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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
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منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

Thirtieth Session

Khartoum, the Sudan, 19-23 February 2018

**Reporting on the recommendations of the 29th Session of FAO Regional
Conference for Africa**

Executive Summary

This report presents the follow-up to the 29th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa (ARC) recommendations during 2016-2017.

Reporting on the recommendations of the 29th ARC

The table below shows the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the 29th session of the Regional Conference for Africa. The number indicated in the table corresponds to the same number in the summary of the main recommendations presented in the Report of the 29th Session of the ARC. Each recommendation has been reproduced (in bold) and is followed by key points reflecting accomplishments.

MATTERS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF THE CONFERENCE

II. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Matters

A. Public Private Partnership for Inclusive Agricultural Growth

Priorities for FAO Activities in Africa

*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



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Recommendations	Comments
i) Develop further in-depth analyses to highlight case studies that have produced positive, concrete and sustainable impact using Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) platforms;	Additional cases documented in Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. Reports will be available in mid 2018.
ii) Continue to foster collective action and capacity building of smallholders to increase the participation in modern value chains;	<p>Training on Inclusive Business Model (IBM) approaches have been conducted in several countries. This training provides guidance and tools to Government officials, private sector actors and Civil society on effectively integrating smallholders into modern agricultural value chains.</p> <p>The Africa Solidarity Trust Fund supported Rural Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Project and rural women's cooperatives in the Gambia. In Swaziland, women in the sweet potato value chain benefited from training and equipment for value addition to improve food security and the profitability of their business.</p> <p>Through its Multipartner programme support Mechanism (FMM), FAO is implementing the project 'Enable women to benefit more equally from agrifood value chains' in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Morocco, Rwanda and Tunisia. The project is providing technical assistance and policy support to reduce the specific barriers women farmers and producers face in participating in local, national and global markets. This contributes to more inclusive value chains, diversification of rural livelihood systems, and rural poverty reduction through increased access to markets and income for women.</p> <p>Through another FMM project 'Value chain development in support of sustainable intensification in Africa' capacities of small producers in Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda and Zambia have been strengthened in agro-entrepreneurship while awareness of policy makers has been raised on institutional frameworks for supporting agro-entrepreneurship in their countries.</p>

<p>iii) Support Member states to promote sound institutional and policy and regulatory frameworks, including the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT), fisheries, forestry in the context of national food security and transparent processes for selection of private partners and the projects that will be implemented in the framework of PPPs;</p>	<p>In partnership with the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), key nutrition and food security indicators were mainstreamed into the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Results Framework and Implementation Strategy and Roadmap. Nineteen countries were supported in the formulation or updating of food security and nutrition policies and strategies that mainstream nutrition, social protection, youth employment and/or women empowerment, and a new Regional Agricultural Investment Plan for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) was formulated and adopted to ensure that nutrition was fully mainstreamed. National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs) were reviewed and/or reformulated to align with political commitments of the Malabo Declaration in a number of countries.</p> <p>The Pan-African Parliamentary Alliance on Food Security and Nutrition was launched to position food security and nutrition issue at the highest level of the political and legislative agenda.</p> <p>Within the framework of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) and the Committee for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Africa (CIFAA), countries were given opportunities to discuss the status and trends of fish stocks and ways to improve regional collaboration for effective implementation, in Africa, of global standards under the umbrella of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF).</p> <p>Key results achieved by FAO in terms of VGGT in the Africa regions focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - awareness creation with workshops carried out at different levels (regional level; national level; local workshops at provincial level); - analysis of legal instruments related to tenure governance in - proposal of new Land Laws i.e Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe (ongoing). - formulation of the Project in Guinée-Bissau”, which uses the VGGT principles. - land-related conflicts resolution and management, using FAO methods through VGGT, Land Tenure Alternative Conflict Management (ACM) and Participatory and Negotiated Territorial Development. - experience sharing in terms of efficient use of the VGGT principles among CSOs and grassroots Organizations and in the promotion of policies and framework that influence the drivers and address challenges in relation to sustainable land use.
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<p>iv) Enhance efforts to adopt and strengthen appropriate risk management measures, both hard and soft relating to agricultural activities (disaster, etc.) to ensure beneficial effects for smallholders, including agricultural insurance;</p>	<p>Efforts focused primarily on the development of strategies to increase resilience both at national, subregional and regional levels.</p> <p>In particular, collaboration on disaster risk management in agriculture and resilience-related activities, with a focus on smallholder producers and vulnerable communities, has been developed with countries and also with the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) (West Africa), IGAD (East Africa), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) (Southern Africa) and the African Union Commission.</p> <p>Furthermore, technical and operational support was provided to the inaugural African Drought Conference held in Namibia in August 2016. The Conference adopted a Strategic Framework for Drought Management and Enhancing Resilience in Africa to guide national approaches to drought management on the continent.</p> <p>Efforts continued to be invested in measuring resilience through the Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis (RIMA) with a focus on partnerships with CILSS and IGAD in West and East Africa (Horn of Africa and Sahel) subregions; vulnerability assessments through, inter alia, Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) and Cadre Harmonisé (covering all subregions including Central and Southern Africa).</p> <p>Important support is being provided to households and communities to adopt appropriate risk reduction, risk mitigation and prevention measures to strengthen resilience, including through community-based approaches such as Farmer Field Schools and “Caisses de resilience”.</p> <p>Preparedness and response for emergencies has been supported through contingency planning, capacity development initiatives, emergency sectoral coordination and the provision of emergency agricultural assistance to respond to shocks and crises affecting agriculture and food security.</p> <p>In particular, corporate surge efforts enabled timely and effective responses to all major crises, notably, the Lake Chad Basin and South Sudan conflict-induced, food-insecurity crises, and to the El Niño phenomenon in Southern Africa and Ethiopia.</p> <p>Support is currently being provided to mitigate the effects of drought in the Horn of Africa, as well as technical support for managing transboundary threats, including the ongoing Fall Army Worm crisis and animal disease outbreaks.</p>
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<p>v) Create an expert group on PPPs that will conduct in-depth analyses on the nature and types of PPPs that are relevant for specific circumstances and provide expert advice to African countries;</p>	<p>Through a regional Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) project on agribusiness jointly implemented with the African Union, a continental agribusiness platform is established and includes a framework for agribusiness PPPs to provide guidance to African countries.</p>
<p>vi) Ensure that particular attention is given to youth in the area of agrifood system;</p>	<p>FAO is providing training opportunities in agribusiness and entrepreneurship to small and medium agro-enterprises (SMAEs) across the African continent. Preference is given to youth and women.</p> <p>FAO launched its Regional Special Programme “Youth Employment: enabling decent agriculture and agribusiness jobs” aimed at particularly promoting the upscaling of successful interventions by FAO and other organizations on youth employment in agriculture and value chains.</p> <p>In each country, the programme selects one or two entry points among the following: (i) youth employment and entrepreneurship in selected agricultural value chains or sub-sectors; (ii) overall youth inclusion in food systems, including through the promotion of responsible agricultural investments; (iii) green jobs in climate-smart agriculture and natural resource management; (iv) emergency employment programmes to build resilience in countries in protracted crisis; (v) linkages with social protection interventions such as public works programmes, emergency employment programmes and preferential public procurement; (vi) equal participation of young women through meeting their specific needs and priorities; (vii) special attention to the needs of vulnerable categories of rural youth such as migrants, school drop-outs, adolescents, refugees and others.</p> <p>Several youth-led value chain projects were implemented through the Africa Solidarity Trust Fund (ASTF) in about 15 countries across all Sub-Saharan Africa subregions.</p> <p>Through another FMM project ‘Value chain development in support of sustainable intensification in Africa’ capacities of small producers in Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda and Zambia, including women and youth, have been strengthened through training in agro-entrepreneurship.</p> <p>FAO provided technical support to the designing of Youth Employment in Agriculture policies/strategies/programmes in Benin, the Gambia, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal and Uganda, among others. On this, the Integrated Country Approach (ICA) under the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) funding was successfully tested in Uganda and Senegal.</p>

B. Trends and Issues in Food and Agriculture for Regional and National Action in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	
Recommendations	Comments
18. The participants recommended FAO to:	
i) continue to provide its knowledge and expertise to help Member States effectively address these trends and issues in food and agriculture, in particular in the areas of:	
(a) value chain development; (b) youth employment; (c) information and communication technology (ICT) and agriculture; (d) social protection; (e) trade-related policies and agreements; (f) data, information systems and statistics to improve policies and strategies as well as M&E systems; and; (g) resilience building for climate change adaptation and mitigation;	<p>Technical support is being provided to assist countries for Climate Resilience to develop Strategic Programmes on Climate Resilience.</p> <p>The Regional Initiative on “Building Resilience in Africa’s Drylands” allowed to improve the issues of vulnerability and risk assessment, resilience measurement, trend analysis and early warning-early action systems to better inform country decisions and actions related to policy and programme.</p> <p>FAO provided financial and technical support to countries and to the AU-NEPAD Climate Smart Alliance for capacity development and to improve country institutional policy environment for CSA upscaling.</p> <p>In the area of trade-related policies and agreements, FAO has been supporting capacity development activities in Eastern and Southern Africa through two e-learning courses on Trade and Food Security and Trade Agreements for Agriculture. Moreover, FAO assisted Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia to assess policies and resource and identify gaps and synergies for improving alignment of related objectives and priorities.</p> <p>With regard to value chain development, FAO has been supporting African countries in promoting sustainable intensification while incorporating post-production/off field activities and players within the value chain in a way that leads to job creation and increased wage employment. Participants from twelve countries (Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Cameroon, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda and Zambia) were invited to take part in a</p>

	<p>training at the Songai Centre to strengthen their skills in growing farming as a business.</p> <p>In collaboration with the African Agri-business Incubator Network (AAIN) a number of processing/agribusiness, mechanization, logistics, and trader enterprises have been identified and incubated. The SMEs also attended a Making Markets Matter Course. Two training of trainer courses were conducted (1 anglophone and 1 francophone) to develop more trainers in Inclusive business Models.</p> <p>In collaboration with the African Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (AFRACA) FAO ran courses for financial institutions (specifically banks and microfinance institutions) on how to analyse and finance agribusiness proposals.</p> <p>FAO has continued to provide regular technical assistance to Countries and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) (ECOWAS) in gathering data, information systems, statistics and building/strengthening M&E systems particularly for the Sustainable Development Goals where FAO is custodian for 21 SDGs indicators. Moreover, FAO has promoted the implementation of the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020 (WCA 2020) for francophone African countries. Technical support on the implementation of the agricultural and livestock Census and statistical development projects in Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali and Senegal. FAO has also ensured the formulation of the new pipeline project documents of the agricultural and livestock census (Angola, Cameroon, Gabon, Guinea, Mali and Senegal). The FAO Regional Office for Africa (RAF) is monitoring two important activities of the Global Strategy research programme. One on vegetable crop survey methodology and the second on data reconciliation.</p> <p>FAO, together with member countries and RECs, carried out 40 country gender assessments of the agriculture and rural sectors in Africa. The reports provide a strong baseline for monitoring the implementation of the Malabo Declaration, the Sustainable Development Goals and the National</p>
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	<p>Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs) from a gender perspective, while informing the ongoing elaboration of the second generation of NAIPs currently under preparation in many countries, as well as other agricultural policies and programmes. The information and data gathered will help enrich the knowledge and databases of FAO and RECs.</p> <p>In the area of social protection, FAO is supporting the evidence-based development of policies/programmes/investments linking agriculture to social protection for increased food and nutrition security. A regional TCP was implemented in Burkina Faso, Niger, Senegal and Chad to support the formulation of strategic documents linking social protection, agriculture and food and nutrition security. Under the TCP, an assessment of the social protection policy and programming environment and the link with food and nutrition security was carried out in the targeted countries.</p>
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MATTERS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

A. III. Programme and Budget Matters

A. Priorities for FAO Activities in Africa

Recommendations	Comments
The participants recommended FAO to:	
i) Continue to improve on the results and impact of its programmes, including through more focused Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs) contributing to achievement of FAO's Strategic Objectives (SOs) and the SDGs;	From January 2016 to 15 September 2017, 16 Country Programming Frameworks (CPF) were developed for Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Chad, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Liberia, Mozambique, the Niger, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe with focus on Government priorities and aligned to FAO's Strategic Objectives. SDGs targets have been defined in April 2017 to enable countries align their CPFs. In order to improve cross-sectoral integration in the CPF implementation to achieve greater impact coordinated supports were fostered to help move from project to a more programmatic approach at the country level. This effort will continue in 2018.
ii) Strengthen partnerships with Member Countries in collaboration with subregional, regional and international institutions, providing policy advice and capacity development and building on FAO's normative and standard-setting work;	In the West African subregion FAO has been supporting ECOWAS, its Member States, relevant stakeholders and partners in assessing the first generation of regional agricultural policy (ECOWAP) and investment plans for food and nutrition security at both regional (RAIP-FNS) and country level (NAIP-FNS), as well as in preparing the second

	<p>generation of the related strategic documents spanning from 2016-2025.</p> <p>Upon the launching of the formulation of the RAIP and NAIP in Abidjan in 2016, FAO further supported ECOWAS in the preparation of the ECOWAP Strategic Orientation Framework 2016-2025 and the Regional Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security Investment Plan 2016-2020, as well as a framework for ECOWAP 2025 Monitoring and Evaluation; endorsed by the ECOWAS Specialized Technical Ministerial Committee on Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources has validated on December 2016.</p> <p>In addition to the technical accompaniment to the 15 Member States, for domesticating the ECOWAP2025, the 2014 African Union Malabo declaration, the SDGs, the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) Declaration and Framework of Actions and the twenty-first and twenty-second sessions of the Conference of the Parties (COP21 and COP22) in their strategic long-term planning, FAO is providing tailor-made assistance to eight West African countries (Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, the Niger, Sierra Leone and Togo); in the framework of two regional projects implemented in collaboration with ECOWAS Agriculture and Rural Development Directorate and the Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food Agriculture (GCP/RAF/476/GER and GCP/RAF/461/SPA) it is therefore expected that, by March 2018, all members would have the NAIP-FNS endorsed and under implementation.</p> <p>FAO and the ECOWAS Commission held a consultative dialogue in March 2017 to agree on steps to strengthening their partnerships along the priorities set for agriculture, environment and natural resources. The key recommendation under implementation is the preparation of a long-term joint FAO-ECOWAS cooperation work plan from 2018 - 2025 including the regional technical and integration bodies such as UEMOA/WAEMU and CILSS;</p> <p>Moreover, in the framework of the tripartite cooperation between ECOWAS, FAO and Israel, several study tours have been organized to strengthen the capacities of ECOWAS Commission and Members States in improving agriculture productivity in the arid and semi-arid zones; this included, among others, animal husbandry and feeding, strategy for linking applied research – extension and farmers, drip irrigation, and so forth. Follow-up priorities would include, in partnership with ECOWAS/CORAF, the review and upgrading of West Africa Integrated Agriculture Research for Development (IAR4D) approach and the strengthening of the nine (9) subregional poles of excellences, tailor-made training in Israel and in Africa and advocacy for improved political commitment and governance of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security.</p>
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	<p>In anticipation of the organization of the regional business meeting for the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the 12 integrated projects of the Regional Programme on Agricultural Investment for Food Security and Nutrition (PRIASAN), FAO is assisting the Secretariat general of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) in the preparation of this event.</p> <p>Pursuant to the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) Regional Seeds Programme, FAO has assisted the six member countries of this REC in evaluating their institutional capacity (including that of the private sector) in seeds systems development and in particular in regulatory matters.</p> <p>FAO has built strong partnership with RECs (ECOWAS, ECCAS) through TCPs on “Gender Responsive Regional and National Agricultural Investment Plans for meeting the Zero Hunger Challenge”. Through the TCPs, FAO is supporting the RECs in the development of their Gender and Agriculture Action Plans. The preparation of two publications is also underway: FAO-ECOWAS and FAO-ECCAS on “Regional Outlook on gender and agrifood systems”. A gender assessment of the first generation of NAIPs was also jointly conducted with ECOWAS. FAO and ECOWAS Commission jointly organized successfully from 30 October to 2 November 2017 a regional workshop on “Gender Responsive Regional and National Agricultural Investment Plans” with the participation of 50 representatives of Ministries of Agriculture and gender/women’s affairs, ECOWAS Commission, ECOWAP Gender Group, farmers organizations and academia and research institutions. The aim was to: strengthen the capacities of ECOWAS and its member States in designing, implementing and monitoring gender responsive and sustainable agrifood systems and value chains within the framework of ECOWAP 2025; and create a vibrant community of practice for expanding women’s opportunities in accelerated and inclusive agricultural growth in the ECOWAS region. A similar workshop with ECCAS and its member States is scheduled to take place in January 2018.</p> <p>FAO is supporting the African Union Commission (AUC) in convening an Africa Wide Consultation with rural women on the AU Gender Strategy, to be held in Accra on 22-24 October 2017. The overall objective of this consultative meeting is to define priority intervention areas for the AU in empowering rural women in food and nutrition security, agrifood systems and value chains, and management of natural resources in the context of climate change. The meeting provides a forum to build relationships to carry forward implementation of targets between AUC and RECs, Organs, AU liaison offices, and international organizations.</p>
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	<p>In the framework of ECOWAS Zero Hunger initiative adopted by the West African Ministers in charge of Agriculture and livestock in September 2012, FAO has been spearheading the rollout of this regional endeavour with financial support of the German cooperation since 2014 through the project “Strengthening Regional Initiatives to End Hunger and Malnutrition in West Africa”; Key strategic accomplishments include: the review of the Right to Food situation in West Africa, the analysis of hunger and malnutrition trends over the last 20 years, the formulation of a strategic framework and road map for achieving zero hunger and ending malnutrition in West Africa by 2025, as well as direct guidance on strengthening the mainstreaming of nutrition and social protection into regional and national policies and programmes, the promotion of the Right to Food comprising: the development of food and nutrition policies, support for the setting up of national coordination mechanisms for scaling up nutrition initiatives, sensitizing and awareness raising of Parliamentarians and public policy makers through advocacy for non-state actor involvement and participation in the ECOWAP 2025 governance and enshrining RTF in national constitutions as well as other legislative instruments.</p> <p>Since 2016, FAO and ECOWAS have been implementing a TCP on “Gender Responsive Regional and National Agricultural Investment Plans for meeting the Zero Hunger Challenge in the ECOWAS region”. The overarching goal of this project is to ensure that agricultural transformation and inclusive agricultural growth fully benefit/empower women and youth in ECOWAS Member countries. The project fully contributes to the ECOWAP/CAADP 2025, the ECOWAS Zero Hunger Initiative, and the ECOWAS Regional Agricultural Investment Plan. To date, 13 comprehensive Country Gender Assessment (CGAs) of the Agricultural and Rural Sectors and of the first generation of National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIP) have been completed.</p> <p>The CGA reports reveal gender disparities in access to critical agriculture and rural resources, knowledge, opportunities, services and markets. They explore the existing gender relations and gaps in the various sub-sectors of agriculture, and their possible causes and impact on food and nutrition security; therefore providing good baseline information for informing the formulation of the second generation of NAIPs and the monitoring of ECOWAP 2025 and SDG implementation. Other activities under preparation are: the elaboration of the draft ECOWAS Action Plan on gender and agriculture; a joint FAO-ECOWAS Publication on Gender and Agrifood systems in the ECOWAS region; a regional training workshop for technical staff from ECOWAS Commission and RAAF, NAIP and ECOWAP focal points from Ministries of Agriculture and representatives of Ministries of Gender.</p>
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	<p>FAO also engaged in similar initiatives with ECCAS and other Regional Economic Communities in 2017.</p>
	<p>In Southern Africa, FAO has been supporting SADC in formulating a Regional Agricultural Investment Plan and in establishing a structure for its implementation. It has also been supporting SADC in responding to the worst drought in 35 years exacerbated by the strongest El Niño event in 2015/16. At the request of the SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre, a TCP has been developed to support its work. Through the ASTF project, the SADC technical committees Sanitary and phytosanitary issues, livestock, and crops have been capacitated, as also SADC work on pesticide risk reduction.</p> <p>Furthermore, FAO in Southern Africa is also supporting the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) in the formulation of the Regional Agricultural Investment Plan as well as on addressing food safety issues to increase intra- and inter-regional trade.</p>
	<p>The FAO Subregional Office for Eastern Africa (SFE) has strengthened partnerships with member states and provided policy advice and capacity building. In particular, it has supported member states through partnership with IGAD and East African Community (EAC). SFE supported IGAD to formulate the IGAD Regional Agricultural Investment Plan (RIAP) and also provided support for the organization of a business meeting for the RIAP. Priority areas for collaboration and partnerships for EAC has been identified. In support of this, SFE together with EAC are implementing a TCP on youth in agriculture. In response to the drought in the sub region, SFE together with IGAD conducted a cross-border assessment of the effect of drought on livestock. SFE also provided input in development of drought response plan of member states as well as launching of drought relief response in affected countries. FAO provided support to IGAD and specialized institutions to organize a high-level technical meeting on drought in Eastern Africa, refugees and migration. It has also worked with member states to develop a number strategies for climate-smart agriculture, crop development strategy, disaster risk reduction, blue growth, livestock development and sustainable school food and nutrition initiative.</p> <p>FAO has provided direct support to IGAD's Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI) through the implementation of cross border actions in the areas of cross-border trade, natural resource management and prevention and control of transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases, as well as in capacity building programmes in vulnerability and resilience analysis, policy and investment.</p> <p>FAO and IGAD supported Member State's efforts to address the root causes of forced migration (conflict, poverty, youth</p>

	<p>unemployment, human trafficking) through livelihoods support programmes, data and information sharing and better programme coordination.</p> <p>SFE has organized various capacity building trainings for senior government and technical officers. In this respect, trainings have been organized on doing aquaculture as a business. SFE supported senior officers from IGAD to undertake a study tour to CILSS in West Africa. Concerning policy support, SFE undertook a comprehensive study of food and nutrition policies of the RECs in the Easter Africa. An IGAD-FAP partnership project focusing on cross-border livelihood and resilience was developed and has been financed by the Swiss Government. Through these activities, SFE has strengthened partnerships with member states and the RECs and has also provided policy support and contributed capacity development and building capacities in member states.</p>
	<p>In Central Africa, FAO has been working in close collaboration with CEEAC (Communauté Economique des Etats de l'Afrique Centrale), CPP (Confédération Panafricaine des Coopératives) and CEMAC (Communauté Economique et Monétaire de l'Afrique Centrale) to build a solid platform for policy making and sharing in the subregion. The collaboration includes policy making exercises and normative initiatives on sectoral policies involving other partners, mainly on fisheries with Comité Régional des Pêches du Golfe de Guinée (COREP), on livestock with CEBEVIRA (Communauté Economique du Bétail, de la Viande et des Ressources Halieutiques), on agricultural research and capacity building with CIRAD (Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement), CARBAP (Centre Africain de Recherche sur Bananiers et Plantains), PRSAC (Pôle Régional de Recherche Appliquée au Développement des Systèmes Agricoles d'Afrique Centrale) and IITA (the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture); and on forestry with CIFOR (Centre for International Forestry Research), FFBC (Fonds pour les Forêts du Bassin du Congo), GEF (Global Environment Facility), RAPC (Réseau des Aires protégées d'Afrique centrale). Strategic partners in project implementation also includes EU (European Union) for fisheries and BAD (Banque Africaine de Development) and World Bank for forestry and natural resources.</p>
	<p>With respect to food quality standard setting work, support provided included the following: institutional and human capacity strengthening to support Codex in Madagascar and Ghana and awareness-raising of high level officials of Ministries of Agriculture and Trade in East African countries on holistic intersectoral risk-based food safety control systems and the and the relevance of active participation in Codex; and support to the Codex Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA) discussions on harmonized basis for improved food laws in the region.</p>

<p>iii) Enhance its support to countries in the important areas such market access and agrifood systems, sustainable natural resource management and governance, and resilience building for effective management of risks;</p>	<p>In terms of resilience for effective management of risks, capacity development and technical and operational support were provided at country, subregional and regional levels through integrated approaches covering the 4 pillars of the SO 5 (increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Institutional capacities for creating a policy and programmatic environment to strengthen resilience; ii. Capacities for early warning and analysis and measuring of vulnerability to shock and resilience; iii. Application of prevention and risk reduction measures at community & household levels; and iv. Emergency preparedness and response. <p>The Regional Initiative on “Building Resilience in Africa’s Drylands” is a major continental vehicle for this, having supported country level resilience activities at country level and strengthened partnership with, inter alia, CILSS (West Africa), IGAD (East Africa), SADC (Southern Africa) and AUC. Partnership on resilience-related matters with the other Rome-based Agencies, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP), have also been strengthened at country level as well as sub-regional levels.</p> <p>The issue of improved market access is being addressed through Inclusive Business Model (IBM) approaches as described in the section above. PPPs play a key role in developing modern agrifood systems by providing finance, technical expertise, modern technologies and management skills.</p>
<p>iv) Assist countries to develop strong and inclusive agroprocessing sectors using appropriate technologies and mechanisation, in particular to attract youth to the food and agriculture sector;</p>	<p>FAO in partnership with the AU Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) are implementing a TCP that developed a Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization Framework for Africa. The framework has been validated with support of FAO and is now available to member states to develop their own SAMIs. FAO with support of the Italian government is implementing a project in Ethiopia to develop agrofood parks. FAO also commissioned a study that documented PPP in agribusiness. In the same line, FAO has completed a study on private sector financing to end hunger in Eastern Africa. A TCP is being implemented in partnership with EAC on youth in agriculture.</p> <p>FAO has developed a new special regional programme "Youth Employment: enabling decent agriculture and agribusiness jobs" launched in 2017. A multistakeholder consultative workshop is scheduled to take place in May 2017 in Accra.</p> <p>FAO is technically supporting NEPAD/NPCA in the framework of its “Rural Futures Programme” in Promoting Decent Rural Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship in Agriculture and AgriBusiness in Benin, Cameroon, Malawi and the Niger. The project is setting the platform to build synergies and partnerships with ongoing programmes in the proposed countries and aims to use the project interventions to</p>

	<p>leverage and mobilize additional resources. An inception phase is completed with a scoping missions, high-level political engagement and an organizational arrangement made among FAO, NEPAD, partners at country levels (Government Ministries) for effective implementation. An Execution Agreement was signed between the NEPAD Agency and FAO followed by the disbursement of funds. Analytical work in support to finalizing the National Action Plan for the countries is ongoing to pilot a catalytic set of interventions to support the design, development and implementation of capacity development. Partner training Institutions have been identified in the four countries; financial capacity assessments and procurement appraisals conducted at country level; and cooperation agreements are being reviewed by national partners and training institutions.</p> <p>In the next biennium, FAO will partner with the AUC, Women, Gender and Development Directorate, and RECs in the implementation of the African Union Campaign to “Banish the hand held hoe to the museum”, through bringing the technologies and innovations to rural women on the ground</p>
<p>v) Mobilize financial resources from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), in partnership with Regional Development Banks, and using existing FAO facilities and programmes as channels for technical support and capacity development;</p>	<p>FAO, in collaboration with Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), provided training on GCF funding mechanism and FAO role as GCF Accredited Entity, to country representatives and other international organizations delegates.</p> <p>More than 20 countries have been technically supported for the identification and the development of their GCF projects idea and/or concept note. Six countries have been financially supported with the aim to finalize their concept notes and submit them to the GCF Secretariat in early 2018.</p> <p>FAO is engaged in collaborating with the African Development Bank (AfDB) in various initiatives, aiming at mobilizing climate funds. Among these initiatives are the African Climate-Smart Programme to be submitted to the next AfDB board meeting.</p>

B. Decentralization and Decentralized Offices Network

Recommendations	Comments
24. The Regional Conference:	
<p>d) Recommended FAO, in line with its mandate and conclusions of the 27th ARC in 2012 to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) use the food deficit criteria, (ii) give priority to middle income and low income food deficit countries and (iii) maintain 	<p>As noted in the PWB 2018-19, the Secretariat has embarked on a review of the scope and modalities of country coverage in each region in line with the guidance of the Council at its 154th session in May-June 2016. The Council recognized the need to update the coverage of FAO’s decentralized</p>

<p>all country and Subregional offices already in place in African countries;</p>	<p>offices. The very high share of resources dedicated to staff costs in the FAOR network net appropriation budget limits the Organization's flexibility to adjust to emerging needs and invest in evolving expertise requirements. Therefore, during the biennium the Secretariat will progressively adjust the modalities of country coverage and take measures to increase flexibility in the use of the budgeted resources. To achieve this, a streamlined country office staffing model will be gradually introduced based inter alia on the size and relative complexity of the country programme. Priority will be given to investing in technical capacities, partnership building, outreach, and South-South and Triangular Cooperation.</p>
<p>e) Supported the proposal for review of the decentralized office network in the Africa Region and that the review should be carried out in such a way that the capacity of the network is strengthened by the process. In particular:</p>	<p>(no input required)</p>
<p>i) preserve the principle of "one FAO" and one office per country by fully merging the project-funded resilience teams in Dakar, Nairobi and Johannesburg with respective FAO country office;</p>	<p>The principle of a "one FAO" and one office per country is upheld and efforts are being deployed by the Organization to apply the principle to the extent feasible.</p>
<p>ii) the capacity of the Regional Office in Accra should be strengthened in line with the Ministerial decisions;</p>	<p>For 2017 technical capacities at regional levels have been strengthened by a total of eight additional technical posts.</p>
<p>iii) strengthen the Subregional Office in Addis Ababa due to the presence of the African Union and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA);</p>	<p>The Secretariat has taken action to strengthen SFE, including the liaison role of the Office towards the AU and UN-ECA. Specifically, two new posts were assigned to the office – Food Security Officer (P4) and Policy Officer (P5). FAO and UNECA have signed a cooperation Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and developed an implementation strategy and an implementation plan for 2017 and 2018.</p>
<p>iv) the capacity of the Subregional Office for technical support to countries in Central Africa should be strengthened and remain located in Libreville, noting the commitment of the host government to maintain a sufficient level of support to the Office;</p>	<p>A decision has been made to maintain a strong multidisciplinary team based in the subregional office in Libreville. The main subjects covered include forestry, fisheries, livestock, land and water, nutrition, and policy. An expert on monitoring and evaluation has been placed in the sub-region to support project implementation, information sharing and visibility. Under the forestry domain, specific initiatives on non-timber products and wild meat have been introduced to respond to specific demands in the subregion.</p>
<p>v) the proposed Subregional Office for technical support to countries in West Africa should preferably be located in a francophone country; and in this regard, took note of the offers by</p>	<p>The establishment of a Subregional Office for West Africa in Dakar, Senegal, is at an advanced stage and should be completed by the first quarter of 2018.</p>

Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal to host the Subregional Office for West Africa;	
<p>vi) the planned technical officer in Gaborone, Botswana, will be responsible for liaison with SADC and also be designated as the FAOR for Botswana;</p> <p>vii) the FAO representation through national correspondents in the Indian Ocean countries of Comoros, Mauritius and Seychelles should be transformed into full time FAO national programme officers under the supervision and leadership of the FAOR in Madagascar;</p>	<p>The appointment of the FAOR Botswana, who will also exercise the liaison function towards the SADC Secretariat in Gaborone, is progressing.</p> <p>The Indian Ocean Countries are included in the Country Office Review exercise that is ongoing, keeping in mind Council guidance that creating or strengthening offices should be done on a cost-neutral basis, ideally on a cost-sharing agreement with the host government concerned.</p>
<p>viii) the FAO country office in Côte d'Ivoire should be strengthened to work more closely with the African Development Bank and AfricaRice;</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Partnership meetings led by the ADG/RR to review the existing Memoranda of Understanding and to prepare a Supplementary Cooperation Agreement, awaiting signature by the Director-General and the AfDB President; Concept notes were shared with AfDB for collaboration in the areas of nutrition, nutrition-sensitive agriculture, bio-fortification and food safety. FAO is supporting the development of the Bank's Multisectoral Nutrition Strategy and coordinating, operationalizing the African Leaders for Nutrition. 2. FAO facilitated the Bank's online discussion on "Feed Africa: Gender in the Transformation of Africa's Agriculture" in July 2017. 3. A Senior Investment Support Officer has been assigned to the FAO representation in Côte d'Ivoire to strengthen the partnership with the African Development Bank and AfricaRice and other regional and international organizations. 4. Two new staff, a Policy Officer (FIRST) and ECTAD Coordinator posted to the FAO representation in Côte d'Ivoire and contribute to strengthening relations with the AfDB in the areas of policy and strategy development and emerging and transboundary diseases. 5. The FAOR has been designated as FAO Focal point for the Partnership with the African Development Bank, and has held meetings with the President of the AfDB and the Vice President for Agriculture, Human and Social Development. 6. A technical programming meeting was held to identify and outline concrete areas of immediate collaboration. 7. Discussions are in progress on FAO's collaboration with the Bank on its "African Climate-Smart Agriculture Programme".

	<p>8. FAOR participated in the high-level panel at the launch of the AfDB Feed Africa Strategy, and is regularly invited to AfDB organized events.</p> <p>9. Several missions by FAO professional staff and technical experts conducted in Côte d'Ivoire to work closely with the AfDB in the area of Blue Growth/Economy, with FAO covering costs for Government officials.</p> <p>10. Regular, ongoing consultations with AfDB on several areas, including in the planning of a Conference Dialogue on Transforming Livestock Value Chains in Africa.</p> <p>11. Two new projects funded by AfDB on Rural electrification (USD 1.4 million) and on Economic empowerment for Rural Women (USD 1.2 Million).</p> <p>12. In November 2017 FAO and AfDB co-organized a High-level Ministerial Dialogue on Post-Harvest Losses Reduction and Agro-Processing (PHAP) in support of the launch of the PHAP flagship of AfDB's Feed Africa strategy.</p> <p>13. Another high-level Partnership meeting led by the ADG with the Director-General of AfricaRice to exchange views on the rice development in the region and also to evaluate the MoU that was signed within the framework of supporting the development of rice in the region, including but not limited to, the progress and way forward on the Coalition for AfricanRice Development (CARD) which has been co-chaired by FAO RAF and AfricaRice.</p> <p>14. FAO RAF and AfricaRice agreed on further strengthening the partnership, building on the tremendous progress, for the improvement of the seeds distributions in the region and for joint effort for a number of capacity building programmes for countries in the region, notably on rice technology and mechanization, including rice processing and storages systems.</p> <p>15. FAO and AfricaRice are working on a joint proposal for capacity strengthening of rice value chain actors with the Government of the Republic of Korea.</p>
<p>ix) The criterion of transport linkages cannot be used to guide the review process in the Africa region but rather explore other criteria such as population and others that FAO uses in making decisions guided by the fact that FAO interventions are at the national, regional and international levels.</p>	<p>(no input required)</p>