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منظمة  
الغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

# FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE NEAR EAST

## Thirty-fourth Session

Rome, Italy, 7-11 May 2018

**Web Annex – Detailed List of FAO Activities in the 2016-17 Biennium  
towards the Implementation of the Recommendations of the 33rd Session of  
the Regional Conference for the Near East**

### I. REGIONAL AND GLOBAL POLICY AND REGULATORY ISSUES

#### A. Livestock Contribution to Food Security in the Near East and North Africa Region

Recommendations <sup>1</sup>	Actions Taken
a. <u>NERC encouraged</u> countries to invest in sustainable development of the livestock sector to increase local production with a special focus on sheep fertility and lamb growth, and sustainable feed production;	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An assessment of the impacts of conflict on genetic resources was conducted and a Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) project (in pipeline) was developed to support the conservation and sustainable use of sheep genetic resources in Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon using a community-based breeding programme approach.</li> <li>2. Support was provided to the fertility improvement of Iraqi buffalo herds by introducing artificial insemination techniques through the project TCP/IRQ/3601.</li> <li>3. FAO contributed to an e-learning curriculum “Technical guide for small ruminants” which was conducted in North African countries, in November 2016.</li> </ol>

<sup>1</sup> This section refers to the recommendations endorsed by the 33rd Session of NERC found in the Session's report at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mq757e.pdf>

*This document can be accessed using the Quick Response Code on this page;  
an FAO initiative to minimize its environmental impact and promote greener communications.  
Other documents can be consulted at [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)*



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	<p>4. Support was provided to livestock owners in Yemen to produce locally-made feed blocks.</p>
<p>b. <u>urged</u> countries to reinforce, with the support of FAO and partners, the governance of the veterinary services to effectively prevent, control and eradicate animal diseases at national, regional and global levels;</p>	<p>5. An expert consultation “Contingency planning for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) control in the NENA region” was organized in Cairo, Egypt, in December 2016.</p> <p>6. Sponsorship was provided to the “Sixth International Conference of Virology”, which was held in Hurghada, Egypt in November 2016 where the “One Health” approach was advocated for zoonoses and Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) control in the NENA region.</p> <p>7. Member countries’ work on surveillance and prevention of TADs and zoonoses were supported: e.g. Rabies in North African countries; Avian Influenza in Egypt and Lebanon; Rift Valley Fever (RVF) in Mauritania; Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) in Jordan and Algeria; and surveillance, diagnosis and control of <i>Peste des petits ruminants</i> (PPR, a highly contagious animal disease affecting small ruminants, also known as the “goat plague”) in the Sudan through the project TCP/SUD/3504.</p> <p>8. Two regional FMD roadmap meetings for NENA countries were organized by FAO and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), and follow-up technical activities to expedite the development of national FMD control plans were supported (by the European Commission for the Control of FMD (EuFMD), FAO Animal Production and Health Division) in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Palestine and the Sudan.</p> <p>9. The first ever Arabic language tutored online course on FMD was developed and delivered to 150 participants from 11 NENA countries, in 2017, by FAO (EuFMD).</p> <p>10. A range of emergency response actions to FMD were provided in North Africa in 2014 and 2016, including procurement of essential laboratory diagnostic equipment and in-country training on surveillance and response (EuFMD with European Union (EU) donor support).</p> <p>11. Jointly with the OIE, the 1st PPR Roadmap meeting was organized for North Africa (Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia) in Tunis, in October 2017.</p> <p>12. Jointly with the OIE, the 2nd PPR Roadmap meeting was organized back to back with the 4th FMD Roadmap for Near East countries in Amman, Jordan, in October 2017.</p> <p>13. Support was provided to the formulation of draft PPR Regional Strategic Plans for the North Africa and Near East regions.</p>

	<p>14. Support was provided together with the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and the Group of five Sahel States (Sahel G5) to a two-day FMD emergency meeting of animal health authorities from Egypt, Iraq, Morocco Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, Tunisia and Yemen, convened by the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, on the 18 and 19 July 2017 in Khartoum, the Sudan, to discuss a strategic response plan for the resurgence of FMD's new virus strain in some Arab countries.</p> <p>15. Jointly with the OIE, FAO provided support to the 14th meeting of the REMESA (Mediterranean Animal Health Network) Joint Permanent Committee (JPC) in Naples, Italy, 19-20 July 2017. The meeting was attended by Chief Veterinary Officers from REMESA member countries (Algeria, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia) and representatives from international and regional organizations. Subjects discussed were FMD, HPAI, Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), Blue Tongue (BT), RVF; international exchange and trade of animals and animal products and antimicrobial resistance (AMR).</p> <p>16. Applied research activities in the region on Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) were supported and an International Conference on MERS-CoV was organized jointly with the OIE and the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva, Switzerland, in September 2017.</p> <p>17. Support was provided to livestock mass-vaccination campaigns and to the increased capacity of community animal health workers in the most food insecure areas of Yemen.</p>
<p>b. <u>urged</u> countries to implement the Global Plan of Action for animal genetic resources, and encouraged countries to expand the use of high yielding, drought- and salt-tolerant forage, pasture and rangeland varieties;</p>	<p>18. FAO contributed to the “Regional Conference on animal genetic resources conservation: towards sustainable utilization” which was held in Muscat, Oman in February 2016.</p> <p>19. The workshop “Animal identification and traceability – tools for management of animal genetic resources, valorization of local products and control of animal diseases” was organized in Tunis, Tunisia, in December 2016.</p> <p>20. The genetic improvement of endangered Hamra sheep of Algeria and camels in Mauritania was supported.</p> <p>21. FAO prepared the book “State of feed resources and their management and utilization in the NENA region”.</p> <p>22. The use of agro-industrial by-products as animal feed was supported in Mauritania and Tunisia.</p>

	<p>23. A workshop on forage seeds was organized in Hammamet, Tunisia, in October 2016.</p>
<p>c. <u>encouraged</u> countries to collaborate on intra- and interregional livestock trade and to benefit from opportunities of technology transfer and best practices;</p>	<p>24. Support was provided to the Sudan through a Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) project to improve sanitary and phytosanitary standards in order to meet importing countries' requirements in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. The assessment of existing standards in the country was done through the TCP Facility (TCPF) project TCP/SUD/3604/C3.</p> <p>25. Support was provided to the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) permanent committee in harmonizing animal products trade standards and procedures.</p> <p>26. A regional TCP project on strengthening capacities of producer organizations in North African countries was developed in the areas of small ruminants, dairy and apiculture and small-scale fisheries.</p>
<p>d. <u>requested</u> countries to enhance policies in support of emergency and rehabilitation activities in the livestock sector;</p>	<p>27. Livestock activities in areas affected by conflict (Iraq, Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen), and/or protracted crisis (Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, the Sudan) were supported through the implementation of projects targeting resilience, food security and livelihoods of vulnerable beneficiaries.</p> <p>28. "Expert Consultation on Avian Influenza (HPAI) Contingency Planning and Control in the NENA region" was organized in Cairo, Egypt in December 2016.</p> <p>29. A training workshop on Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS) was held in Meknès, Morocco in June 2016.</p> <p>30. Member countries have been supported in developing and harmonizing their national strategies and programs on TADs.</p> <p>31. With FAO support, some countries (e.g. Libya and Tunisia) have established an emergency fund for animal health crises.</p>
<p>e. <u>urged</u> countries, with the support of FAO, to enhance capacities and raise awareness on anti-microbial resistance (AMR) in line with Conference resolution 4/2015;</p>	<p>32. FAO, in collaboration with WHO, helped NENA/Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO) countries to nominate their national focal points for AMR.</p> <p>33. FAO, in collaboration with WHO, supported Iran (Islamic Republic of) (July 2017), the Sudan (April and July 2017) and Tunisia in assessing AMR situation and preparing their National Action Plans (NAPs) on AMR.</p> <p>34. FAO collaborated with WHO and the OIE on regional activities including training workshops on AMR</p>

	<p>which were held in Casablanca, Morocco in April 2016 and Cairo, Egypt in May 2017.</p> <p>35. FAO made a call of interest for Reference Centers of AMR.</p> <p>36. A presentation on AMR was delivered at the WHO's Launching Workshop for Antibiotic Awareness Week, entitled "Antimicrobial Resistance and Animal Health" (November 2017).</p> <p>37. FAO is working with the National Centre for Agricultural Research and Extension (NCARE) in Jordan to review the legislative framework, policies and protocols for the use of animal treatment classes used in the industry. It involves documentation of the current framework for storage and access to animal health treatments by veterinarians and animal health staff, documentation of any research conducted on antimicrobial resistance in Jordan's livestock industry, and comparison of this work with research conducted on AMR internationally, and preparation of a national plan for judicious use of antimicrobials in animal health based on the outcome of the review.</p>
<p>f. <u>requested</u> countries to promote natural resource management systems built on participation of smallholders, pastoralists and communities at large.</p>	<p>38. Member countries (e.g. Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia) were supported in sustainable management and monitoring of oasis ecosystems and natural resources through the support of Global Environment Facility (GEF) projects, UTF projects (e.g. Oman) and regular programmes.</p> <p>39. A practical guidelines document for the sustainable management of forest and rangelands in the NENA region was published.</p> <p>40. Support is provided to Saudi Arabia, through the project UTF/SAU/039/SAU, in developing a national rangelands strategy and action plan.</p> <p>41. A regional TCPF project is in the pipeline for the development of a regional rangelands strategy.</p> <p>42. A Geographic Information System (GIS) is under construction to monitor the Oases of North Africa (starting in Mauritania, through Morocco and Tunisia) and their resilience. Teams were trained and indicators selected. In 2018, three national GIS platforms will be established and well-equipped in three pilot countries. This is a result of an institutional assessment and planning exercise undertaken during 2017 (following several national and regional workshops). Sixty staff were trained to implement these GIS and monitoring activities.</p> <p>43. FAO supported the training of technical staff in Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lebanon and the Sudan for the use of</p>

	<p>Collect Earth; a FAO developed tool to assess land use, land use/land cover change and provide a broader understanding of a robust and complete technique of land monitoring.</p> <p>44. Three national workshops and one regional workshop were organized in North Africa to provide training for the identification and documentation of best practices in natural resource management in the Oases of North Africa. Eighty technical staff from the Ministry of Agriculture of five countries were trained in natural resource management and best practices for Oases. By 2018, at least twenty best practices of natural resources management in the Oases will be identified and documented.</p> <p>45. A regional workshop by UMA- International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) and FAO was organized to promote pulses in the region. A regional network on pulses was created, with a Facebook page for sharing of information and discussions. A workshop on sustainable management of pastoralism in North African countries was organized in Hammamet, Tunisia in December 2016.</p> <p>46. A workshop for the training of trainers on voluntary guidelines for good governance of tenure was organized in Hammamet, Tunisia in November 2016.</p> <p>47. Technical Assistance was provided to support the food security and livelihoods of the pastoralist groups in the Sudan through the project TCP/SUD/3502.</p> <p>48. A concept note was prepared, jointly with ICARDA and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), for a regional project, entitled “Supporting productive and resilient landscapes in the NENA region”.</p> <p>49. A joint project document through the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP) was developed (funded through the World Bank) to support sustainable natural resource management in Yemen.</p>
<p>g. <u>urged</u> FAO to strengthen support to Members by assisting in developing collaborative strategies and plans to manage transboundary animal disease risks, especially in times of crisis, improving disease reporting, monitoring of livestock movements, strengthening quarantine systems, and cross-border research and dialogue;</p>	<p>50. An “expert consultation on contingency planning for HPAI control in the NENA region” was held in Cairo, Egypt in December 2016.</p> <p>51. Training workshops on Good Emergency Management Practices (GEMP) (Hammamet, Tunisia in March 2016 and Meknès, Morocco in June 2016) and the ECTAD network have been helping countries to prepare for livestock disease emergencies.</p>

<p>h. <u>urged</u> FAO to strengthen support to Members by assisting in developing sustainable animal source food systems, particularly those that are focused on the rural poor, and their better integration into national value chains;</p>	<p>52. Support was provided to Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen in developing sustainable food systems, for example through dairy value chains. Through a UTF, Morocco was supported in the valorization of its camel value chains.</p> <p>53. The production of local feed blocks in Yemen was supported.</p> <p>54. FAO has prepared a book on “Small-scale dairy sector review in the Near East” that would provide policy guidance and investment in support of smallholders to be better integrated into national value chains.</p>
<p>i. <u>urged</u> FAO to strengthen support to Members by assisting in the nexus between emergency and rehabilitation in the livestock sector, especially in Member Nations affected by conflicts and protracted crises, through developing national and regional projects responding to threats of transboundary animal diseases and zoonoses, as well as protecting and rehabilitating livestock sector;</p>	<p>55. An assessment was completed on lessons learned and best practices from emergency vaccination, livestock treatment, dairy and feeding programmes along the Syrian Arab Republic-Lebanon border and Iraq.</p> <p>56. FAO helped preserve livestock assets of the poor and vulnerable in different areas of the Syrian Arab Republic (including along the Syrian Arab Republic-Jordan border), in Iraq and Yemen through provision of veterinary vaccines, medication and animal feeds. Some projects provided chicken for backyard poultry husbandry.</p> <p>57. Through TCP projects, FAO assisted Jordan (TCP/JOR/3502), Libya (TCP/LIB/3501), the Sudan (TCP/SUD/3504) and Tunisia (TCP/TUN/3501) in the surveillance of TADs and zoonoses.</p>
<p>j. <u>urged</u> FAO to strengthen support to Members by assisting in sustainable development of livestock sector, including improved meat, leather and wool production, processing and adding value to adapted local breeds through capacity building and facilitating experience sharing among countries;</p>	<p>58. FAO conducted feasibility study and developed a project for “Improving productivity of sheep production systems in the Jordanian Badia through the introduction of inclusive and efficient wool shearing and processing practices”.</p> <p>59. In Mauritania, FAO has conducted a valorization feasibility study and supported strategy development for wool and leather production.</p> <p>60. Support was provided to Mauritania in developing a strategy for improving its slaughterhouses.</p>
<p>k. <u>urged</u> FAO to strengthen support to Members by assisting in implementation of the Animal Production and Health Commission for NENA (APHCNENA) as an Article VI body; and welcomed the offer from Jordan to establish and host an Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD);</p>	<p>61. The Animal Production and Health Commission for NENA (APHCNENA) launch is awaiting its approval by the FAO Council.</p> <p>62. During 2016, FAO raised awareness of countries about the importance of the commission in various forums (the Mediterranean Animal Health Network [REMESA], the OIE General Session, 6th International Conference on Virology, etc.).</p> <p>63. Through the support of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Emerging Pandemic</p>

	<p>Threat (EPT-2) programme, FAO has initiated a Country-ECTAD (FAO Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases facility in Jordan).</p> <p>64. A veterinary laboratory in Yemen has been rehabilitated by FAO support.</p>
<p><b>B. Fisheries and Aquaculture: Application of FAO's Blue Growth Initiative</b></p>	
<p>a. <u>NERC requested</u> countries to accelerate efforts to address the effects of climate change and pollution on the marine ecosystems of the region;</p>	<p>65. The “Ceinture Bleue” (Blue Belt) initiative was launched by Morocco during the 2016 UN Climate Change Conference, the twenty-second Conference of the Parties (COP 22). Communication with the Fisheries Department is ongoing about how FAO could support the implementation of this Initiative.</p> <p>66. Member countries have been supported through dialogue and cooperation among countries to promote collective responsibility and action on major environmental and agriculture-related issues. Among these, efforts to address the effects of climate change and pollution on the marine ecosystems of the region have been accelerated through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between FAO (on behalf of the Regional Commission for Fisheries [RECOFI]) and the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) which was formulated and enforced at the Ninth Session of RECOFI in May 2017. The MoU has not been effective as the clearance procedures have not been completed yet by the two parties.</p> <p>67. AFAO project aimed at enabling women to benefit more equally from agrifood value chains was launched in Tunisia under the FAO's Multipartner Programme Support Mechanism (FMM). The project focuses on empowering the women collectors and developing a strategic partnership with the private sector to improve the women's income by creating more direct access to valuable markets.</p> <p>68. An interregional FAO Blue Hope project has been developed with partners Algeria, Tunisia and Turkey. The project covers both fisheries and aquaculture sectors.</p> <p>69. Technical assistance was provided, under 2020 Aquapeche Plan (2020 Aquaculture Programme) to Algeria with an aim to promote fisheries sector development in line with a business plan and based on the Blue Growth concept.</p>
<p>b. <u>urged</u> countries to safeguard the interests of small-scale and traditional fishing communities in the</p>	<p>70. There exists an international legal and policy framework to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. To a variable extent, the respective Regional</p>



<p>face of multinational illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing;</p>	<p>Fisheries Management Organizations, namely General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and RECOFI addressed governance issues to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing and related activities. Studies to assess the current coverage of fishers have been launched in Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia.</p>
<p>c. <u>called</u> on member countries to sign the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing;</p>	<p>71. As of March 2017, NERC countries are parties to the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. Oman became signatory to the Agreement in 2013, the Sudan in 2016, and Mauritania in 2017. In certain countries the process of being a contracting party is ongoing (i.e. in the Sudan and in United Arab Emirates). A call to member countries to consider joining the Agreement was made at the 9th Session of RECOFI held in May 2017.</p>
<p>d. <u>requested</u> FAO to support member countries through organizing knowledge and experience sharing events, and building capacity to develop sustainable and viable fishery and aquaculture industry in the region;</p>	<p>72. An Integrated agri-aquaculture project is underway in Egypt, Algeria and Oman with particular focus on knowledge and experience sharing. Oman is one of the focus countries for the FAO aquaponics project. The country has a few successful experiences to showcase.</p> <p>73. TCP projects for the development of aquaculture in Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lebanon and Mauritania have been developed.</p> <p>74. The “Genetic Improvement of Rainbow Trout” project in Iran (Islamic Republic of) has been launched in February 2017. The project will develop a national genetic improvement programme for rainbow trout, taking international best practices into consideration.</p> <p>75. A TCP project titled “Assessment of the Seafood market in Lebanon” started at the end of March 2017.</p> <p>76. A fish losses and waste project started in January 2017 in Egypt. The project is developing a national strategic document for Egypt, while focusing on capacity building.</p> <p>77. The project “Strengthening Resilience and Livelihoods of Gazan Fishing Communities through Promoting the Establishment of a Marine Cage Farming Social Business” started in 2018.</p>
<p>e. <u>requested</u> FAO to assist countries to assess fishery resources at both country and regional level, information sharing, compilation and dissemination by regional Fish Monitoring Centre, to be established as data and information repository;</p>	<p>78. In accordance with RECOFI Minimum Data Reporting in the RECOFI area (RECOFI/6/2011/1), RECOFI member countries are providing catch and effort data. RECOFI adopted the RECOFI Recommendation RECOFI/8/2015/1 on Minimum Reporting on Aquaculture Data and Information. RECOFI also has a Regional Aquaculture Information System (RAIS), which will be updated through the technical and infrastructural support by Kuwait. The Marine Research Centers Network</p>

	<p>(RIMSMER) works also on sharing and disseminating data, but funds are needed to make it sustainable.</p> <p>79. A regional workshop on the joint assessment of kingfish stock has been scheduled to be held in 2018 under the 2017-2018 programme of work of RECOFI.</p>
f. <u>requested</u> to develop guidelines on carrying out environmental impact assessments for aquaculture projects;	80. Over the last years, the Working Group on Aquaculture (WGA) of RECOFI has worked on spatial planning for marine capture fisheries and aquaculture, focusing on the site selection, environmental impact assessment and monitoring, and licensing specific to finfish cage aquaculture. The WGA drafted a technical framework for a regional spatial planning development programme. In addition, a technical FAO publication titled “Marine spatial planning for enhanced fisheries and aquaculture sustainability-its application in the Near East” was published in 2016.
g. <u>requested</u> to promote the technical knowledge and capacities in the areas of fisheries and aquaculture, including through South-South Cooperation;	<p>81. The possibility of South-South Cooperation (SSC) in the area of fisheries and aquaculture is under discussion with Oman.</p> <p>82. A project on “Knowledge sharing and capacity development for sustainable aquaculture development among Egypt and African countries” was developed under FAO Egypt’s South-South Cooperation programme. A training programme on the same subject was conducted in December 2017.</p>
h. <u>requested</u> support countries in combating fish related diseases in the region.	<p>83. A project on tilapia summer mortality in Egypt was launched (March 2017-December 2017). The project will develop a national strategy for management of fish health and determine the status of the disease in Egypt.</p> <p>84. A regional workshop on “National Capacity for Cultured Animal Disease Diagnostic in Relation to Bio-Security” was held in March 2018.</p>
<b>C. Small-scale Farmers and Women Empowerment in the Near East and North Africa Region</b>	
a. <u>NERC welcomed</u> the efforts and actions undertaken by countries, FAO and partners in developing strategies and programmes for sustainable small-scale agriculture in the region and encouraged countries to develop comprehensive national action plans for its implementation	<p>85. A national evaluation on family farming for Morocco was completed in 2015. FAO is now supporting the National Observatory on Human Development (ONDH) for the evaluation of public policies on the structure and dynamics of family farming in nine agro-ecological areas of Morocco.</p> <p>86. The project “Inclusion of the rural world: the case of small family farming” was developed in Morocco.</p>

<p>based on relevant studies conducted by FAO in the region;</p>	<p>87. In Egypt, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, the Sudan and Lebanon, studies (as well as a regional synthesis) on small-scale farming were completed and published on FAO web site in March 2017; hardcopies are available and were dispatched to the six countries in April 2017. The studies are meant to assist policy makers to develop ad hoc policies in support of family farming. A subregional workshop on the role of livestock farming in poverty reduction has been held.</p> <p>88. Regional workshops on the role of professional organizations in supporting small-scale honeybee farmers, small-scale dairy farmers, and small-scale small ruminant farmers have been organized in Maghreb countries during 2016.</p> <p>89. Reports have been produced for Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, the Sudan and Tunisia, aimed at assessing the status of sex-disaggregated data and information availability in these countries. A regional workshop was held in Tunisia in October 2016 to discuss the reports' findings, to identify gaps and set the way forward. A synthesis report "Regional Capacity Assessment and Action Plan for Improving Gender Statistics for Agriculture and Rural Development" was also developed.</p> <p>90. Reports on social protection in Egypt, Lebanon, and in the region have been developed to reinforce the coherence between the agriculture and social protection policies.</p> <p>91. A Technical Meeting on Social Protection as a Tool for Poverty Reduction in the NENA Region, in which FAO participated was held in Beirut, Lebanon in March 2017. The technical meeting targeted representatives from the ministries of agriculture, social affairs and other relevant national institutions, FAO staff, development partners and regional experts. The aim was to promote the importance of social protection in the region, and to share with partners FAO's approach on social protection in the Near East.</p> <p>92. The Workshop "Building the common vision of change and developing a participatory action plan with agricultural cooperatives to reform the cooperative movement" was held in Luxor, Egypt in March 2017. The major result of the workshop was an action plan matrix to reform the agricultural cooperatives based on performance, weaknesses and strengths, for which participants, including farmers identified.</p> <p>93. Several value chain studies for non-wood forest products in Lebanon, the Sudan and Tunisia were supported by the FAO Regional Initiative on Small-Scale Family Farming (RI-SSFF).</p> <p>94. A Pan-Arab study analysing child labour, commissioned to the UN by the Arab League, is being</p>
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	<p>supported. The International Labour Organization (ILO) is the lead publisher, while FAO is leading the section analysing child labour in the agricultural sector.</p> <p>95. FAO contributed to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) 2017 Situation Report on International Migration in the Arab States.</p> <p>96. In November 2017, in the context of the activities of the Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG2) Committee, FAO initiated a pilot activity of the Food Security and Nutrition Inter-Agency Social Protection Assessment (FSN ISPA Tool) in Palestine. The FSN ISPA tool (<a href="https://ispatools.org/">https://ispatools.org/</a>) will support Palestine in assessing to what extent different types of social protection programmes contribute to improved FSN outcomes and to set out possible options for enhancement and assistance to the most vulnerable rural population (small-scale producers).</p> <p>97. In the Syrian Arab Republic, one national project is currently ongoing and its second phase is under preparation, in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on “Strengthening Resilience of Vulnerable Crisis Affected Households through Women Empowerment and Livelihood Improvement”. Also, in partnership with the EU, FAO is supporting 18 460 crisis-affected households and host communities in the Syrian Arab Republic through the following two specific objectives:</p> <p>(i) to strengthen the agricultural crop production and natural resource management capacities and access to alternative income sources by the target populations, particularly women-headed households;</p> <p>(ii) to strengthen the risk management capacity of target communities and key food security stakeholders through improved early warning and resilience knowledge management.</p> <p>98. Several projects in Yemen have been implemented that are promoting sustainable small-scale agriculture and farmer-led extension.</p>
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<p>b. <u>urged</u> countries, with the support of FAO, to expand the use of high-yielding and drought-tolerant varieties of crops, pasture and rangeland species;</p>	<p>99. FAO RNE Water Scarcity Initiative (WSI) and ICARDA collaboration programme covered the implementation of a silvopastoral initiative, using drought tolerant fodder species, and scaling up the use of drought-tolerant forage crop varieties.</p> <p>100. FAO RI-SSFF agreed to support a project on the land tenure and sustainable land management in the context of climate change in Geradif State, the Sudan.</p> <p>101. FAO continues to support quinoa promotion, selection of most suitable varieties and seed multiplication in Egypt and Lebanon.</p> <p>102. FAO supports Yemen through the Sana'a Basin Project, in cooperation with the Northern Highland Regional Research Authority (NHRRA), to introduce many drought-tolerant crop varieties.</p>
<p>c. <u>encouraged</u> Member Nations to strengthen support to family farmers, invest in programmes to reduce rural poverty and improve opportunities for market access and livelihoods;</p>	<p>103. FAO is working to identify niches for employment and the elaboration of training materials and tools on apiculture, small ruminants and dairy sectors in North African countries.</p> <p>104. In the Sudan, FAO started a project (UNJP/SUD/081/HCR) "Agriculture and Livestock Value Chain (ALIVE)" in order to support small-scale producers.</p> <p>105. In Yemen, FAO finalized a project to support "Smallholder Agricultural Productivity Restoration and Enhancement (SAPREP)".</p> <p>106. A project (GCP/RNE/004/ITA) on "Food Loss and Waste Reduction and Value Chain Development for Food Security" in Egypt and Tunisia has been implemented to support local communities and overall national economy.</p> <p>107. A project (GCP/EGY/024/ITA) on improving household food and nutrition security in Egypt has been conducted by targeting women and youth.</p> <p>108. FAO continues its assistance in collecting and analysing gender-disaggregated data in Egypt, Jordan and Tunisia.</p> <p>109. FAO RI-SSFF is leading two projects in Palestine on (i) reforming market access and producers' organizations; and (ii) integrating small-scale family farmers – especially women and their cooperatives – into value chains.</p> <p>110. In Tunisia, FAO supports a project (GCP/GLO/823/GER) aiming to study youth employment in agricultural value chains.</p> <p>111. In Iran (Islamic Republic of), FAO implemented a TCPF (TCP/IRA/3605/C2) to support formulation of UTF</p>

	<p>project (UTF/IRA/642000) on “Strengthening Family Farms through Productivity Enhancement and Livelihoods Diversification”.</p> <p>112. FAO supports a study on social protection for small-scale fishers in the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions involving Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia.</p> <p>113. FAO carried out the project (TCP/INT/3504) “Capacity Building for Monitoring Diversity and Changes in Farms to Improve Policy Formulation and Agricultural Advice”.</p> <p>114. The improvement of livelihoods and sustainability of local desert communities in Egypt were supported.</p> <p>115. FAO RI-SSFF supports the upgrading of the technical agricultural education system in Lebanon; and the “Promotion of Agricultural Livelihoods through Investment in Land Reclamation and Water Reservoirs” through two projects funded by the Netherlands. It is also implementing a project (FMM/INT/278/MUL) in order to develop a registry of farmers in Lebanon in two pilot areas. The latter includes initial assessments and advocacy activities, the design and implementation of a farmers’ registry pilot and a workshop and technical support to define a roadmap for extending the social protection coverage to farmers and fishers, scaling up the farmers’ registry and reinforcing the coordination between the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Labour.</p> <p>116. In Tunisia, FAO is providing support to both artisanal women fishers as well as supporting the Port of Zarzis to create decent employment as a deterrent of distress migration.</p> <p>117. In Egypt, FAO RI-SSFF is coordinating youth employment training for agro-industry micro-enterprise development and continuing its assistance to the reform of the agricultural cooperatives.</p> <p>118. In Lebanon, Oman and the Sudan, support is being coordinated for the capacity building of producers’ organizations. Support to producers’ organization development elsewhere in the region is provided as a broader effort to facilitate market access and improve livelihoods.</p> <p>119. In Palestine, FAO conducted an in-depth assessment of producer organizations’ agribusiness capacity and institutional environment to inform programme formulation and capacity development efforts.</p> <p>120. In Lebanon, the enhancement of livelihoods and food security of small-scale family farmers is being supported through semi-intensive egg production in Lebanon.</p>
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	<p>121. FAO supports a project (FMM/INT/118/MUL) on food losses and waste reduction in Morocco and Egypt.</p> <p>122. FAO supports the creation of safety nets against rural poverty through a comprehensive regional strategy on social protection, which has included a regional government capacity building workshop and regional e-learning series, as well as social protection support to small-scale fishers in the Mediterranean basin (specifically in Lebanon and Tunisia).</p> <p>123. FAO is supporting the resilience and self-reliance building of crisis-affected communities through support to livelihoods recovery, local governance as well as improving access to sustainable energy in four governorates in Yemen: Hajjah, Hodeidah, Lahj and Abyan.</p>
<p>d. <u>requested</u> FAO to promote South-South Cooperation to support family farmers;</p>	<p>124. Three SSC projects including support to family farmers were formulated with Guinea, Mali, Oman and Swaziland.</p> <p>125. FAO developed a project (GCP/MOR/052/CPR (642218)) "Support to the Plan Maroc Vert as a part of SSC".</p> <p>126. FAO conducted an FAO-China SSC project formulation mission to the Sudan with the scope of enhancing the productivity of small-scale producers through value addition and processing strengthening, building institutional partnerships, training and other services.</p> <p>127. A study tour was organized to Morocco, based on the 'learning by doing' concept, to improve performance of professional organizations from Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon and the Sudan.</p> <p>128. FAO, through the Sana'a Basin Project, conducted a training programme for the staff of NHRRA in association with the Lebanese Agriculture Centre.</p>
<p>e. <u>urged</u> FAO to enhance its cooperation with UNIDO and other international organizations for the development and introduction of appropriate agro-machineries and technologies to enhance the productivity in the agriculture sector and along the supply chain; and</p>	<p>129. Projects promoting youth employment in rural Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia and analysing employment and migration in Ethiopia and Tunisia (GCP/INT/240/ITA) are planned in cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). Moreover, in the Syrian Arab Republic, FAO, in cooperation with the EU, is exploring the possibility of working with UNIDO to strengthen the resilience of smallholder farmers.</p> <p>130. FAO is responsible for the implementation of the project components dealing with the improvement and harmonization of National Food Control Systems in the</p>

	<p>region and with enhancing countries participation in the work of Codex.</p> <p>131. FAO delivered a five-day training programme on the application of the newly developed “FAO/WHO National Food Control System Assessment Tool”.</p> <p>132. FAO is developing a project proposal with UNIDO on “Enhancement of regional trade capacities in food through a harmonized regional conformity assessment and food safety systems”.</p>
<p>f. <u>requested</u> FAO to provide technical assistance for safe use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers through the use of good agricultural practices guided by the Codex Alimentarius Texts and Standards.</p>	<p>133. FAO is working on the disposal of 790 tonnes of obsolete pesticides including Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and on the implementation of integrated pest and pesticide management in the region.</p> <p>134. FAO is about to sign a UTF with Oman on the disposal of obsolete pesticides phase 11.</p> <p>135. Iraq, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia were being supported to control and eradicate the red palm weevil (RPW). FAO is supporting Algeria to prevent the introduction of RPW (through trainings and study tours in Tunisia and Morocco).</p> <p>136. A High-Level Meeting on RPW Management was held in Rome, FAO headquarters during the period 29-31 March 2017.</p> <p>137. The introduction of several varieties of the drought-resistant quinoa was supported in Egypt, Lebanon, Mauritania and the Sudan.</p> <p>138. Support is being provided in strengthening the capacities of NENA countries to prevent the introduction and spread of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i>- Olive Quick Decline Syndrome.</p> <p>139. Capacity building activities are being supported to promote Rotterdam Convention and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Oases in Tunisia and some good practices are planned to be transferred to Morocco and Algeria.</p> <p>140. Support is being provided in Morocco to control <i>Dactylopius Opuntiae</i> (cactus cochineal) through a training of trainers, public awareness campaign and study tour (consisting of eight participants from R&amp;D, professional organizations, and the private sector) to Mexico.</p> <p>141. A plant protection regional network is created and its capacities reinforced through several trainings in the region. A database and the Near East Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO) web site have been created to exchange</p>



	information on pest and disease, experts, labs, pesticides, regulations, etc.
<b>D. Updates on the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)</b>	
<p>a. <u>NERC</u> encouraged all stakeholders to disseminate, promote, make use of the “Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS-RAI)”, “Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA)” and Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT);</p>	<p>142. An LoA was signed in February 2017 for “Raising FAO as a Knowledge Partner at the 3rd Arab Conference for Agriculture Investment” in the Sudan. FAO’s participation has led to the endorsement of a recommendation to adopt the RAI Principles by public and private entities at regional and national levels.</p> <p>143. There is an ongoing EU-funded project in the Sudan to “Promote the provision for legitimate land tenure rights using Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) to conflict displaced communities including small-scale rural farmers, pastoralist, and internally displaced peoples (IDPs) in the Darfur region”. The project is an important step in strengthening sustainable and community-based management of land resources to eradicate hunger and poverty in Darfur.</p> <p>144. A side event in the 44th CFS with the World Food Programme was supported in October 2017 on “Changing Lives, Nourishing Dreams: Regional Initiative for School Meals and Social Protection in the Middle East and North Africa”.</p> <p>145. FAO assisted the development of a partnership with WFP in “School meals and social protection in the Middle East and North Africa region”; the partnership was launched in February 2017 at WFP headquarters.</p>
<p>b. <u>encouraged</u> all stakeholders to implement the recommendations resulting from the policy roundtables on “Food Losses and Waste in the Context of Sustainable Food Systems”, “Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture for Food Security and Nutrition” and “Water for Food Security and Nutrition”;</p>	<p>146. A TCP project (TCP/SNO/3501) has recently been completed for the formulation of a strategy for a 50 percent reduction in food losses by 2030 for six value chains in the region. An action plan for the project’s immediate implementation is also ready.</p> <p>147. In Egypt, a project aimed at reducing fish losses and waste is ongoing. Another project aimed at “Food Losses and Waste Reduction and Value Chain Development for Food Security” is being implemented in Egypt and Tunisia.</p> <p>148. WSI is supporting several countries in the region in addressing sustainable water resources management with associated implications for food security.</p>

<b>III. PROGRAMME AND BUDGET MATTERS</b>	
<b>A. Results and Priorities for FAO in the Near East and North Africa Region</b>	
<p>a. NERC <u>supported</u> the continuation of the Regional Initiatives for the 2016-17 biennium: (i) Regional water scarcity initiative; (ii) Small-scale agriculture for inclusive development; (iii) Building resilience for enhanced food security and nutrition; as well as attention to food safety, agricultural trade and market information; and looked forward to annual reporting by FAO on results;</p>	<p>149. The Regional Initiative on Small-Scale Agriculture (SSA) has been retitled as Small Scale Family Farming (SSFF) and continues working towards its mandate. WSI work also continues implementing projects at the regional level.</p> <p>150. The Regional Initiative on Building Resilience for Food Security and Nutrition (RI FSN) continued its support to 11 countries. Areas of support cover: (i) formulation of food security and nutrition policies, strategies and investment frameworks; (ii) food security information systems including early warning; (iii) preparedness including Disasters Risk Reduction; (iv) food systems including food losses and waste; and (v) response to shocks.</p>
<p>b. <u>noted</u> the request of Lebanon and Egypt to be focus countries for the Regional Initiatives in the Near East;</p>	<p>151. Egypt is focus country for the WSI, SSFF and FSN; Lebanon is focus country for SSFF.</p> <p>152. Egypt and Lebanon are focus countries for RI FSN since its creation. In addition, Egypt became a close-observation country in 2016 as a mechanism put in place to accelerate delivery.</p> <p>153. WSI has attracted Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) funds worth of USD 10 million to implement a regional project on SDG Target #6.4 (By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity).</p>
<p>c. <u>highlighted</u> the importance of sound statistics and information for decision-making, early warning and measuring the effectiveness of interventions by countries and FAO;</p>	<p>154. Support was provided to the Ministry of Agriculture on the Census of Agriculture in Morocco and talks are ongoing on how FAO can support the monitoring of the SDG indicators.</p> <p>155. FAO is supporting a wide range of stakeholders in Yemen through its Food Security Information System that was put in place and that is now being extended to cover most parts of the country.</p> <p>156. FAO has supported a number of countries in the region on information generation for decision-making. Key examples include: (i) the Integrated food Security Phase Classification (IPC) work in the Sudan and Yemen, which is now being rolled-out to the Syrian Arab Republic and neighbouring countries affected by the Syrian Arab Republic crisis; (ii) Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis</p>

	<p>(RIMA) work in Mauritania and Palestine; (iii) food security and agricultural livelihoods assessments including Damage and Loss Assessments in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Sudan and Yemen; (iv) establishment of early warning system in the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen; (v) support in institutional assessment and capacity building for Disaster Risk Reduction/Management in agriculture in Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and the Sudan (starting soon); and (vi) the Regional Food Security Analysis Network, established to provide food security information and strengthen national capacities on food security information and early warning in countries affected by the Syrian Arab Republic crisis (Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic).</p>
<p>d. <u>emphasized</u> the necessity of country support and ownership of FAO work through Regional Initiatives to support national policies and priorities;</p>	<p>157. FAO supports Algeria, Mauritania and Tunisia in the setting up of national commissions for Globally Important Agriculture Heritage Systems (GIAHS) and to develop an action plan to promote GIAHS. Strategic planning on water resources in agriculture is underway in support of policies for the sustainable management of water resources.</p> <p>158. Countries are fully engaged with the RI FSN through the “Country Support Process”. This continuous dialogue and collaboration is positively accelerating the timely delivery and implementation of activities.</p> <p>159. FAO supported the development/strengthening of national policies and strategies with focus on enhancing Food Security and Nutrition (FSN): national policy for FSN were developed in the Sudan; agriculture strategy in Palestine; National Agricultural Policy (NAP) in United Arab Emirates; Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development Strategy (SARDS)/investment plan in Oman.</p>
<p>e. <u>urged</u> FAO and member countries to strengthen the role of non-governmental and civil society organizations at all levels for achieving better progress in the implementation of the Regional Initiatives and programmes geared towards mitigating food insecurity and hunger in the region;</p>	<p>160. Countries are supporting the Regional Initiatives by participating in programmes and projects. For instance, Algeria, Mauritania and Tunisia are setting national commission and action plan for GIAHS, and are involving the WSI in strategic planning and policy support for sustainable management of water resources in agriculture.</p> <p>161. FAO is encouraging the full engagement of civil society organizations in the formulation of the new Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs) currently ongoing: a regional TCP project (TCP/RAB/3603), “Support to strengthen national capacities of producer organizations in the NENA region” (covering Lebanon, Oman and the Sudan) is ongoing.</p>
<p>f. <u>urged</u> FAO to work with member countries in collaboration and partnership with subregional, regional and international</p>	<p>162. FAO is encouraging the full engagement of NGOs and civil society organizations in the formulation of new CPFs currently ongoing.</p>

institutions, particularly for work in countries affected by regional crises;	
g. <u>requested</u> FAO to strengthen the institutional capacity of countries to respond to crises;	<p>163. A new UMA network for plant protection will be created by 2018. A database of plant protection is being set up on the NEPPPO web site.</p> <p>164. RI FSN supported crisis-affected countries in strengthening leadership, surge capacity and representation in the relevant agriculture and livelihoods clusters and sector coordination mechanisms. Humanitarian Response Plans and Humanitarian Needs Overviews for countries such as Iraq, Libya, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen have been developed with FAO technical support. Emergency Response Plans have also been developed in some countries in the region. These activities have contributed to informing wider national and sector response as well as in increasing resource mobilization for humanitarian and recovery efforts.</p> <p>165. RI FSN has been supporting follow-up activities to strengthen countries' position for more comprehensive disaster risk reduction and management (in Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine) interventions.</p>

<p>h. <u>stressed</u> the importance of resource mobilization and requested FAO and member countries to work together to mobilize resources from development partners, including international financial institutions and regional development banks in order to ensure the implementation of regional initiatives and country programmes;</p>	<p>166. The FAO Investment Centre (TCI) has been supporting the formulation, implementation and evaluation of investment operations in the region, through its cooperation with the World Bank, IFAD and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). TCI has also facilitated public private policy dialogues and helped create enabling conditions for private investment in specific value chains, in close collaboration with EBRD. Globally, TCI has - over 50 years - helped design and implement over 2 100 investment operations across 170 countries, valued at more than USD 127 billion. During the 2016-2017 biennium, TCI supported the formulation of USD 514 million worth agricultural investment in the region, or a cumulated USD 2 187 million over the last ten years. One example of recently approved investment operations that FAO's Investment Centre helped design is the World Bank-financed Integrated Landscapes Management in Lagging Regions project in Tunisia (USD 132 million). In December 2017, under the auspices of the Government of Egypt, and in collaboration with the World Bank and EBRD, FAO TCI has organized the Investment Forum "Promoting Sustainable Investment in Egypt's Food Security" in Cairo. The high-level forum gathered more than 250 participants including three ministers, CEO's from foreign and national agribusiness companies. At the occasion, a joint declaration was signed by Egypt's Minister for Investment and International Cooperation, FAO, EBRD and the World Bank, who committing to collaborate on joint activities to further promote sustainable investments in Egypt's agricultural sector.</p> <p>167. Since January 2016, the total resources mobilized amounts to USD 204 million, in support to the: (i) reform and development of markets and value chains and producers' organizations in Palestine; (ii) enhancement of Yemen food security information systems and rural livelihoods Programme (EFRP); (iii) implementation of the 2030 Agenda for water efficiency/productivity and water sustainability in NENA region, and (iv) resilience building in the Syrian Arab Republic.</p> <p>168. Near East resource mobilization needs have been systematically raised during the last two years, in the Strategic Dialogue Meetings held with Sweden, France and the EU and have resulted in approval and funding of the following projects and programmes:</p> <p>Sweden:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GCP/RNE/009/SWE - "Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Water Efficiency/Productivity and Water Sustainability in NENA", USD 10 153 938;</li> </ul>
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	<p>France GCP/INT/266/FRA - Resource Project [Migratory Birds] USD 1 645 999;</p> <p>EU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OSRO/SYR/601/EC - Strengthening the resilience to food insecurity of crisis-affected households and communities, USD 6 558 001;</li> <li>• OSRO/YEM/606/EC - Enhancing Yemen Food Security Information Systems and Rural Livelihoods Programme (EFRP), USD 12 691 161;</li> <li>• GCP/EGY/026/EC - Water harvesting and Good Agriculture Practices for Improved Livelihood and Increased and Sustained Production in Matrouh Rain-fed Agricultural areas, USD 960 516;</li> <li>• GCP/EGY/027/EC - Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) for sustainable improvement of quality and quantity of horticultural production of small-scale farmers in Fayoum, USD 747 050;</li> <li>• GCP/GAZ/014/MUL - Reform and Development of Markets, Value Chains and Producers' Organizations, USD 29 932 736;</li> <li>• GCP/LEB/023/EC - Support to the MoA in strengthening and modernizing the Agricultural Statistics System, USD 870 329;</li> </ul> <p>GCP/YEM/035/EC - Food Security Information System in Yemen, USD 7 822 799.</p> <p>169. USD 36 million in Yemen was provided by the World Bank for the “Smallholder Agriculture Production Restoration and Enhancement Project (SAPREP)”.</p> <p>170. Technical Agreement with the Sudan for implementation of UTF/SUD/079/SUD - Support to the design of a Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system in the framework of REDD+ Readiness in the Sudan is funded by the World Bank (USD 3 320 000)</p> <p>171. A UTF between FAO and the Government of Tunisia funded by the World Bank is being formulated.</p> <p>172. A UTF between FAO/Government of Iran (Islamic Republic of) (UTF/IRA/642000) was formulated in response to government requests and pledge for funding.</p> <p>173. A concept note and a request for Project Preparation Facility (PPF) submitted by FAO to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for a forestry project in the Sudan.</p> <p>174. A Concept Note under GEF-7 is currently being prepared in SNE.</p> <p>175. WSI has attracted Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) funds worth of</p>
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	<p>USD 10 million to implement a regional project on SDG Target #6.4 (By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity).</p> <p>176. In addition, major marketing activities were undertaken throughout 2017 in order to strengthen donor knowledge and attention in the field of animal and plant diseases.</p> <p>177. In particular, a marketing, branding and resource mobilization strategy was developed in close collaboration and partnership with OIE, in order to attract additional domestic and international as well as multilateral funding to the eradication of PPR as part of the Global Eradication Programme (PPR-GEP). The first part of the strategy was implemented, jointly with OIE, and initial capacity development activities for marketing of PPR have started, including with a workshop in Amman, Jordan. In addition, the Executive heads of FAO and the OIE, jointly with the EU Commissioner for development, agreed to organize a global resource partner summit in Brussels in 2018 in order to attract additional funding to PPR-GEP.</p> <p>178. A specific resource partner outreach and marketing event, titled “Pests on the March”, was organized in Rome in November 2017, to advocate for control and eradication work of several animal and plant diseases: the Fall Armyworm, PPR and the Banana Fusarium Wilt disease. The event was attended by all major donors and chairs of regional groups and the Group of 77, and statements were provided by major donors in favour of fighting these diseases, essential for food security and resilience of rural communities. Follow-up events will be organized in 2018 to further market these important causes to potential resource partners in order to attract additional international and domestic funding as well as financing from international financial institutions.</p>
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<p>i. <u>requested</u> the full alignment between the FAO Strategic Objectives and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out in the 2030 Agenda;</p>	<p>179. The alignment with the SDGs continues to be reflected in newly formulated CPFs.</p> <p>180. The alignment with the SDGs is guaranteed also in the CPFs (2017–2020) of Morocco and the Sudan (2017–2020). The rest of the CPFs that are under formulation also incorporate programmes in support of the SDGs.</p>
<p>j. <u>agreed</u> that recent important global developments including the SDGs, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the ICN2 Framework for Action and the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025) will guide national and regional action and FAO’s work in food and agriculture in the future;</p>	<p>181. All of the CPFs being prepared foresee a strong alignment with the SDGs, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), in addition to nutrition being mainstreamed in CPFs.</p>
<p>k. <u>noted</u> the developments in some countries in the region concerning (i) conflict and upheaval and related social and economic impacts, in particular forced displacement and migration; (ii) unsatisfactory economic growth; (iii) youth unemployment; (iv) rising levels of import dependence and exposure to market shocks; (v) high levels of malnutrition in different forms; and (vi) transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases and food safety, and looked forward to further analytical work by FAO as a basis for guiding future work in the region.</p>	<p>182. A Regional Equality Gender Strategy has been developed highlighting areas of focus for the NENA region for mainstreaming gender in its overall portfolio with special focus on youth, gender-sensitive value chain development, sex-disaggregated data, gender and water governance and resilience to conflicts.</p> <p>183. RI-FSN supported the development of the Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition with a focus on Building resilience for food security and nutrition in time of conflict, which contributes to further understanding of the relationship between hunger, malnutrition, markets and conflict in the region, and informs strategies for achieving Zero Hunger targets (i.e. SDG #2).</p> <p>184. Assistance provided to programmes aiming at: (i) preventing transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases; and (ii) responding to main outbreaks in the region (<i>Xyllela Fastidiosa</i>, RPW, Avian Influenza, etc.). In addition, regional paper on the “Livestock contribution to food security in the Near East and North Africa region” was presented to the NERC 33. Expert Consultations meetings on: (i) Contingency Planning for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in the NENA region; and (ii) RPW were organized with support of the RI FSN.</p>
<p><b>B. Decentralized Offices Network</b></p>	
<p>a. <u>NERC supported</u> the proposed principle and general criteria for reviewing FAO coverage and recognized the need to update the coverage of FAO offices in the region;</p>	<p>185. The Office of Support to Decentralized Offices (OSD) is working with the Office of Deputy Director-General Operations (DDO), in consultation with the Regional Office, on a reform to the staffing models of Country Offices. This would increase the flexibility in the use of the FAO Representations’ Network resources to adjust to emerging needs and invest in evolving expertise</p>



	<p>requirements. In the next biennium a streamlined country office staffing model will be gradually introduced based inter alia on the size and relative complexity of the country programme including voluntary contributions and partnerships.</p> <p>186. Negotiations are ongoing for the establishment of Partnership and Liaison Offices in High-Income and Upper-Middle-Income countries</p>
<p>b. <u>requested</u> FAO to undertake an independent assessment of its technical capacity as per the recommendation of the 153rd session of the FAO Council in December 2015, particularly in the decentralized offices;</p>	<p>187. An Independent Assessment of FAO's Technical Capacity, at headquarters and in Decentralized Offices was carried out. The Report was welcomed by the 40th Session of the FAO Conference</p>
<p>c. <u>endorsed</u> the establishment of a Subregional Office for Mashreq countries in Lebanon and appreciated the offer and readiness of Lebanon (logistically, administratively and financially) to host this office in line with related previous decisions.</p>	<p>188. The agreement on the establishment of a Subregional Office for the Mashreq countries, which covers Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic, was signed between the Government of Lebanon and FAO on 14 December 2016. Six professional positions have been established and will gradually be filled upon receipt by FAO of the generous contribution offered by the Government of Lebanon.</p>