



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
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联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
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pour
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et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

CONFERENCE

Thirty-third Session

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IMPLEMENTATION OF 2004 REGIONAL CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS

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TWENTY-THIRD FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

Johannesburg, South Africa, 1-5 March 2004

The following is a brief summary of action taken by the Organization on the recommendations made by the 23rd session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa:

Regional Conferences to be organized in a way that country statements focus on key success stories to share with others.

Improvements have been made in the organization and conduct of the Africa Regional Conference, with a view to making it a more effective forum for discussing issues of common interest among member countries. A standing item dealing with food security in Africa (national programmes for food security, regional programmes of food security, water and rural infrastructure, food stocks and reserves, and financing of agriculture) will afford delegates the opportunity to focus on success stories.

FAO to adopt the sub-regional approach when implementing country programmes of high interest to neighbouring countries because of the cross-border implications.

In response to the recommendation, forestry field programmes significantly shifted from individual country projects to regional/subregional projects, while strong emphasis has been put on adopting regional/subregional approaches to addressing issues. Burkina Faso and Ghana launched Project GCP/RAF/376/BEL – Socio-Economic Development Programme for the Transborder Onchocerciasis-Freed Zone. FAO provided support to Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda in developing transboundary agro-ecosystem management programme for the Lower Kagera basin. A Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA) methodology and toolkits are being developed by country and regional bodies in relation with *TerrAfrica* Initiative.

FAO to assist member countries to develop sustainable approaches to soil fertility improvement based on integrated natural resources management and greater integration of crop-livestock systems.

Within the framework of resolution ARC/04/RES on fertilizer development, FAO prepared a Plan of Action for the NEPAD Secretariat; and carried out, in close collaboration with the African Centre for Fertilizer Development, an assessment of the implications for fertilizer supply when implementing CAADP priority projects in SADC. FAO published and posted on its Web site the Plant and Nutrients Information System (IPNIS), Agro-MAPS and Global Ingenious Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS).

FAO to further consult with national governments and farmers' organizations to identify concerns, priorities and areas of investments when preparing the CAADP companion document on integrating forestry, fisheries and livestock sectors.

FAO has assisted various governments in Africa to organize national workshops involving all stakeholders to discuss the implementation of the CAADP/NEPAD. Farmers' organizations and NGOs engaged in the agricultural sector were actively involved in that process and contributed their input in these workshops and their follow-up.

FAO and other development partners to assist member countries in better articulating and defining the scope and application of the 10% budget allocation for investment in agriculture and rural development.

FAO organized a technical meeting where a Technical Expert Group (TEG) representing WB, FAO, IMF, AfDB and NEPAD was formed. FAO assisted NEPAD/AU in formulating a project to establish a tracking system to monitor the national budget allocations to agriculture and rural development of which the implementation process is in progress. Some countries have allocated

HIPIC funds to investments in the agricultural sector. Moreover, within the framework of CAADP, FAO has assisted member countries to formulate bankable investment projects for agriculture and rural infrastructure.

FAO to continue its assistance to member countries to expand their water management programmes within the framework of the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) and build environmental and health-protection measure into irrigation development programmes.

FAO formulated SPFS pilot and expansion phases and provided technical support to the implementation of the water control components of the ongoing projects in many countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Gabon, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Lesotho, Eritrea, etc). In collaboration with the International Water Management Institute, FAO carried out country studies in West Africa to identify measures to promote irrigation of agricultural production in peri-urban and urban areas devoid of environmental and health risks. FAO assisted member countries in the preparation of Medium-Term Investment Programmes and formulation of bankable projects in support of CAADP implementation.

FAO to ensure that apart from cassava and rice, other staple crops such as maize be given due emphasis in CAADP, in view of their importance in the diet of many member countries; research to be undertaken to diversify in the long term, diets in counties where maize is the main food commodity.

FAO to continue providing its technical assistance to member countries towards the work on grain reserves.

FAO formulated three and implemented five projects for West and Central Africa in relation to rice and participated in a technical seminar in 2005 to promote the development and use of NERICA in Eastern and Southern Africa. FAO provided inputs to a NEPAD study which reviewed past and ongoing experiences with food reserves in a sample of eight countries representative of the Sahel (Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger), East and Southern Africa (Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia) and the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia and Sudan). In further consultations with NEPAD, WFP, and other development partners, FAO was involved in a high-level seminar on "Food Reserve Systems in Africa" held in South Africa in 2004.

FARA, FAO, NEPAD and other stakeholders to work out details of holding sub-regional conferences on agricultural research and extension and to report on progress at the next FAO Africa Regional Conference.

FAO initiated consultations with FARA and NEPAD Secretariats with a view to developing a common strategy on agricultural research and extension for Africa. The three major stakeholders (FAO, FARA and NEPAD) developed in-depth consultations through a specific workshop convened during the third FARA Plenary in June 2005 in Entebbe that envisaged seeking ways and means to implementing the recommendation of the 23rd ARC.

Governments, FAO and international partners to accord particular attention to identifying appropriate alternative solutions to the bushmeat crisis in Africa and help implement them in collaboration with local communities.

Strong partnership has been established with UNESCO, IUCN, WCS in Central Africa, and with WWF, Conservation International and Ghana Wildlife Society in West Africa for increased collaborative work with local population in the domain.

FAO in collaboration with relevant international and regional organizations to initiate studies on sanitary risks and eventual diseases transmitted through bushmeat consumption. FAO to work with member countries and development partners to continue sharing experiences on the subject.

A Regional Bushmeat Conference held in February 2005 in Ghana addressed *inter alia* sanitary and disease risks associated with bushmeat consumption. As a follow-up, a bushmeat Plan of

Action is being developed, through which a series of studies and decisions at political and legal levels will be commissioned.

Development partners, especially UNAIDS, WHO, FAO and the World Bank in close cooperation with NEPAD to increase their budget allocation to strengthen the institutional capacity to combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic through increasing collaboration with Governments, NGOs and Civic Society.

The Organization adopted an innovative strategy for addressing the impact of HIV/AIDS and other diseases of poverty in response to the devastating effects of the epidemic on the agricultural sector and rural economies of many African countries. This strategy focuses on five priority areas of intervention: strengthening national capacity; improving access and adoption of technology; strengthening the capacity of local governance structures; empowering vulnerable communities; and policy dialogue and advocacy.

FAO to provide support to NGO/CSO/FOs to: enable their effective participation in the NEPAD/CAADP and SPFS; contribute to the strengthening of the International Planning Committee (IPC) networking in the Africa Region; assist them in mobilizing resources required for the implementation of their activities; mobilize and use TCP funding for the capacity building of FOs; and designate focal points for FAO-NGO/CSO relations in the FAO country offices.

FAO organized Farmers' Organizations' (FOs) consultative workshops in selected African countries (Burundi, Cameroon, Ghana, etc.), to enable them to contribute to the NEPAD process at national level. FAO also organized national meetings in selected countries as follow-up to the 4th FAO-NGO/CSO Consultation and assisted in the formulation of TCP proposals for FOs' capacity building in Angola, Burundi and Ghana. FAO assisted in the designation of national focal points for the IPC network in most countries in Africa and set up the "Central Africa Farmers' Organizations Platform (PROPAC)" in 2005 and helped NGO/CSO develop bankable project proposals and mobilize resources from donors including IFAD.

TWENTY-SEVENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE NEAR EAST

Doha, Qatar, 13-17 March 2004

The following is a brief summary of actions taken by the Organization on the recommendations made by the 27th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East:

FAO/RNE to act as focal point for follow-up with interested countries towards the establishment of the Animal Health Commission for the Near East and North Africa.

Letters were sent to the Ministers of Agriculture in the Region inviting them to confirm participation in the Commission. So far, five countries have responded positively (Bahrain, Iraq, Morocco, Pakistan and Turkey).

Continue providing support to member countries, especially those facing major food crises as a result of natural disasters or conflict situation.

FAO has contributed to the assessment of the food and nutrition situation in Iraq and the West Bank and Gaza Strip (WBGs). Follow-up work continued in WBGs for setting up and strengthening a FIVIMS type activity with associated agricultural plans and interventions for improving food security. FAO also assisted in addressing the land question in Sudan in the context of post-conflict peace-consolidation. In addition, FAO formulated a Community-Driven Socio-Economic Recovery Programme for Nuba Mountains in Sudan.

Support member countries in formulating appropriate national and regional strategies and programmes addressing sustainable agricultural development and food security.

Support to national strategies was provided to Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Sudan and the United Arab Emirates. Technical support was provided to the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in the formulation of regional food security programmes, preparation of bankable investment projects for donor consideration and the organization of training workshops on food security and trade-related issues.

In cooperation with other international organizations, FAO also supported member countries on the formulation of investment projects and has supervised the implementation of such projects in Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and Yemen. In close collaboration with the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), financial and technical support was provided for organizing technical meetings as a follow-up to the Tunis Declaration of the Arab League Summit in 2004 on "Sustainable Agricultural Development and Food Security in the Arab World".

Continue to support the Near East and North Africa Regional Network for Agricultural Policies – NENARNAP – and the Regional Network on Drought Management for the Near East and the Mediterranean, as well as other existing regional agricultural networks/associations.

FAO supported NENARNAP in implementing a regional capacity building workshop and in formulating a project document for possible funding of the Network. Support also continued to the Regional Network on Drought Management and its assistance to member countries to develop strategies for drought mitigation and preparedness planning. Support has also been provided to the Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (AARINENA) and other agricultural research networks in the region. In addition, a Regional Land Cover Mapping Network for the Middle East was established through FAO Global Land Cover Network (GLCN) initiative.

Assist member countries in enhancing human resources' capacity and introducing appropriate institutional and policy reforms.

FAO organized several national and regional capacity building workshops on biotechnology, rural finance, marketing, extension and agricultural trade policies and WTO negotiations. FAO also provided support to the formulation of institutional capacity building UTF projects in Kuwait, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

In collaboration with the AOAD, FAO supported, through a TCP project, a regional trade data collection and processing for the region. The assistance included the organization of two training workshops.

Assist member countries in strengthening national research, extension and marketing institutions.

Technical support was provided to national experts in Egypt, Jordan, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Sudan and Syria. In addition, a number of modern information tools have been developed and adapted to the Arabic language. Support to ongoing projects relating to research, extension and marketing in the region, including in Egypt, Morocco and Yemen continued.

FAO also conducted two studies on agricultural extension institutions and information systems in the region, and a number of national and inter-country VERCON project proposals were formulated.

Conduct a study on the impact of the Separation Wall on the agricultural sector and food security in the Palestinian Territories and mobilize financial support for rehabilitation of the agricultural sector.

A project document for the West Bank and Gaza Strip (WBGs) on "Management of FIVIMS" with associated agricultural plans and interventions for improving food security has been prepared based on assessment of the nutrition situation.

Continue providing technical assistance to member countries in water policy, regulatory and institutional review processes and their implementation.

A regional project on "Economy-based Water Resources Outlook for Policy Options" was prepared to help countries in the region make appropriate decisions based on economic analyses of possible policy scenarios. FAO provided technical assistance to Kuwait for the establishment of an international centre of research and technology on wastewater treatment and reuse. Support was also provided to Saudi Arabia in establishing national water resources strategy and action plan.

Assist member countries in the development, promotion and adoption of adapted technological packages on water demand and watershed management.

Several countries including Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia received assistance in formulating projects aiming at improving agriculture water management. In collaboration with the World Bank, FAO assisted Egypt in preparing two mega projects on integrated improved irrigation management. A watershed management project was also formulated for Saudi Arabia to rehabilitate and monitor the phenomenon of Juniper dieback.

Support capacity building and facilitate exchange of experiences and information among member countries on relevant aspects of improved water management in agriculture.

FAO and the Government of Italy co-sponsored an international forum on "Food Security under Water Scarcity in the Middle East". FAO also supported the USAID-sponsored International Conference on Water Demand Management, organized in Jordan.

FAO has also assisted Morocco in implementing a project on "Technical Assistance in Water Resources Management".

Organize a regional workshop on water-harvesting and flood management to assist countries in developing appropriate strategies.

A study on water harvesting in the Region was conducted and served as a background document for a workshop on the subject, organized in collaboration with ICID. A training manual on water harvesting was also prepared and disseminated.

Advocate for improved water productivity in agriculture.

A study on “promotion of efficient agricultural water productivity” in the Region and an assessment of the participation of farmers’ organizations in the management of irrigation water in several countries, were conducted.

Continue providing support to strengthen the capacity of countries to manage food safety.

FAO assisted Algeria, Iran, Somalia, Syria and Yemen in developing their respective national Codex programmes through TCP projects. FAO, jointly with WHO, convened a regional meeting on food safety, in which the proposed draft Guidelines for Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees were finalized. Two similar workshops were held as a follow-up.

Use appropriate mechanisms to facilitate communication and information/experience exchange in food-borne disease surveillance as well as information about food-borne hazards.

Under TCP projects, FAO provided support to Algeria, Syria and Yemen in the establishment and operation of their respective national Codex Committees and in improving their participation in Codex work. Support was also provided to Iran in developing effective systems for control of residues of pesticide and veterinary drugs in foods, and in the control and management of Mycotoxins in Foodstuffs. Assistance was also provided to Morocco in the review of its food control system and in the development of a plan towards its integration into a unified system.

28ª CONFERENCIA REGIONAL DE LA FAO PARA AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE

Guatemala City, Guatemala, 26-30 de abril de 2004

A continuación figura un breve resumen de las medidas adoptadas por la Organización en relación con las recomendaciones formuladas en la 28ª Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe:

Adoptar la sistematización de nuevos temas emergentes para la cooperación técnica en la Región.

Se ha promovido la incorporación del enfoque de desarrollo territorial y manejo descentralizado de los recursos naturales y la toma de decisiones en los programas de acceso a la tierra y de prestación de servicios a la agricultura familiar. Se está impulsando un proyecto de desarrollo rural en Brasil, Chile y México para apoyar a los gobiernos subnacionales a adoptar estrategias que faciliten el fortalecimiento de vínculos entre actores, la generación de capacidades y la promoción de proyectos territoriales.

Se están implementando proyectos de fortalecimiento institucional en Acuicultura y Pesca en Brasil y Centro América.

Se ha dado apoyo a los Programas Forestales Nacionales, a través de un proyecto regional sobre estrategias financieras de desarrollo forestal. Se preparó un estudio sobre tendencias y perspectivas del sector para los próximos 20 años y se realizó una conferencia electrónica sobre Pagos de Servicios Ambientales, con 600 profesionales y más de 100 organizaciones.

La FAO continúa apoyando a los países mediante estudios analíticos, recursos humanos e institucionales, fortalecimiento de las capacidades de negociación comerciales, y bases de datos para permitirles ajustarse, cumplir y beneficiarse de los nuevos acuerdos de intercambio internacionales y modelos existentes, incluyendo la evaluación de impacto de políticas, programas y proyectos.

FAO/RLC continuó apoyando los procesos de integración económica y comercial subregional y las acciones entre países, a través de proyectos de cooperación técnica con los países miembros de CARICOM-CARIFORUM, CORECA-CAC, Comunidad Andina y MERCOSUR ampliado .

Que la FAO busque fórmulas que permitan el incremento de la cooperación técnica en la Región, mediante mecanismos participativos, optimizando el uso de las capacidades existentes en los países. Asimismo, también debe fortalecerse la complementariedad en las acciones de las distintas agencias internacionales de cooperación.

Se estableció un mecanismo de apoyo para la formulación e implementación de programas nacionales forestales y más de 60 cartas de acuerdo fueron aprobadas para nueve países y dos procesos regionales totalizando un valor de US\$1 000 000. Con el apoyo del Gobierno de Holanda, se está implementando un proyecto regional sobre Gestión Forestal Sostenible, a partir de una experiencia piloto sobre métodos innovadores de financiación realizada en el Cono Sur.

Se está implementando con SICA/OSPESCA un programa de asistencia técnica para la formulación de los Planes Nacionales de Acción en los países del istmo centroamericano.

En varios países de CARICOM, se están llevando a cabo proyectos en apoyo a la ejecución de los componentes nacionales del Programa Regional de Seguridad Alimentaria, a través de servicios técnicos de especialistas de Cuba y China bajo la modalidad CTPD.

Bajo la iniciativa de educación global a favor de las poblaciones rurales implementada en colaboración con la UNESCO se inició la campaña sobre educación de las poblaciones rurales de

América Latina con el taller regional Alimentación segura y educación para la población rural, con la participación del IICA, el Banco Mundial y la Cooperación Italiana para el Desarrollo.

En colaboración con otras agencias de Naciones Unidas, la Oficina Regional participó en la preparación del documento Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio – Una mirada desde América Latina y el Caribe. FAO continúa participando y actúa como secretaria del Grupo Interagencial de Desarrollo Rural en América Latina y el Caribe.

Que se reconozca la necesidad de aplicar un trato diferenciado a los países menos adelantados y a los estados insulares, en especial a los importadores netos de alimentos. En neste sentido, el “Programa de Barbados para los Estados Insulares” constituye un sólido basamento para el desarrollo de sus capacidades agropecuarias, forestales y pesqueras. La FAO debe cumplir un papel relevante en su aplicación.

FAO continúa proporcionando asistencia regional PESA CARIFORUM, con el apoyo estratégico del Programa de Cooperación Técnica y el Programa de Cooperación Sur-Sur. En el Caribe, SLAC coordina un programa de asistencia técnica regional en asesoría de políticas, manejo de tierras y aguas, nutrición, protección vegetal, forestal y pesca.

Que la FAO profundice su labor en el fortalecimiento de las capacidades de negociación internacional de los países de la Región, habida cuenta de la creciente diversidad y complejidad de los temas y el continuo proceso de negociaciones que se lleva a cabo en los diferentes ámbitos multilaterales (OMC, Codex, OIE, y CIMF).

RLC ha trabajado con los países miembros buscando una participación activa en el desarrollo, discusión, revisión y implementación de standards internacionales. Las normas para el uso de madera como material de embalaje han merecido especial atención. La FAO y la OIE pusieron en marcha el Programa Global para el Control Progresivo de las Enfermedades Transfronterizas de los Animales. Continúa el proceso de ratificación de la Convención Internacional de Protección Vegetal.

En Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica y Chile se realizan proyectos sobre fortalecimiento de las capacidades de negociación internacional. En Chile y Colombia, se ha apoyado al los gobiernos en sus negociaciones sobre tratados de libre comercio. En Costa Rica se desarrollaron análisis de competitividad de los principales productos, buscando aprovechar las ventajas que ofrece la apertura comercial para el pequeño productor.

FAO/RLC está ejecutando dos proyectos regionales de cooperación técnica para promover la acreditación de los laboratorios centrales de control de alimentos, para asegurar la inocuidad de los productos y acceso al mercado internacional. Se fortalecieron también las capacidades nacionales en materia del Codex Alimentarius en Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Perú y Venezuela.

Que la FAO realice análisis sobre el desarrollo de una industria procesadora exportadora de las materias primas en que en la Región es competitiva, como alternativa para que los productores y campesinos de los países en desarrollo salgan de la pobreza. Para ello es conveniente que la FAO prepare estudios que evalúen el impacto del escalonamiento y de los picos arancelarios de los países desarrollados para el desarrollo de una industria exportadora con mayor valor agregado en los países en desarrollo.

Se realizaron estudios de competitividad de las cadenas agroindustriales de oleaginosas y aceites, carne vacuna y algodón en el MERCOSUR. Se formularon seis estudios relativos a la evaluación del impacto que tendrían diferentes escenarios de liberalización del comercio agrícola internacional. Además, fueron realizados estudios y talleres sobre la concentración agroindustrial y el papel de las grandes empresas en el sector agrícola y áreas rurales.

Que la FAO continúe el trabajo de análisis de las tendencias y temas emergentes, e instando a los países a un mayor involucramiento en la preparación de los estudios correspondientes.

Se ha continuado los trabajos de actualización de la base de datos y la preparación del estudio Tendencias y desafíos en la agricultura, los montes y la pesca en América Latina y el Caribe, lanzado oficialmente en Agosto de 2005.

Se han continuado los estudios sobre gasto público destinados a las áreas rurales en seis países. En la actualidad, FAO/RLC cuenta con una base de datos que resume el gasto público hacia las áreas rurales entre los años 1985 y 2001 para 20 países de la Región. Con el apoyo del BID, se continúa impulsando la iniciativa de desarrollo rural de base territorial en Brasil, Chile y México.

Que la FAO refuerce y amplie la acción de mecanismos de capacitación masiva para todos los actores en las prioridades del desarrollo rural y la seguridad alimentaria, poniendo como ejemplo el proyecto FAO-FODEPAL, y solicitó que la FAO procure obtener fondos adicionales para este objetivo.

El proyecto FODEPAL, financiado por la AECEI, con el respaldo de la Universidad Politécnica de Madrid y otras instituciones universitarias de América Latina, está dirigido a la capacitación a distancia de gestores de políticas de desarrollo rural sostenible y la gestión integral de los recursos naturales. Entre 2001 y 2005, FODEPAL ha capacitado a cerca de 2.900 gestores latinoamericanos de políticas a través de cincuenta cursos a distancia. FODEPAL se ha consolidado como una de las iniciativas de utilización del “e-learning” más importantes en Latinoamérica. El Gobierno Español ha confirmado su apoyo y financiación para una segunda fase de FODEPAL, hasta finales de 2007.

Que la FAO realice estudios sobre el proceso de emigración de la población rural, principalmente hacia países desarrollados, con el objetivo de identificar programas de inversión que se basen en las remesas, mediante el desarrollo de proyectos en beneficio de las familias rurales, a fin de crear nuevas fuentes de trabajo que reduzcan el éxodo de esa población.

Se han realizado estudios en casi todos los países de la Región sobre la situación de la mujer rural y en especial el impacto de la migración campo ciudad y entre fronteras.

Reconoció que el análisis sobre la seguridad alimentaria debe ir más allá del diagnóstico e incorporar en la estrategia no solamente lineamientos de mediano y largo plazo. Recomendó también que la FAO efectúe acciones inmediatas y de corto plazo, y defina mecanismos para darles seguimiento, con el objeto de evaluar su impacto y replicabilidad, así como desarrollar nuevas acciones en un ámbito amplio, que va mucho más allá del fomento productivo y que incorporan enfoques multisectoriales, con participación de las distintas instancias de gobierno, así como la participación del sector privado y de la sociedad civil.

Se realizó, en Guatemala la primera reunión de los proyectos PESA de América Latina, para discutir la ampliación, a escala nacional, de iniciativas de lucha contra el hambre en el marco de los Objetivos del Milenio. El evento permitió un fuerte intercambio de experiencias y clarificó la importancia del establecimiento de criterios y mecanismos de evaluación del impacto de los programas nacionales.

El proyecto, FODEPAL realizó reunión para identificar los principales contenidos comunes de capacitación y identificar un plan de trabajo y esquema de cofinanciamiento, para realizar un curso a distancia en el primer semestre de 2006, para los PESA de la Región.

FAO/RLC ha desarrollado una propuesta de proyecto para apoyar el proceso de inserción de la pequeña agricultura y mejorar su competitividad, a través del desarrollo de alianzas estratégicas en cadenas agro-productivas. Se ha también apoyado la estrategia de la Organización para fortalecer del el crecimiento y el desarrollo de pequeñas y medianas empresas.

Que se revise de la organización de las misiones de cooperación técnica de la FAO a los países, a fin de asegurar que no haya duplicaciones in descoordinaciones entre ellas.

La realización de misiones de cooperación técnica de la FAO a los países es discutida en varias instancias de la Oficina Regional, incluyendo el Comité Regional de Impulso al Programa de Campo (RLC-PROCAMPO), que, además, asegura la integración de diversos programas y proyectos ejecutados en los países, en busca de una sinergia real y de objetivos comunes.

Que se establezca un grupo de trabajo institucional permanente de composición abierta a todos los países de la Región. Ese grupo de trabajo debe seguir la evolución de la cooperación técnica de la FAO en la Región, con el objetivo de presentar propuestas tendientes a perfeccionar y modernizar los mecanismos de cooperación técnica de la FAO, así como tratar las estrategias y medios de implementación y evaluación de los programas de cooperación de la FAO en la Región, según un referencial establecido periódicamente por la Conferencia Regional.

El Grupo Asesor Externo de FAO/RLC, integrado por 21 expertos de 12 países de la Región, realizó dos reuniones presenciales, para discutir mecanismos y estrategias vinculadas a la Alianza Mundial Contra el Hambre, con énfasis en la actuación conjunta de gobiernos, sector privado y organizaciones sociales. Una reunión electrónica fue realizada en septiembre de 2005.

Que la FAO presente un balance de los programas que hasta la fecha se han implementado, así como las actividades que se adelantan para coordinar y unificar los esfuerzos nacionales en la reducción de la brecha digital en las zonas rurales.

Varios proyectos de fortalecimiento de las capacidades para cerrar la brecha rural digital están siendo implementados. Países de menores ingresos se han beneficiado de la diseminación e intercambio de información con actores clave en la Región, con libre acceso a valiosos recursos de investigación a través de AGORA. Los socios editores han acordado entrar a la fase II de AGORA y se espera que más países se incorporen a principios del año 2006.

Que se mantenga el COAIM (Consulta sobre Gestión de la Información Agrícola) y que se prepare una reunión del mismo para el año 2005.

Una Consulta Técnica sobre Manejo de Información Agrícola se llevará a cabo durante el bienio 2006-2007.

TWENTY-SEVENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Beijing, China, 17-21 May 2004

The following is a brief summary of the actions taken by the Organization on the recommendations made by the 27th FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific:

Provide targeted support to address the special challenges of the Pacific Island countries through early warning systems, disaster preparedness and management, appropriate agricultural production systems, value-added processing, marketing and policy support.

FAO launched a Regional Programme for Food Security (RPFS) in the Pacific Island countries with US\$4.5 million Trust Fund support. In addition, 18 TCP projects are being implemented under the RPFS which include fruit tree development, crop and livestock production, home gardening, value-added food processing and agro-forestry. It is expected that another nine projects will be cleared for implementation by the end of 2005.

FAO assisted Pacific Island countries in a variety of capacity building procedures on effective methodologies to prevent the introduction and spread of plant pests.

Support to disaster-affected farmers and fishers was provided to Niue and Fiji through two TCP cyclone emergency projects, including an awareness campaign for emergency disaster preparedness and mitigation.

Countries of the Pacific region were assisted in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and coastal fisheries legislation.

Continue strengthening capacities for multilateral and bilateral agricultural trade negotiations, especially within the framework of the Doha Development Agenda, to reduce international trade distortions and provide increased opportunities for developing countries.

A workshop was organized in Thailand focusing on Asian countries and another in Samoa focusing on Pacific Island countries, to build the capacity of member countries to effectively participate in ongoing WTO multilateral trade negotiations, particularly those on rules and framework for further liberalization of agricultural trade.

Two round-table meetings were conducted on WTO agreement provisions for Pacific Island countries.

Under the RPFS programme for the Pacific subregion, various capacity building activities are being planned in trade facilitation, at national and regional levels, related to the establishment of sanitary and phytosanitary standards for agricultural exports.

Continue its facilitating role as Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests under the United Nations Forum on Forests.

FAO has continued to play a leadership role by chairing and facilitating the work of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, which coordinates the work of international organizations to support effective implementation of IPF/IFF Proposals for Action for achieving sustainable forest management at national and subnational levels.

Assist member countries in implementing integrated approaches for increasing the productivity of rice-based cropping system by (i) upgrading technologies, (ii) improving farm management, (iii) arresting and reversing land degradation, (iv) reducing air and water pollution, (v) enhancing water-use efficiency, (vi) increasing access to land, (vii) strengthening institutions for participatory governance, (viii) improving access to financing, supporting cost-efficient

marketing and other support services, and (ix) further developing capacity for sustainable rice production.

FAO promoted integrated management of crop residues, soils, water and fertilizers for increased crop production in rice-based cropping systems through TCP and SPFS projects and workshops, and introduced the Ricecheck System in the Philippines and Thailand through two TCP projects.

Projects were formulated for improved post-harvest management in the DPR of Korea and Timor-Leste.

Technical support was provided to Afghanistan, Bhutan and the DPR of Korea in implementing agricultural conservation practices for arresting land degradation and optimizing use of land resources.

Effective strategies for sustainable agriculture and rural development were promoted through case studies and training workshops.

Activities demonstrating the importance of fish and other aquatic resources in rice fields and associated wetlands for improved nutrition and livelihoods of rural people were promoted. A workshop was convened to review experiences and discuss methods to assess the nutritional contribution from these resources.

FAO organized a workshop in Viet Nam and a session at the Second Southeast Water Forum in Bali to develop strategies for evaluation of large rice-based irrigation systems in the region.

Training workshops were organized on modernization of large rice irrigation systems in India and Malaysia – including publication of training materials in multiple languages – to build capacity for enhanced performance.

Studies on arsenic contamination in the food chain have been initiated in Bangladesh to address water pollution.

Provide continuing technical support to member countries in implementing relevant programmes for diversifying rural economies in ways that would lead to more sustainable agriculture and rural development.

FAO promoted sustainable agriculture and rural development through: i) publication of a rural women's cooperative business training toolkit; and ii) organization of a workshop on computerization in support of national initiatives to promote agricultural cooperative enterprise development.

Technical support was provided to Cambodia and the Cook Islands through TCP projects in home gardening and village level processing for poverty reduction.

FAO collaborated with the Centre on Integrated Rural Development in Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) in programmes to strengthen the role of local governments in management of agricultural resources through capacity building of local associations.

Assist member countries in analysing rice-commodity trade, accessing relevant market information, and adjusting to trade liberalization, particularly within the framework of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

FAO provided both technical and funding support to a large number of countries in the region for the preparation and celebration of the International Year of Rice. It convened a major conference in Rome on “Rice in Global Markets and Sustainable Production Systems” to celebrate the International Year of Rice. The conference was of particular importance to this region since about 90 percent of the world's rice is produced and consumed in Asia. Topics covered included: implications of the WTO Doha Round for the rice sector; changing structure, conduct and

performance of the world rice market; rice market outlook; and future challenges for the global rice market, among others.

FAO made several policy presentations on rice-based livelihood issues at various high-level international fora, including a keynote speech on "Global Rice Production: Can it meet the demand" delivered by the ADG/RR at the International Rice Forum in Manila in celebration of the International Year of Rice. An FAO paper on the role of rice reserve stocks in achieving food security was also presented and discussed at a conference of the East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve (EAERR) project in Thailand.

An FAO paper analysing international trade in rice, its market stability in terms of price and volume and future prospects with implications for multilateral trade negotiations, was presented at the World Rice Research Conference 2004 in Japan.

FAO continues to publish the Rice Market Monitor several times a year, which is also available on the Internet. The Monitor focuses heavily on developments in Asian rice markets.

Provide continuing technical support to member countries for efforts to reduce pre- and post-harvest losses in the rice sector through improved technology and management.

FAO co-organized an expert consultation in Thailand involving 16 countries, focusing on post-harvest research for enhanced food security.

Technical support was provided to Bangladesh, Cambodia and the DPR of Korea in improved pre- and post-harvest management.

Increase efforts in facilitating and promoting collaborative activities in areas of quality improvement, grading and standardization, food safety, and trade promotion through networks and consortiums, especially within the framework of the International Alliance Against Hunger.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) has approved a regional trade facilitation project – to be implemented by the University of the South Pacific, FAO and WHO – to strengthen the capacity of PIF member countries to establish and enforce harmonized food legislation and standards.

FAO and WHO jointly convened the second global forum on food safety regulators to build effective food safety systems in the region, and jointly provided technical assistance in improving food safety and its management in Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam through a regional project.

Under the Global FAO/ILSI Cooperative Framework, a meeting on food safety in the SAARC region was organized to foster harmonization of national standards in line with Codex regulations.

Examine the correlation between trends in extension spending and changes in the number of farmers engaged in agriculture.

A study is being initiated in selected countries to understand the correlation between extension spending and the number of farmers engaged in agriculture to provide statistically reliable data for future extension programme formulation by policy-makers.

Provide advice to member countries on the most effective agriculture extension approaches and delivery mechanisms and to support measures for strengthening the capacity of national agriculture extension services.

FAO is the lead agency for the flagship programme "Education for Rural People", involving over 200 organizations worldwide, addressing the specific educational needs of people living in rural areas in support of universal primary education and rural poverty reduction.

A workshop was convened in Thailand to explore innovative strategies in the use of open and distance education to promote agricultural development, equity and improved livelihoods.

Continue providing support and guidance to member countries in reviewing and revising agricultural policies, including agricultural extension policies, as required.

A set of case studies on innovative practices using Information and Communication Technology to improve public and private agricultural extension was developed for dissemination as a guide to policy-makers and other stakeholders.

"Actionable Policy Briefs" were prepared for the Government of Bangladesh, recommending institutional and policy reforms for key agricultural subsectors in support of poverty reduction.

Two TCP projects are being implemented: i) in Papua New Guinea to formulate a national agriculture development plan 2006-2010; and ii) in the Maldives to prepare a ten-year master plan for sustainable food security, agriculture and rural development.

Continue support in strengthening national capacities to analyse trade issues, assist countries in formulating and updating national trade legislation, facilitate regional and subregional information sharing related to trade negotiations, and assist countries in enhancing competitiveness in terms of price and quality of products.

A TCP project aimed at capacity building in the assessment and monitoring of the competitiveness of the agriculture sector in Myanmar has been completed.

Under a Trust Fund project, capacity building workshops for enhancing the competitiveness of agriculture in Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam, as well as policy round tables to revitalize agriculture, were organized.

Work with countries that had achieved success in reducing the number of undernourished in undertaking case studies to identify the elements of success that might be disseminated and promoted more widely.

In the context of analysing structural changes taking place in the region and their potential economic impacts, FAO has launched a study on the two largest developing economies in the region: China and India. It has also commissioned case studies on agricultural developments in Thailand and Viet Nam to seek to draw lessons on how to successfully achieve sustainable economic growth and improve national food security through appropriate policy implementations and institutional reforms, as well as strengthen regional integration.

Provide improved guidance in the future with regard to procedures for addressing discussion items vis-à-vis information items, and urge FAO to link information items with discussion items whenever practical.

Extensive reviews were undertaken to improve the organization and conduct of the Regional Conference. Internal procedures have been put in place to ensure better consultation among concerned stakeholders in developing the Conference agenda for discussion and in selecting information items that would have a better linkage to the discussion items and serve as background to facilitate Conference debates.

TWENTY-THIRD FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE

Montpellier, France, 5-7 May 2004

The following is a very brief summary of action taken by the Organization on the recommendations made by the 24th FAO Regional Conference for Europe:

Development of agriculture as the engine of economic growth was an essential component to reduce poverty and achieve the MDGs.

Under the TCP Programme and Trust Funds, FAO assisted ministries of agriculture in Croatia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro (Kosovo) and Ukraine in the formulation of sustainable agricultural policies. The latter two projects are currently ongoing. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, FAO assisted the PRSP unit establishing an action plan for the rural sector. FAO has also rendered assistance to statistical departments for agricultural censuses (e.g. Georgia).

The importance of strengthening competitiveness of agriculture and non-agriculture sectors to raise rural incomes.

A number of projects currently under implementation (e.g. Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Malta, Moldova, Poland, Serbia and Montenegro, TFYR of Macedonia) have the objectives to increase the competitiveness of farms and to strengthen the marketing chains. These projects are funded both under the TCP and by donors.

In addition to the implementation of projects, FAO has also organized a number of specific regional workshops/seminars (e.g. Farm Commercialization and Income Diversification on the Road to EU Accession).

The need for land rights, land markets and an enabling environment for rural entrepreneurs, access to markets, credits, market information, advisory services and proper infrastructure.

FAO has continued to provide inputs to the Central European Land Knowledge Centre (Celk) based in Hungary, which became operational in February 2003.

A number of projects are currently being implemented or under formulation in the region to assist countries in the area of land management/land consolidation schemes (e.g. Armenia, Hungary, Lithuania, Serbia and Montenegro).

The project activities have also been supported by workshops organized by FAO (e.g. Regional Workshop on Territorial Organisation and Land Consolidation; and Regional Workshop on the Development of Land Markets and Related Institutions in countries of Central and Eastern Europe – Experiences, Approaches and Lessons Learned) or FAO staff has contributed as resource person in national events (e.g. Moldova).

Projects under the TCP programme support capacity building in advisory services have either started (Azerbaijan) or are ongoing (Bulgaria). The Trust Fund projects on a commodity chain approach include components supporting advisory services.

Stressed the importance of FAO's technical assistance in capacity building in food safety in order to comply with international food standards.

Several initiatives have been implemented in the region as a follow-up to the recommendations of the FAO/WHO Pan European Conference on Food Safety and Quality. Under the TCP Programme, projects to improve food quality and safety systems at the national level are being implemented in Turkey and Ukraine while two projects are being implemented on a regional level, for the Balkan countries and for the Caucasian countries.

A number of specific workshops have been organized and supported by FAO which involved the active participation of the CEE countries.

Requested that FAO assistance should focus on the fundamental need to assess the food composition, including the content of traditional foods to achieving food quality and nutritional balance and avoiding nutrition caused diseases (obesity, overweight, malnutrition).

As part of the process developed by FAO and WHO at the Cypress Consultation for Preparation and Use of Food-Based Dietary Guidelines (FBDG), a series of workshops have been organized to review progress made in the development and implementation of FBDGs in Eastern and Central European countries (the most recent was held in April/May 2004).

Underlined the need for special attention to revitalize agricultural research.

A national project to improve Information, Communication and Knowledge Systems (AKIS) is being implemented in Lithuania. Two major workshops have been organized and supported by FAO: i) Effective communication and information management among agricultural research, extension and farmers for rural development in Georgia; and ii) Trans-disciplinary research and communication paradigms for rural development in CEE – Implications for a holistic approach to agricultural research, extension and education.

Urged FAO to strengthen its activities in support of the implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Within the framework of plant genetic resources conservation, FAO is implementing related projects at national level in Albania, Georgia and Uzbekistan. A project document on “Support of the Capacity Building for the Development of a Nationally Coordinated Programme for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture” for Serbia and Montenegro is currently being finalized.

Underlined that the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease was a valuable resource in assisting European countries in combating serious transboundary diseases.

Two regional projects are currently being implemented to strengthen surveillance and control capacity (one covering Bulgaria, Turkey and Greece and the other the three Caucasian European countries, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia).

Emphasized the importance of policy assistance and institution capacity building and welcomed FAO's work in this area.

Support and advice in the formulation of national sectoral strategies and programmes and in related institutional capacity building at the national level, has expanded to include Ukraine and Kosovo. Under TCP/KOS/2901, FAO assisted in formulating “A Strategy for Education for Rural People in Kosovo” aimed at improving the agriculture and rural sector in Kosovo. Taking into account the fact that 60% of the population live in rural areas and are often underemployed, the strategy is both an agricultural and a broader rural development one, aiming at income generation activities and diversification of crops towards value added products.

Welcomed the activities undertaken by FAO in the areas of fisheries and forestry.

In the field of fisheries, the region benefited from several important regional field projects, e.g. AdriaMed (Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea) and COPEMED (Cooperation Networks to Facilitate Coordination to Support Fisheries Management in the Western and Central Mediterranean). Direct technical assistance is being provided at national level to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania and Poland.

In the field of forestry, activities have addressed a broad range of issues from forest sector development (Kosovo and Serbia and Montenegro) to privatization of forestry sector management, with the emphasis broadly placed on sustainable mountain development and

management of forestry resources (Armenia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia and Poland) or on more specific aspects such as strengthening capacity for forest fire prevention (Bulgaria). A number of specific workshops have also been organized and supported by FAO (e.g. Policy options for storm damage management).

Welcomed the attention given to the new emerging issues such as organic farming, biotechnology and biosafety.

A TCP project in Croatia supported capacity building regarding certification in organic farming and a project to support marketing of high value crops in organic farming is under discussion in Serbia and Montenegro. In addition, the TCP programme has supported a project formulation for an organic farming project in Turkey.

In the field of biotechnology and biosafety, a mission to Ukraine to assess the status of agricultural biotechnology and biosafety was undertaken and results will be included in FAO's Database on Biotechnologies in Developing Countries (FAOBioDec, http://www.fao.org/biotech/inventory_admin/dep/default.asp). Based on the findings of the assessment missions carried out in selected Balkan and CIS countries, a regional project on "Capacity building in agricultural biotechnologies and biosafety" is currently being finalized.