

**Annex 6: Trends, challenges and priorities – North America**

<b>North America</b>	
<b>Regional Trends and Challenges</b>	<b>Regional Priorities – 2016 Informal Regional Conference</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda</li> <li>➤ Climate change will have many impacts, including increased climatic variability, which will likely affect food security, magnify risks especially in tropical areas, and have impact beyond the farm gate within distribution channels and markets. With more knowledge about climatic variability and consideration of different possible future scenarios there could be greater potential for adaptation across the food system and multiple food security intervention points to mitigate impacts.</li> <li>➤ Innovation and role of biotechnology in addressing food security and climate change. Innovative agricultural technologies will be critical tools to increase productivity and achieve a sustainable food supply. In addition to helping address food security challenges, these science-based technologies are powerful allies in mitigating and adapting to climate change impacts by, for example, supporting agricultural practices that could improve sustainable and efficient agriculture</li> <li>➤ Animal and plant diseases and pests. Animal and plant health are crucial in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focus on promoting sustainable improvements in food security and nutrition, especially among women, children and youth, nutritionally vulnerable households and populations such as infants and pregnant/lactating women.</li> <li>- Focus on providing targeted climate-smart agriculture support to countries to sustainably increase agricultural productivity and resilience.</li> <li>- Continue to ensure that climate-smart agriculture practices are inclusive, represent an accessible option for the poorest and the most food insecure, and are linked to efforts enhance food security. This will include taking into consideration the economic, social and cultural conditions during the design and application of climate-smart agriculture technologies and practices.</li> <li>- Provide technical and policy support for climate-smart agriculture initiatives that help smallholder farmers sustainably increase production and become resilient to the effects of climate change.</li> <li>- Provide impartial, evidence-based information to help small farmers increase productivity and production in a sustainable manner, including through the use of biotechnologies.</li> <li>- Improve science and risk-based evaluation and regulation of new agricultural technologies – including biotechnology and climate-smart agriculture practices and facilitate smallholder farmers, in particular women and youth, enhanced access to technology and improved ability to participate in agricultural markets.</li> <li>- Advance sustainable productivity through strong science-based human and institutional capacity, service and innovation to meet global food security goals.</li> <li>- Continue to focus on the assessment of risk to agriculture through hazard, vulnerability, and climate risk assessments.</li> <li>- Emphasize building effective frameworks for voluntary technology transfers on mutually agreed terms and plant genetic resource management, including commercial planting seed systems.</li> <li>- Promote the use of biotechnology to improve livestock and poultry.</li> <li>- Focus efforts to broaden and deepen the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related instruments, primarily through the prioritization and development of effective policy guidance, good governance and the promotion of best practices.</li> <li>- Focus on the FAO’s comparative advantage in forest resource monitoring/information and developing and promoting sustainable forest management practices, strategies, and guidelines.</li> <li>- Enhance cross-sectoral integration of forests with other issues, in particular food security and water.</li> <li>- Contain and combat economically important animal diseases and pests and reduce their economic impact and any associated human health risks.</li> </ul>

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<p>building resilience of smallholder farms and ensuring predictable trade. With regard to animal disease or animal genetic resources: international cooperation on disease and pest prevention, contingency planning for preparedness, and early warning and control are important areas of focus.</p> <p>➤ Urbanization. The important links between urban food needs and rural food production are growing; urbanization in North America and around the world points to an urgent need to act. A fuller understanding of such linkages, including their resilience and vulnerabilities, will become more and more critical in the future.</p> <p>➤ Trade. Given variability in climate, a strong and robust trading system is vital.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase efforts in regulatory capacity building</li> <li>- Increase knowledge and evidence to maximize the impact of food and agricultural systems on nutrition, improving food and agricultural systems' governance for nutrition, and strengthening national, regional and local capacities to formulate and implement policies and programmes to improve nutritional status.</li> <li>- Focus on providing technical and policy assistance in the analysis of food and agriculture markets and related impacts on food security; regional and global agricultural trade policy; and strategies and/or proposed policies to maximize smallholders' access to markets, with particular consideration for gender-based barriers.</li> <li>- Promote the use of science-based measures and international standards to protect human health, animal and plant health, and the environment and to ensure predictable agri-food trade, particularly for innovative products derived from agricultural biotechnology.</li> <li>- Increase work on the relationship between trade and food security, and link trade to all agricultural sectors, including fisheries.</li> <li>- Continue efforts towards building trust and bridging the gap on views concerning agroecology and biotechnology, including GM crops, and concerns about intellectual property rights and traditional knowledge.</li> <li>- Increase the organization's investment in member country capacity building to enhance the development, use and compliance with internationally-agreed, science-based regulatory standards.</li> <li>- Facilitate an enabling environment for governments and other stakeholders to improve the international frameworks, standards and guidance for new agriculture technologies - including biotechnology.</li> <li>- Focus on the provision of global information, advocacy and risk management of environmental challenges affecting food and agriculture. Implement key policy instruments on biodiversity and the strengthening of partnerships with relevant international institutions, focusing on exchanges, dissemination, development, and application of agricultural genetic resources.</li> <li>- Implement key policy instruments on biodiversity and strengthen partnerships with relevant international institutions focusing on the exchange of genetic resources.</li> <li>- Include gender-based analysis to understand gender-related opportunities, as well as strengthening the collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated data.</li> <li>- Focus on building inclusive, participatory, effective, transparent and accountable institutions and systems that have a role in agriculture and food security objectives in developing countries.</li> <li>- Develop partnerships with other UN agencies, civil society, and the private sector.</li> </ul>