

Annex 4: Trends, challenges and priorities – Europe and Central Asia

Europe and Central Asia	
Regional Trends and Challenges	Regional Priorities – 2016 Regional Conference
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rural poverty and migration. Rural livelihoods have profound implications for food security, agricultural development and overall well-being of a large number of rural dwellers in the region. Rural population is expected to decline by 2030 due to migration to urban areas, with the least decline in the Caucasus and Central Asia. Rural-urban differences in income, poverty and educational and professional opportunities are expected to continue. ➤ Changing farm structures. Family farms account for bulk of agricultural production and will continue to be the dominant farm structure in most countries with ongoing trend of fragmentation, although there is a trend of consolidation in some countries. ➤ Sustainability of food production and food systems, driven by changes in demand for food, feed, and bioenergy. ➤ Food insecurity and malnutrition, in particular micronutrient deficiencies, over-nutrition and unhealthy diets for children and adults. ➤ Agricultural trade policy - alignment of trade and sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) policies to meet World Trade Organization (WTO) commitments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support to countries, especially in the implementation of Agenda 2030 through capacity building and policy advice, in line with the FAO Country Programming Frameworks and Strategic Objectives. - Increase the well-being and livelihoods of the rural population through: improved access to land and services by the rural population; empowerment of rural women and young farmers and attention to youth employment including support to initiatives that create decent jobs and economic opportunities, support to professional education and support to social protection services. - Improve the situation for smallholders and family farms as a measure to revitalize rural areas and to reduce out- migration by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - addressing issues limiting competitiveness, equitable access to and distribution of land for smallholders, including, inter alia, limited access to advisory services, innovative practices and education; - supporting formulation of effective policies for sustainable and inclusive growth for farmers and the rural population with emphasis on smallholders and family farms within overall agricultural and development policies. - Enhance the reach towards new markets through alignment of trade, food safety and SPS policies to meet WTO commitments and through value-chain development to meet international food safety and quality requirements. - Support strengthening the institutional framework for food safety, plant and animal health, strengthening the capacity of member countries’ food safety agencies to carry out analyses of food safety risks (risk management, risk assessment and risk communication). - Support implementation of the Conference Resolution 4/2015 on antimicrobial resistance (AMR). - Strengthen work with Members in collaboration and partnership with relevant subregional, regional and international institutions, providing policy advice and capacity-development to member countries and building on FAO’s normative and standard-setting work. - Maximize synergies by collaborating with other relevant international organizations in the Region in addressing



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support development and management of inclusive governance and coordination mechanisms built upon sustainable food security and nutrition strategies and programmes. - Support further application and promotion of all FAO and CFS voluntary guidelines. - Promote sustainable land use, protection of biodiversity and education and training as important areas for achieving the SDGs. - Sustainable natural resources management, combating land degradation and desertification, including mitigation and adaptation to climate change - Support water management efforts in relation to sustainable land management practices such as conservation agriculture as well as climate conditions. Maintaining biodiversity and reducing overexploitation of soils are key areas in addressing environmental sustainability. - Promote integration of the forestry sector with agriculture to decrease land degradation and linked particularly to increasing sustainable land uses and especially to pasture and range management. - Explore further possibilities for enhancing FAOs work on boreal forests, given their role in regulating global climate. - Supporting climate change efforts across the region’s agricultural sector to cope with expected changing climatic conditions and build improved resilience of production systems and local communities to adverse and extreme weather conditions, as well as to develop the potential for reducing GHG emissions and increasing carbon sequestration from agriculture compared to past trends. - Strengthen evidence-based decision-making by enhancing capacities for analysis and increasing availability of food security and nutrition-related data and information.