


March 2013

	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	联合国 粮食及 农业组织	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture	Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Объединенных Наций	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura
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<b>EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE</b>
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<b>Thirty-eighth Session</b>
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<b>Bucharest, Romania, 1 and 2 April 2014</b>
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<b>PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA</b>
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**Opening of the Session**

1. **Adoption of the Agenda for decision (ECA 38/14/1 Rev. 2)**
2. **Appointment of the Rapporteur for decision**
3. **Priorities for FAO Activities in the Region for discussion as preparation for the 29<sup>th</sup> ERC (ERC/14/7 Rev. 1)**

The item will consider how FAO activities have addressed previously agreed regional priorities during 2012-13, and will provide guidance on areas of regional priority for 2014-15 and 2016-17 for consideration by the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the ERC. The members will be informed on the Reviewed Strategic Framework 2010-19, Medium-Term Plan 2014-17 and Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15 approved by the FAO Conference in June 2013; priorities and recommendations of the Regional Technical Commissions; a synthesis of Country Programming Frameworks; and the plans and priorities of partners, such as Regional Economic Organizations, Civil Society Organizations and the Private Sector. The document will take into consideration the consultation process with member countries regarding the priorities in the Region prior to the ERC.

4. **Building inclusive and fair value chains in Europe and Central Asia: Cooperatives and their alternatives for discussion and decision (ECA 38/14/2 Rev. 1)**

The agenda item was proposed by the 28<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference for Europe 2012. The purpose of the item is to provide information on how to build value chains in the Region that include smallholder farming and raise the incomes of small farms. Typically, the farm-processor or farm-green market value chain is handled (1) by private intermediaries, (2) by farmer cooperative groups, (3) by direct contracting by processors or (4) by individual farmers bringing their produce to market or to the processor. The intention of the study is to propose how the first three alternative mechanisms can be made more farmer-friendly, in order to both include small farmers in the value chain and to maintain a good bargaining position for farmers in that chain. The analysis will also consider cross-cutting issues, such as gender and its implications. Cooperatives are not an end in themselves. They are more a tool for achieving a more inclusive food value chain and increased rural incomes for small farmers. The

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background documentation will provide policy recommendations for member countries, as well as proposals. It is expected that member countries review the recommendations for consideration by the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the ERC.

5. **Agri-Food Systems for Better Nutrition in Europe and Central Asia** *for discussion and decision (ECA 38/14/3)*

The agenda item was suggested by the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the Regional Conference for Europe-2012. *Agri-Food Systems for Better Nutrition* will examine how agriculture and food systems in Europe and Central Asia affect nutrition outcomes, as well as how agri-food policies can be shaped to ensure better nutrition in the region. The analysis will refer to the 2013 SOFA report. It will assess the economic and social costs of malnutrition, describe the relationship between nutrition outcomes and development in the Region, and provide the framework for a discussion of policies to address the “triple burden” of malnutrition in the Region. The document will prepare recommendations for the member countries’ discussions and consideration. It is expected that member countries review the recommendations for consideration by the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the ERC.

6. **Towards risk-based drought management in Europe and Central Asia** *for discussion and decision (ECA 38/14/4)*

A shift from a reactive crisis management to a more pro-active risk management approach would increase societal resilience to drought, but governments continue to respond to droughts in a reactive mode. Formulating and adopting effective drought policies is the way forward and, during the High-Level Meeting on National Drought Policy (Geneva, March 2013), Heads of State and Government representatives invited FAO to assist governments in the development of National Drought Management Policies and their implementation. In collaboration with Headquarters, the FAO Sub-regional Office for Central Asia is currently conducting a national drought situation analysis (drought characterization and management) in each country. The regional synthesis will be used to develop guidelines on drought preparedness (adapted to Central Asia). Member countries will have the opportunity to review these guidelines and recommendations during the discussion under this agenda item. It is expected that member countries review the recommendations for consideration by the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the ERC.

7. **A focus on gender statistics in the agricultural and rural sector: progress and challenges and the Review of the Work of the Working Party on Women and the Family in Rural Development and its future** *for discussion and decision (ECA 38/14/5 and ECA 38/14/6)*

Gender statistics in agriculture are crucial to understand the gender gaps that may undermine agricultural productivity and/or sustainability. Gender statistics enable decision-makers to develop evidence-based, gender-sensitive policies taking into account women’s contribution to rural development and food security. In addition, they are essential to monitor and evaluate the impacts of policies on livelihoods of women and men.

This paper builds upon past work of FAO on gender statistics and gender-specific information. A core set of gender indicators in agriculture was identified by the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU) and endorsed at the ERC 2012. This was followed by a joint exercise (REU and FAO Statistics Division -ESS) to take stock of the sex-disaggregated data (SDD) collected and reported/analyzed by the agricultural censuses in different focus countries. Moreover, country gender assessments have been carried out to guide the work of REU on gender mainstreaming by identifying the main gender issues in selected focus countries - particularly with regards to the priorities adopted by the Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs).

In light of the findings of the analysis of the census questionnaires and of the gender assessments in Albania and Armenia, the current paper examines whether sufficient SDD is being collected and analyzed, highlighting the gaps between the collected and actually reported/analyzed SDD. The paper also provides practical suggestions on

reporting/dissemination SDD in agriculture and rural sector through an example of Gender Leaflet produced from agri-census data. The member countries will be invited to discuss what aspects of rural gender issues are not being captured and/or reported in the census questionnaire, as well as adequate ways to ensure coverage of missing data.

The secretariat will prepare a proposal for the future work of the Working Party on Women and the Family in Rural Development. It is expected that member countries review the recommendations for consideration by the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the ERC.

8. **Future Organization of the European Commission on Agriculture** *for discussion and decision (ERC/14/9)*

Following the evaluation of the European Region and the discussion of the evaluation report in the programme and finance committee, the Council requested that the European Region discuss governance issues at the next European Regional Conference in April 2014 in Bucharest, Romania. Particular emphasis has been given to the role of the European Commission on Agriculture. Based on the evaluation for the European Region and given the interest in a dedicated technical body for the Region, the ECA's technical role should be reinvigorated. The item will discuss a proposal presented by the secretariat for the future organization of the ECA, which has been subject of discussions in the Executive Committee meetings of the ECA. The results of the discussion will be then also presented to the ERC for its endorsement.

9. **Election of members of the Executive Committee** *for decision*

10. **Other Business**

11. **Date and Place of the Thirty-ninth Session**

12. **Summary of conclusions presented by the Rapporteur** <sup>1</sup>

**Closing of the Session**

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<sup>1</sup> In line with para. 32 of the Report of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session, the drafting of the final report is entrusted to the Secretariat and the Rapporteur. The Rapporteur will make an oral presentation of the outcome of the session to the 29<sup>th</sup> FAO Regional Conference for Europe and main conclusions and recommendations on items 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 will be submitted to the Regional Conference as LIM documents for endorsement.