for better feed-back of evaluation findings into the design phase of projects and was

informed that key aspects of the on-going restructuring would contribute to this process. It also stressed the link between field programmes and the Regular Programme.

Medium- and long-term priorities

15. In noting the perspectives for food and agriculture to the year 2010, the Committee endorsed the view that poverty alleviation, food security and nutrition should rank high among FAO's priorities.

16. The Committee stressed the need for human development, to the greatest extent possible, as the primary resource for ensuring sustainable food security. Training and extension, promotion of women in development, enhancement of the participatory process and promotion of cooperative movements were highlighted as key elements in this process.

17. Whilst recognizing the contribution of land and water resources development to food security and agricultural development, the Committee noted that resource degradation often resulted from high population pressure. It stressed the need for appropriate management of these resources and noted the close link of these activities with environmental issues. The collaboration with other organizations was noted.

18. The Committee confirmed the importance of assistance to strengthen member countries' capacity for policy analysis, particularly when incorporating environmental, socio-economic, sustainable development and gender considerations into agricultural policies and programmes.

19. The Committee agreed that, in order to improve agricultural trade, FAO should provide assistance and policy advice to member countries so that they may adapt to the changes arising from the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture, take advantage of the opportunities for them to better participate in agricultural trade and to allow them to prepare for forthcoming rounds of multilateral trade negotiations on agriculture.

20. The Committee confirmed FAO's comparative advantage as a provider of high quality global agricultural statistics and information, and urged that World Agricultural Information Centre (WAICENT) statistics and information be made more readily available to Members requesting them.

21. The Committee reaffirmed FAO's role as a forum for the resolution of food and agricultural issues of importance to its Members.

Proposals for 1996-97

22. The Committee emphasized the need to concentrate on optimal natural resource utilization, including the promotion of more efficient use of land and water and use of small-scale irrigation practices where appropriate. It stressed the necessity to control water for food security and the integrated management of land and plant nutrient resources, noting that Regular Programme resources would have to be complemented by extra-budgetary funding and that national capacity building would be necessary in many instances.

23. The Committee supported the application of farming systems analysis to guide actions for improving agricultural production and the use of farm management data in agricultural planning and extension activities.

24. The Committee emphasized that raising production and promoting crop diversification were instrumental in ensuring food security under a wide range of environments. It confirmed the priority given to the Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and

Diseases (EMPRES) and to the work on plant genetic resources. It stressed the role of the International Plant Protection Convention in facilitating implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements.

25. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) was recognized as one of the keys to sustainable development and food security, in particular due to its beneficial impact on the environment, use of participatory approaches and its cost effectiveness. The Committee agreed that it should continue to receive high priority in 1996-97. The establishment of a joint programme co-sponsored by FAO, UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank was encouraged.

26. The Committee stressed the importance of reducing post-harvest losses and adding value through agro-industry, both at the farm and national levels. More support services were required throughout the post-harvest chain to improve market efficiency and income opportunities. Food irradiation was noted as one technical possibility to reduce losses.

27. The Committee acknowledged that livestock provided an important contribution to rural economies. It commended the work on livestock development strategies whereby member countries themselves determined the most appropriate elements with FAO assistance. Mention was also made that it might be appropriate to establish a Livestock Committee which would pay particular attention to issues in this important sector. The emphasis on animal genetic resources was endorsed. The Committee agreed on the priority accorded to rinderpest under the EMPRES programme and urged that foot-and-mouth disease could also be addressed wherever it arises, as soon as possible.

28. Work on the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) for control of selected animal and plant pests was acknowledged as an environmentally friendly and cost effective method of control, and also an example of successful inter-agency collaboration.

29. The Committee agreed that research development should have considerable priority. It stressed that collaborative activities and interaction with national and international research organizations, in particular the CGIAR centres, could ensure complementarity of action while enhancing FAO's awareness of new technologies.

30. The Committee stressed the importance of analysing the impact of changes in the trading environment for all Members as a result of the Uruguay Round, and especially the impact on food security for the least developed and net food importing countries. It called for strengthening the development of food quality and safety standards by the Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission and phytosanitary standards under the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), and for strengthened programmes to assist developing member countries to benefit from and fully implement the new agreements. The Committee strongly supported FAO's efforts in gaining observer status in relevant bodies of the World Trade Organization.

31. In reviewing the status of implementation of the World Agricultural Information Centre (WAICENT), the Committee urged FAO:

- to provide electronic access to its information sources;
- to make determined efforts to strengthen the capacities of member countries in accessing the information and to develop national systems so that national data could be readily transferred to the WAICENT system;
- to continue improving the system by renewed efforts to consult with information users.

The Committee was assured that FAO's traditional policy on information sharing with Members would be maintained.

III. THE MANAGEMENT OF GLOBAL ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES³

32. The Committee acknowledged the fundamental importance of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture in achieving highly productive and sustainable agricultural (crop and livestock) systems, and recognized that insufficient attention had been paid to this sector of agrobiodiversity by the international community. It recognized that a large proportion of these irreplaceable resources was now at risk, largely because of concentration on a few specialized breeds.

33. The Committee noted that many members were currently developing national programmes for the better management of their animal genetic resources. It was generally agreed that FAO was the appropriate institution to facilitate this action regionally and globally, and to assist countries to develop cost-effective and sustainable management strategies. It would be necessary to involve governments, international research, development and funding agencies and non-governmental organizations to promote the development and use of sustainable breeding objectives, and use of a larger number of indigenous breeds, as well as to maintain adequate levels of diversity for future use, in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity. National capacities should be enhanced, as provided for in Agenda 21. The Committee also noted that the One Hundred-and-Third Session of the Council had supported the establishment by FAO of a centre for farm animal diversity to help identify the Organization's key role in the conservation and management of global animal genetic resources.

34. The Committee agreed that a number of imperative actions were required for the successful management of animal genetic resources. These included: to identify and understand unique resources; to develop and properly utilize them; to monitor the status of those at risk; to preserve those unique resources which were not currently in demand; to train and involve national cadres; and to communicate to world opinion the importance of their sustainable management.

35. The Committee noted with satisfaction the development by FAO of a Global Strategy for the Management of Animal Genetic Resources and its key components: an intergovernmental mechanism; a geographically distributed global structure; activities grouped into seven work elements; and expert panels ensuring sound advice for the Strategy's implementation. The Committee endorsed the comprehensive framework for managing these irreplaceable resources, as provided by the Strategy. The Committee recognized that the programme of proposed activities was ambitious and that its success depended upon governments assuming tasks at the national level and on the availability of resources from national, regional and international sources. The Committee urged that the Global Strategy be structured as far as possible so as not to be unduly dependent on extra-budgetary resources. Implementation may need to be initially focused in its species-coverage, and/or extended beyond the proposed 15-year period. Early validation of the information system on domestic animal diversity was a necessity.

36. The Committee welcomed the financial support that had already been made available by donors and recommended that FAO call a donors' meeting to determine the likely level of extra-budgetary funding realistically available for the medium term and the implication of funding availability on the programme's implementation rate.

37. The Committee noted that the possibility of obtaining Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding for appropriate parts of the programme, and especially its global research activity, would depend upon the criteria established by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

³ COAG/95/5.

**BROADENING THE MANDATE OF THE COMMISSION ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
(CPGR) TO INCLUDE OTHER CATEGORIES OF ORGANISMS USED FOR FOOD
AND AGRICULTURE⁴**

38. The Committee noted that the Hundred-and-Seventh Session of the Council had discussed the possible broadening of the mandate of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, to cover also other categories of organisms of interest for food and agriculture. It recalled that, in that session, the Council had raised a number of questions, and had referred the matter to COAG, COFO and COFI, as well as to the Programme and Finance Committees, so that it might again be discussed at its Hundred-and-Eighth Session, on the basis of their comments. The Council could then make recommendations to the Conference, which was the body empowered to decide on the possible broadening of the mandate. The questions raised by the Council were addressed by the Secretariat in document COAG/95/5 Supp.1, which was discussed by the Committee.

39. The Committee agreed to recommend to the Hundred-and-Eighth Session of the Council that the Commission's mandate be broadened to include other categories of organisms of interest for food and agriculture, and to encourage the Council to recommend to the Conference that it do so at its Twenty-eighth Session later this year. However, it also recommended that the implementation of the broadened mandate take place through a step-by-step process, beginning with animal genetic resources. The broadened "Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture" would be able to provide guidance to FAO on agrobiodiversity and technical assistance to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, as appropriate. The Committee also felt that, in order to maintain a clear focus in each sector, the broadened Commission should be assisted by sectoral working groups, with a geographic balance, on plants, animals, forestry and fishery genetic resources. There was no consensus as to whether the working groups should be composed of government representatives, or of technical experts serving in a personal capacity.

40. It was further agreed that the mode of broadening the Commission's scope should not adversely affect the important processes under way within the Commission for the revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, and for the preparation of the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources, planned for June 1996. The Committee, therefore, suggested to the Council that the broadening of the Commission should commence in 1996 and that the practical modalities of implementing the broadened mandate could be considered at the earliest in early 1996 and at the latest during the Commission's seventh regular session, in April 1997. The financial implications should be further analysed and reflected in the 1996-97 Programme of Work and Budget.

41. It was suggested that, in the interim period, until the Commission was actually prepared to implement its broadened mandate and in the light of the Conference's decision as to the nature of the working groups and the timetable for the step-by-step process, FAO should undertake a number of detailed studies and analyses, beginning in 1996, to facilitate the implementation of the Conference decision. These tasks could be carried out by interim *ad hoc* technical groups to be established immediately following Conference decision for animals, and at a later stage for fishery genetic resources. The recommendations of these groups would be brought to the attention of COAG and COFI respectively. In the case of forestry, there was already a panel of experts whose views had been brought to the attention of COFO.

⁴ COAG/95/5 Supp.1 and COAG/95/Inf.5.

IV. FOLLOW-UP TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCED) AND PREPARATIONS FOR THE THIRD SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: REPORTING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21⁵

42. The Committee concurred, in general terms, with the conclusions contained in the report of the *Ad Hoc* Intersessional Working Group on Sectoral Issues (AHWGSI) to be considered by the Third Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). It expressed its satisfaction for the way in which the Organization had contributed as Task Manager to the preparation and presentation of the Reports of the UN Secretary General which were entrusted to FAO. The Committee recognized that FAO would need to continue to support in the most effective way the implementation of UNCED follow-up particularly regarding Chapters 10, 13 and 14 of Agenda 21 and recommended that resources be allocated in the 1996-97 Programme of Work and Budget in order to ensure adequate support to UNCED follow-up.

43. Concerning Chapter 10 on integrated approach to the planning and management of land resources, the Committee agreed on the importance for countries to have appropriate tools and enhanced information for decision-making, to develop national land-use policies and plans and undertake land management programmes within a participatory process involving all stakeholders concerned. The Committee underlined the need to create the economic and legal conditions which encourage and reward sustainable land use. The Committee also agreed that Chapter 10, being of a broad encompassing nature, should provide a framework to harmonize land uses, including the requirements of the Conventions on Biological Diversity and Combating Desertification and Drought, as well as giving special attention to forest lands.

44. Most delegations concurred with the AHWGSI recommendation not to support the proposals for a covenant on good land use and for an international working group as contained in the Secretary General's report. The Committee was informed by the delegation of the Netherlands of the main conclusions from the Workshop organized in Wageningen from 20-22 February 1995, in cooperation with FAO, the recommendations of which complemented those contained in the Task Manager's report and which would be further considered by the CSD.

45. With regard to Chapter 13, Sustainable Mountain Development, the Committee agreed with the need to devote particular attention to empowerment of mountain communities, particularly women, and to the alleviation of poverty and the development of infrastructure and services in order to incorporate mountain areas in the mainstream of sustainable development efforts. The Committee highlighted the links with tourism and also the importance of watershed management in the uplands to protect water resources and downstream areas. The Committee also agreed that the exchange of experience through regional and sub-regional intergovernmental and NGO consultations would contribute to the process of developing appropriate strategies and programmes for sustainable development of mountains. Several delegations supported the initiative for an international meeting, as mentioned in the report of the AHWGSI, to facilitate exchange of objectives, results and experience of sustainable development in different mountain regions. Other delegations expressed the view that regional and sub-regional intergovernmental and NGO efforts were preferable.

46. Reviewing the proposals related to Chapter 14, SARD, the Committee recommended that FAO, following an integrated approach in fostering action on SARD, give particular attention to the contribution of policies to employment generation and social integration and equity, especially with regard to women, and the optimal use of the natural resource potential, avoiding the undesirable impacts of intensification of agriculture in certain areas, while giving due attention to the need for increased production of food to alleviate poverty and malnutrition, especially among poor

⁵ COAG/95/6 and COAG/95/6 Supp.1.

communities. The Committee urged the development of agro-ecological and sustainability indicators for decision-making and monitoring purposes, taking into account the great variety of situations in which they would have to be applied.

47. In relation to appropriate technologies, the Committee recommended due consideration of traditional systems and indigenous knowledge in fostering the development of environmentally sound technology; a systems approach in SARD including IPM, Integrated Plant Nutrition Systems (IPNS) and other integrated approaches; the integration of energy in SARD programmes in collaboration with other competent organizations; and increased attention to *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation of genetic resources and to their sustainable utilization.

48. Several delegations expressed the need to study the economic, social and environmental impacts, both negative and beneficial, resulting from the Uruguay Round agreements on liberalization of trade. With respect to taking into consideration external factors in agricultural production, some delegations, while noting the validity of the polluter-pays principle, cautioned on its application to agricultural activities which are mainly non-point sources of pollution.

49. The Committee recalled that FAO had a clear mandate as Task Manager within the United Nations system in promoting international action related to Chapters 10, 13 and 14 of Agenda 21, in close collaboration with the CSD and in partnership with other international organizations. It urged FAO to continue to ensure a concerted effort with all partners in support of national action for sustainable development.

V. REVIEW OF STANDARDS FOR PLANT QUARANTINE HARMONIZATION⁶

50. The Committee considered two Standards developed by the Secretariat of the IPPC in close cooperation with Regional Plant Protection Organizations. These were the Guidelines for Pest Risk Analysis and the International Code of Conduct on the Import and Release of Exotic Biological Control Agents.

51. The Committee considered the "Guidelines for Pest Risk Analysis" to have great significance. While many Members indicated that they were willing to accept the document as presented, a number of other members wished to include new terms as well as seeking further clarification of the meaning of certain terms in the guidelines. Some members introduced additional amendments. Concerning the Code of Conduct for the Import and Release of Exotic Biological Control Agents, substantial changes to the text were suggested.

52. The Committee endorsed the two Standards in principle subject to a review by the Committee of Experts on Phytosanitary Measures (CEPM) of proposed changes and a consensus being reached on these amendments, and recommended that both Standards be forwarded to the Council for its approval and the Conference for adoption. In this context every effort should be made to ensure that the conclusions and recommendations of the CEPM be made available to Council Members in adequate time to allow for informed discussion on the matter at the Council Session.

53. The Committee noted the progress made on the Standard "Requirements for the Establishment of a Pest Free Area". It considered the Standard of critical importance and expressed its concern that it could not be submitted to COAG due to lack of consensus. The Committee noted that the procedures adopted by the Conference at its Twenty-seventh Session in November 1993 required the Standards to be endorsed by COAG before being submitted to Council. However, in view of the urgency for such a Standard, the Committee recommended that, in this particular case, the Council and Conference should consider this Standard without further reference to COAG

⁶ COAG/95/7 and COAG/95/7 Corr.1.

provided that a consensus on the text could be reached by the CEPM. It noted, however, that the procedures adopted by the Conference were binding and that it was for the Conference itself to decide whether strict adherence to the procedures could be waived in this particular case. While agreeing to this procedure, some Members cautioned against deviating from the normal procedure apart from in exceptional cases. They also underlined the need for governments to review revised Standards before their consideration by FAO Governing Bodies.

54. The Committee discussed the procedure to develop and endorse Standards. It agreed that it would be premature to make major changes to the interim mechanism for the development of harmonized international standards and guidelines. However, the Committee recommended that Step 9 (official acceptance by governments) be removed from the procedure as it would not add to the validity of the Standard in international trade and might cause confusion regarding the status of Standards during the period between their adoption by the Conference and their acceptance by individual Members of FAO.

55. The Committee recommended that the matter of the amendment of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) be discussed at the next FAO Conference with the aim of bringing the Convention into line with the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement of the Uruguay Round and recent developments in establishing standard setting machinery under the IPPC. The Committee recognized that this amendment process would have financial implications and requested the Secretariat to provide information to the Council and Conference on the financial implications for the next biennium. If the process of amendment of the IPPC were to be initiated and amendments adopted, the Committee recognized that this would require a commitment on the part of FAO Members to take action on such amendments in a timely fashion to avoid lengthy delays in their entry into force.

56. The Committee considered the work on harmonization, information exchange and technical assistance to implement plant quarantine of paramount importance to plant health and trade. It recommended that sufficient resources be made available to develop satisfactory plant quarantine harmonization procedures and to implement information exchange with the aim of reducing unjustified trade barriers while maintaining an adequate level of protection against introduction of pests of quarantine significance.

57. The Committee noted that the majority of developing countries would not be in a position to fully apply international phytosanitary standards. It therefore recommended that technical assistance be provided to enable Members to meet export requirements in relation to phytosanitary measures and to protect their plant health by taking adequate plant quarantine measures.

VI. REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT ON THE DISTRIBUTION AND USE OF PESTICIDES⁷

58. The Committee considered the preliminary results of the survey of the second Questionnaire to Governments on the Implementation of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. The Committee noted that progress had been made on legislation and regulations in developing countries. It expressed its disappointment that although efforts had been made to improve pest and pesticide management, the conditions of pesticide distribution, trade and use remained a serious concern in many countries.

59. The Committee called on all parties concerned to ensure the safe, efficient and environmentally sound management of pesticides within the principles of Integrated Pest Management, sustainable development and overall improvement of the quality of life. The

⁷ COAG/95/8.

Committee emphasized the need for implementation assistance, in particular to Africa which had the greatest need to strengthen its capacity to implement the Code.

60. The Committee expressed its concern at the continued use of highly toxic formulations of pesticides where these could not be used safely. The Committee drew attention to the existence of huge stocks of obsolete pesticides in developing countries that needed to be disposed of in a manner that is safe to human health and the environment, and noted with concern the resource requirements for such disposal.

61. The Committee confirmed the usefulness of the Code in outlining the responsibilities of the various parties in relation to pesticide distribution and use. It recognized that parts of the Code may need revision in view of changing technical, economic and social conditions. The revision should primarily concern pesticides management and should promote sustainable agriculture, especially through Integrated Pest Management. Emphasis should be put on environmental and long-term health effects. The Committee recommended that the Secretariat should start to collect views from all parties concerned on those parts of the Code which would require updating, with the aim of concluding the revision of the Code by the end of the century. The Committee was informed that the Secretariat would identify those parts of the Code which eventually could be transformed into a legally binding instrument.

62. The Committee welcomed the initiative designed to develop a legally binding instrument on Prior Informed Consent (PIC) and the close collaboration between FAO and UNEP. It indicated that such an instrument should be developed on the basis of the present PIC procedure. Nevertheless, it noted that the present procedure had weaknesses: in particular reference was made to the selection of pesticides for inclusion in the procedure, while its application was also hindered by infrastructural and/or human resource limitations in developing countries. While encouraging the adherence to the present voluntary procedure, the Committee hoped that experience gained in the present procedure would contribute to the development of a legally binding instrument consistent with GATT principles.

VII. FOLLOW-UP TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUTRITION (ICN) PLAN OF ACTION⁸

63. The Committee reviewed the document "Follow-up to the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN) Plan of Action" which summarized progress in meeting the goals and commitments made at the December 1992 ICN, and reported on FAO's activities to assist and support countries in their efforts to implement the World Plan of Action for Nutrition.

64. The Committee noted with satisfaction the many ICN follow-up activities that had been initiated in all regions and, in particular, the significant progress made by many countries in developing national plans of action for nutrition. It confirmed the need for all countries, as well as FAO and other relevant UN agencies, to continue efforts at national, regional and international levels to implement the ICN recommendations. It noted the usefulness of the regional ICN follow-up meetings that had been held for developing countries and called upon FAO and WHO to examine the possibility of convening a similar meeting for developed countries in late 1996 or early 1997.

65. The Committee endorsed the high priority given by FAO to ICN follow-up and commended FAO on the wide range of ICN-related activities initiated in the last two years. The Committee appreciated the strong response by FAO to requests by member countries for assistance on ICN follow-up activities and stressed the need for the Organization to continue assisting countries to follow-up the ICN effectively.

⁸ COAG/95/9.

66. Many delegations stressed the importance of giving adequate attention to rural and peri-urban poor populations which often had the most severe nutritional problems. It emphasized the crucial role of food production, preservation, processing and marketing as the basis of poverty alleviation, improved access to more and better quality foods, and for sustained overall development and nutritional improvement. Particular emphasis was given to improved food quality and safety, food based approaches to solving micronutrient problems, monitoring and assessment of food and nutrition situations, and research on and better utilization of traditional food crops. It also called attention to the need to consider environmental and gender issues in efforts to improve household food security and nutritional well-being. FAO was requested to strengthen its efforts to report on the impact of ICN follow-up activities at the country level using appropriate food and nutrition-based indicators.

67. The Committee confirmed the importance of effective cooperation among FAO, WHO and other UN agencies in initiating and supporting ICN follow-up activities and called upon the UN agencies to strengthen their coordination and collaboration. In this regard, the Committee noted the important role that the ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition (ACC/SCN) should play in promoting better cooperation among its participating members.

68. The Committee recognized the fundamental role of national plans of action for nutrition in developing effective activities to improve nutrition and in incorporating nutrition components into overall development plans. Although the prime responsibility for implementing national plans of action for nutrition rested with governments, the Committee stressed that the successful implementation of national plans in many developing countries would require additional support and called upon the donor community to support and assist governments in addressing the priority nutrition problems identified in the plans. The Committee also urged FAO to continue its strong support to ICN follow-up, including greater use of the Technical Cooperation Programme for this purpose. The Committee expressed satisfaction with the participation of NGOs in the ICN follow-up process and stressed the need for their continued strong involvement at both local and international levels.

69. The Committee noted that FAO, in cooperation with WHO, UNICEF and other international agencies, would be preparing a comprehensive report on ICN implementation for consideration by the FAO Conference in October in 1995. It called upon FAO to obtain up-to-date information from all Members and stressed that the report should be both analytical and forward-looking. Several Members stressed that the report should be a key input into the World Food Summit process.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Shifting discussion of nutrition matters from the Committee on Agriculture to the Committee on Food Security

70. The Committee noted the reasons in support of suggestions that debate on nutrition matters be shifted to the Committee on Food Security (CFS). It provisionally supported the shift and requested the Secretariat to further analyse arguments for and against in order to present a formal proposal for Council consideration based on discussions at COAG and CFS of the issues involved.

Other matters

71. The Committee noted that, in accordance with Rule IV of its Rules of Procedure, the Director-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee would prepare a provisional agenda for its Fourteenth Session which would take into account additional topics which had been proposed by Members for the present session, but which were not yet fully analysed by the Secretariat. The Committee was informed that the four standing items which remained on the Agenda were: Review of the Programme of Work and Budget in Food and Agriculture; Livestock; Sustainable Development and the Environment; and Crops.

72. The Committee noted the request of some Members that rural development matters appear as a standing agenda item, and further noted that specific items selected for debate on this subject could appear under the standing item on Sustainable Development in future sessions.

73. The Committee also noted the request that proposals regarding programme priorities should be supported by the required financial data in the documents prepared for future sessions of COAG.

Date and place of next session

74. The Committee noted that, in accordance with Rule XXXII-3 GRO and Rule II of its Rules of Procedure, its Fourteenth Session should be held at FAO Headquarters in Rome. The Director-General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, would propose the exact date, taking fully into account the overall meeting schedule of the Organization.

**APPENDIX A
AGENDA**

1. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen
Election of Drafting Committee and Chairman of Drafting Committee
2. Adoption of Agenda and Timetable for the Session

REVIEW OF FAO'S PROGRAMME OF WORK IN THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

3. Programme Implementation Report; Medium- and Long-Term Perspectives in Food and Agriculture (1996-2001/2010) and Priorities for Major Programme: Agriculture 1996-97

LIVESTOCK ISSUES

4. The Management of Global Animal Genetic Resources

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

5. Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and Preparations for the Third Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD): Reporting on the Implementation of Agenda 21

CROP ISSUES

6. Review of Standards for Plant Quarantine Harmonization
7. Review of the Implementation of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides

FOOD AND NUTRITION

8. Follow-up to the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN) Plan of Action

OTHER MATTERS

9. Other Business
10. Date and Place of Next Session

REPORT

11. Adoption of Report

APPENDIX B
LIST OF MEMBER NATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Albania	European Community	Niger
Algeria	Finland	Nigeria
Angola	France	Norway
Argentina	Gabon	Pakistan
Australia	Germany	Panama
Austria	Ghana	Papua New Guinea
Bangladesh	Greece	Peru
Belgium	Guinea	Philippines
Bolivia	Haiti	Poland
Brazil	Honduras	Portugal
Bulgaria	Hungary	Romania
Burkina Faso	India	Saudi Arabia,
Burundi	Indonesia	Kingdom of
Cameroon	Iran, Islamic Rep. of	Senegal
Canada	Iraq	Slovakia
Cape Verde	Ireland	Spain
Chad	Israel	Sudan
Chile	Italy	Swaziland
China	Japan	Sweden
Colombia	Kenya	Switzerland
Congo	Korea, Republic of	Tanzania
Costa Rica	Kuwait	Thailand
Côte d'Ivoire	Lesotho	The Former Yugoslav
Croatia	Libya	Rep. of Macedonia
Cuba	Lithuania	Tunisia
Cyprus	Madagascar	Turkey
Czech Republic	Malaysia	Uganda
Democratic People's	Malta	United Kingdom
Republic of Korea	Mauritania	United States of America
Denmark	Mauritius	Uruguay
Dominica	Mexico	Vanuatu
Dominican Rep.	Morocco	Venezuela
Ecuador	Myanmar	Zaire
Egypt	Netherlands	Zambia
El Salvador	New Zealand	Zimbabwe
Ethiopia	Nicaragua	

APPENDIX C
LIST OF DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS

قائمة المندوبين والمراقبين

代表和观察员名单

LIST OF DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS
LISTE DES DELEGUES ET OBSERVATEURS
LISTA DE DELEGADOS Y OBSERVADORES

الرئيس	:	
主席	:	
Chairman	:	Hans POPP
Président	:	(Suisse)
Presidente	:	
النائب الأول للرئيس	:	
第一副主席	:	محمد سعيد محمد علي حربي (السودان)
First Vice-Chairman	:	Mohamed Said Mohamed Ali HARBI
Premier Vice Président	:	(Sudan)
Primero Vicepresidente	:	
النائب الثاني للرئيس	:	
第二副主席	:	
Second Vice-Chairman	:	Che Ani Bin SAAD
Deuxième Vice Président	:	(Malaysia)
Segundo Vicepresidente	:	

أعضاء اللجنة
委员会成员
MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE
MEMBRES DU COMITE
MIEMBROS DEL COMITE

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المستشار
الممثل الدائم المناوب لدى المنظمة
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IRAN, REPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE D'-
IRAN, REPUBBLICA ISLAMICA DEL**

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			الممثل الدائم المناوب لدى المنظمة
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الممثل الدائم لدى المنظمة
روما

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DE MACEDOINE -

LA EX REPUBLICA YUGOSLAVA

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المراقبون من الدول الأعضاء في الأمم المتحدة

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Vatican City

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GIRL SCOUTS -
ASSOCIATION MONDIALE DES GUIDES ET DES
ECLAIREUSES -
ASOCIACION MUNDIAL DE LAS GUIAS SCOUTS**

Ms Elena LODI FÈ
Representative to FAO

Rome

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS -
FEDERATION SYNDICALE MONDIALE -
FEDERACION SINDICAL MUNDIAL

Mme Anna Laura CASADEI Rome
Représentante permanente auprès de l'OAA

WORLD UNION OF CATHOLIC WOMEN'S
ORGANIZATIONS -
UNION MONDIALE DES ORGANISATIONS FEMININES
CATHOLIQUES -
UNION MUNDIAL DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES
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المؤسسات التابعة للجماعة الاستشارية للبحوث الزراعية

国际农业研究咨询小组下属研究机构

INSTITUTES OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
INSTITUTS APPARTENANT AU GROUPE CONSULTATIF POUR LA RECHERCHE AGRICOLE INTERNATIONALE
INSTITUTO DEL GRUPO CONSULTIVO SOBRE INVESTIGACIÓN AGRÍCOLA INTERNACIONAL

INTERNATIONAL PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
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APPENDIX D
LIST OF DOCUMENTS

COAG/95/1	Provisional Annotated Agenda
COAG/95/2	Proposed Timetable
COAG/95/3	Programme Implementation Report
COAG/95/4	Medium- and Long-Term Perspectives in Food and Agriculture (1996-2001/2010) and Priorities for Major Programme: Agriculture 1996-97
COAG/95/5	The Management of Global Animal Genetic Resources
COAG/95/6	Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and Preparations for the Third Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development: Reporting on the Implementation of Agenda 21
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APPENDIX E
STATEMENT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL
Delivered by H.W. HJORT, Deputy Director-General

Mr Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates and Observers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you on behalf of the Director-General to the Thirteenth Session of the Committee on Agriculture. I extend to you, Mr Chairman, my warmest congratulations on your election to this important position. I am sure that under your capable guidance, there will be stimulating discussions of the issues before us that will in turn guide the Organization in moving them forward and responding to the perception and needs of its Members.

Mr Chairman, not only does the Director-General welcome the wide representation of Member Governments to this session of COAG as well as those of intergovernmental organizations, but also those representing the full range of non-governmental interests, including producers, consumers, environmentalists and others, either as members of national delegations or as invited observers. We welcome your presence and look forward to your views on the issues of the time.

This 13th session of COAG is the third in a sequence of sessions of technical committees to be held this spring in Rome, being preceded by sessions of COFI and COFO, as well as the Ministerial Meetings held in conjunction with them, and to be followed by sessions of the Committee on Commodity Problems and the Committee on Food Security.

I wish to note that this meeting comes at a crucial time, when we are preparing the programme of work for the coming biennium in accord with the restructuring process endorsed by Council last year. The recommendations of the Committee to the setting of priorities and shaping the programme for those areas within its technical purview will be very valuable in guiding Council in its deliberations on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1996-97.

COAG will review the work of Major Programme 2.1: Agriculture and will provide advice to the Council and the Director-General on the future programme of work and on the pressing issues associated with the restructured Major Programme 2.1. The large former Major Programme 2.1, which was allocated 36.7 percent of the approved budget for the current biennium, has been restructured into three Major Programmes: 2.1, Agricultural Production and Support Systems; 2.2, Food and Agricultural Policy and Development; and 2.5, Contributions to Sustainable Development and Special Programme Thrusts. Taken together, these three Major Programmes account for 35.6 percent of an unchanged total budget, with the remaining share in Chapter 3. The restructuring does not, however, affect the scope of COAG's review and advisory role.

Mr Chairman, I now turn to the structure and content of the agenda before you. COAG members were invited by the Director-General to identify the items they would wish to have on this and future agendas. The present agenda broadly reflects the views made in response to this invitation as well as the items recommended by the previous session of COAG, the traditional practice. You will note that in addition to the item on FAO's current and longer-term programme of work, the agenda items are grouped under four major headings, which refer to livestock, sustainable development, crops and nutrition.

In accord with General Rule XXXII 7 and consistent with your responses, it is proposed that both "livestock" and "crops" be standing items on your agenda. The specific subject under these items would of course depend upon the issues of the time. Sustainable development and environment matters are shared between COAG, COFI and COFO. However, Major Programme 2.5 contains the resources for Coordination and Promotion of Sustainable Development (2.5.5) on an Organization-wide basis, and therefore there is justification for "sustainable development" to also be a standing item on your agenda, with COAG being the most appropriate forum to discuss the multidisciplinary and interdepartmental issues involved.

Rule XXXII 6 (a) states that "The Committee shall conduct periodic reviews and appraisals, on a highly selective basis, of agricultural and nutrition problems, with a view to concerted action by Member Nations and the Organization." Nevertheless, the view has been expressed that the standing item on nutrition may be more appropriately considered in the future by the Committee on Food Security (CFS), due to the otherwise heavy agenda of COAG, the close relationship between nutrition and food security and the fact that the CFS meets annually and is open to non-members of FAO who are members of the UN.

Your views on this suggestion and those concerning livestock, crops and sustainable development are solicited on the structure of the agenda for future sessions of your Committee, under Item 9, Other Business.

I turn now, Mr Chairman, to touch upon the individual items before us, starting with what may be termed the programme-related issues which have been grouped under one agenda item and in only two documents. The content of the Programme Implementation Report has been revised in response to COAG requests to give more of an insight into the technical workings of Major Programme: Agriculture and its effectiveness both at Headquarters and in the field. It makes a selective presentation of reports on some main achievements, thematic programmes and field projects, including the results of evaluations which are the outcome of tri-partite independent missions.

Delegates doubtless will have noted the temporary departure from the established practice of providing a preview of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget with tentative resource allocations under Major Programme 2.1: Agriculture. This departure is contingent on the special circumstances of the ongoing restructuring process and attendant delay in the normal Programme of Work and Budget formulation process. I wish to stress, however, the importance of receiving guidance from COAG on relative priorities in this core programme area, as the programme of work and budget process moves forward to Council in June. I should add that the introduction to this agenda item will explain the links between the programme structure currently in place and the new structure proposed for the next biennium, 1996-97. As regards the first section of the document, preparation of the Long-term Plan has been postponed.

The management of global animal genetic resources is a matter of special concern under Item 4. From FAO's work over the last 15 years disconcerting trends are noticeable in the development, use and erosion of domestic animal diversity, which point to the need for comprehensive approaches, at national and global levels, to the management of these irreplaceable resources. It is recognized that FAO is the most appropriate intergovernmental institution to lead development and coordinate implementation of the management of animal genetic resources on a global basis. At the same time we are aware that besides the critical role of FAO's Members, successful management of these resources will also depend on the commitment and involvement of other national and international bodies, including NGOs. I am confident that given the gravity and urgency of the situation, the global strategy presented to you will be strongly supported and recommended to Council.

An equally important issue concerns the broadening of the mandate of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, a matter upon which the advice of COAG is sought. Since its establishment in 1983 FAO's members have successfully used the Commission to reach consensus on a number of technically difficult and politically sensitive matters regarding plant genetic resources and related technologies. During the last three years other organizations and international fora have increasingly addressed the various sectors of biodiversity (plants, animals, forestry and fisheries as well as biotechnology) in a holistic manner. This is the case of UNCED, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the system-wide coverage of genetic resources developed by the CGIAR, among others. In order to respond constructively to these initiatives, FAO will also need to broaden the scope of its Commission on Plant Genetic Resources to deal with genetic resources of interest to food and agriculture as a whole. This would strengthen the agricultural sector within the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity and assist in defining roles at the national level. Such broadening of the Commission could be progressive through a step-by-step process beginning with the establishment of a Technical Expert Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources patterned after the Panel of Experts on Forest Gene Resources, a statutory body which has proven its worth and efficiency since its establishment in 1968. The views of COFI and COFO on broadening the Commission will be given when Item 4 is introduced.

Concerning Item 5, UNCED follow-up, FAO as Task Manager for four of the six chapters of Agenda 21's so-called "Land Cluster" of chapters, prepared the reports of the UN Secretary-General which were examined by the *Ad Hoc* Intersessional Working Group on Sectoral Issues of the Commission on Sustainable Development which met just four weeks ago and which is reported on in document COAG/95/6 Supplement 1. It would be most timely if, as requested by Council, COAG follows-up on the Working Group's discussion of the Secretary-General's reports and conveys its views to the CSD in order to enrich the latter's debate with substantive specialized inputs and contribute to the making of concrete proposals. This would certainly be a step in the right direction, since Council has invited the CSD to seek ways in which sectoral intergovernmental fora could assist in reviewing progress in and generally promoting UNCED agreements.

Under crop issues, Items 6 and 7, following your discussion on plant quarantine harmonization at the last COAG, two international standards for phytosanitary measures are submitted to you for consideration and recommendation. I know that many of you have expressed strong interest in the development of international standards for phytosanitary measures. As the WTO takes up its duties and the implications of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures become clearer, the requirement for an increased emphasis on programmes for strengthening plant quarantine services and for training associated with the introduction of international standards for phytosanitary measures, has become apparent. There is an urgent need for a strong programme of support to be provided by FAO in this area, which affects all trade in agricultural commodities.

Another major issue which was first brought to COAG's attention in 1985 and again in 1989 is the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. A report is provided on progress in the application of pesticide management in developing countries, based on a questionnaire distributed to governments. Although some progress has been made and many countries are greatly interested in applying integrated pest management, progress remains insufficient. FAO's and UNEP's work to reduce damage to human health and the environment caused by pesticide use will continue, but it is important that all parties concerned make resources available to ensure that such work is adequately funded.

With regard to Item 8, The World Declaration and Plan of Action for Nutrition adopted at the 1992 International Conference on Nutrition set an ambitious agenda for activities to eliminate hunger and malnutrition. Since then, governments, international organizations and NGOs have intensified efforts to achieve the ICN objectives. There has been considerable progress particularly in developing or revising national plans of action for nutrition. Indeed, it is very satisfying to note the level of effort and commitment that most countries are devoting to following-up on the ICN

goals. FAO, on its part, has given high priority to assisting countries in meeting the commitments made at the ICN. ICN follow-up activities continue to emphasize the fundamental role of the food and agriculture sectors in improving and promoting nutritional well-being. Food security, particularly at the household level, was recognized by the ICN as a prerequisite for sustainable improvements in nutrition, and continues to be a major objective of all follow-up activities. Improving the nutritional well-being of all populations is a key part of the mandate of FAO and is an overall objective of all FAO programme activities. Concerted efforts at all levels to pursue ICN follow-up activities are necessary to achieve the goals of the ICN and to further raise the political commitment and necessary resources to eliminate undernutrition and food insecurity.

In this context, Mr Chairman, we must recall that this session of COAG takes place as the last decade of the millennium enters its second half. As we contemplate with some disquiet the prospects of the 21st century, we have been reminded by recent UN Conferences such as UNCED in 1992, on population and development last year, and earlier this month the Social Summit, of the centrality of people in the development process, not only as receivers of its benefits but as the prime means of shaping it. Amongst the many forms of violence perpetrated by people against others, unwittingly or not, the silent violence of hunger ranks as the most insidious. It promises to remain with us for as far as we can see into the next century. The issue of food security, as such, is not on the agenda for this Committee, but we should remind ourselves that the technical items before us - animal genetic resources, phytosanitary standards, the distribution and use of pesticides, as well as the follow-up to UNCED and the ICN - are all part of an international effort to eventually eradicate hunger, and better sooner than later. It is in our own hands through international cooperation and dialogue, as represented by this and other gatherings, to further this objective and make the world a better place, and the 21st century, a better time, to live in.

