

27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture
Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members (English version)
 Item 4.2 Implementation of the recommendations of the 26th Session of the Committee

Member Name	Comments
Dominican Republic (Tue 22/09/2020 18:52)	<p>We appreciate the update on the implementation of the recommendations of the 26th Session of the COAG. We agree in recognizing the importance of regular reporting on COAG recommendations, in particular on innovation, family farming, agroecology and GIAHS.</p> <p>With regard to Recommendation 1 on sustainable food and agriculture, we look forward to the launch of the product entitled Progress Towards Sustainable Agriculture (PROSA), which as we understand will report on the state of sustainable agriculture across its multiple dimensions. We are pleased to know that the Organization is pioneering this type of reporting and once launched we encourage the implementation of updates and lessons learned to promote knowledge exchange between the interested parties.</p> <p>It would be of interest to include an analysis and/or an exchange of knowledge on innovative solutions to combat the gaps and difficulties in agrifood sustainability, following the Covid-19 crisis. We believe that the support focused on building partnerships based on proven facts from the Hand-in-Hand Initiative must continue to be strengthened as a key component in minimizing the effects of the pandemic on agricultural systems.</p> <p>We congratulate ourselves for the valuable contributions of the COAG to the work of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) on agro-ecology and other innovative approaches. We encourage COAG members to continue to widen and expand their multidisciplinary and intersectoral support in all multilateral efforts, both in the negotiation and design phase and in the adoption and visibility of the policies of different collegiate bodies.</p> <p>With regard to Recommendation 7 on Revitalizing rural areas for youth, we highlight the importance covered by the Rural Youth Action Plan. We support the COAG and FAO in being able to mobilize the necessary resources to effectively implement the Action Plan, with the understanding that, as indicated in all the studies in this area, the future of agrifood production in all Member Countries depends on the regeneration of rural areas to make them more appealing to new generations.</p> <p>We also support recommendations 24-25-26 on the International Years and Days to give visibility to specific issues on agrifood production, which is part of FAO's core work and particularly that of COAG.</p>
Australia Wed (23/09/2020 17:07)	<p>Australia takes note of the report. In particular, we would like to provide specific comments under a range of recommendations.</p> <p>Recommendation 1: Sustainable Food and Agriculture</p> <p>We note the finalisation of the methodology for SDG 2.4.1, which refers to the proportion of agricultural land under productive and sustainable agriculture.</p> <p>Noting the update provided on the Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation, we would welcome future reporting which highlights the FAO's work to promote sustainable food and agriculture through other innovative approaches such as climate-smart agriculture.</p> <p>Recommendations 3-6: Agroecology – from advocacy to action</p> <p>Australia notes the work of FAO to facilitate the uptake of agroecology through progressing the Scaling Up Agroecology Initiative, revising the Ten Elements of Agroecology, and working in conjunction with the CFS.</p> <p>We welcome plans to submit the Ten Elements of Agroecology to a peer-reviewed journal, and call on FAO to ensure that all of its work on sustainable agriculture, including agroecology, is founded on a strong scientific evidence base.</p> <p>We note FAO's involvement in the CFS policy convergence process on 'Agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition', and call on FAO to ensure that this</p>

	<p>document also pays attention to other innovative approaches that are not specifically mentioned, as consistent with the spirit of the 41st FAO Conference Resolution on this subject (C 2019/LIM/13).</p> <p>Recommendation 11: Fall Armyworm in Africa: status, potential impacts and global response</p> <p>Australia welcomes the FAO's work to combat Fall Armyworm globally, and would like to note that FAW is present in Papua New Guinea but has not yet spread to the Pacific Island countries. We would encourage FAO to support in-country organisations to continue to raise awareness and preparedness in countries that have not yet confirmed the presence of FAW. We also highlight that management options developed for smallholder farmers to address FAW shouldn't be implemented in isolation. It is important that research focusing on building resilience in farming systems to pests, weeds, and diseases is not forgotten in favour of more targeted actions against a single pest species like FAW. We do not underestimate the potential impact of FAW on smallholder farmers' livelihoods, but we also note the need to build resilience for future potential pests.</p> <p>Recommendation 19: Update on the Global Soil Partnership, including the International Code of Conduct for the Use and Management of Fertilizers</p> <p>Australia welcomes the endorsement of the International Code of Conduct for the Use and Management of Fertilizers, which provides a locally adaptable framework that can be used by a variety of end-users to contribute to more sustainable agriculture.</p> <p>Recommendation 22-23: Implementation of the recommendations of the 25th Session of the Committee, including the outcome of the informal open-ended working group on food safety scientific advice programme</p> <p>Australia welcomed the recent increase in funding for Codex and IPPC and welcomes the FAO's decision to provide a sustainable funding basis to support the normative and standard setting work that the FAO is uniquely positioned to do.</p>
<p>Argentina (Wed 23/09/2020 23:05)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Argentina notes the report on the implementation of the recommendations of the 26th session of the Agriculture Committee. 2. As regards sections 13 to 16 -Recommendation 2-, Argentina appreciates the progress in developing the voluntary code of conduct on food loss and food waste, along with the various technical consultation meetings which have taken place to date. However, it regrets that there has been no negotiation process, which would have facilitated consensus on the adoption of the document within the framework of the 27th session of the COAG. In this respect, Argentina wishes to emphasize the importance of instruments produced by FAO, regardless of their voluntary nature, being subjected to formal negotiation processes involving the Membership of the Organization. 3. As regards sections 21 and 22 -Recommendation 5-, Argentina values the contributions of FAO to the development of policy recommendations on agro-ecology approaches and other innovative approaches in favour of the sustainability of agriculture and food systems that improve food security and nutrition and, in line with the terms of the Recommendation, hopes that this document effectively sets out in a balanced manner the contributions that both agro-ecology and other sustainable agriculture approaches can make to this end. 4. Regarding sections 103 to 105 -Recommendation 25-, the efforts made by the Committee are appreciated following the declaration of the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste (29 September). Argentina recognizes in particular the support provided to Members to be able to meet the challenges that loss and waste generate in different food systems. The first International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste is celebrated in the particularly challenging context of the COVID-19 pandemic, a situation that forces us to continue working with even greater commitment to this subject in order to achieve food security and poverty reduction. 5. Finally, Argentina repeats that it is important that the criteria set out in the evaluation instruments and indicators developed by or under the aegis of FAO, along with the conclusions and links transferred in studies, reports and other publications produced by or with the contribution of FAO, are based on sound scientific evidence, regardless of the institutional or financial support that other organizations, institutions or agencies might have provided to these initiatives.

<p>Peru (Thu 24/09/2020 10:03)</p>	<p>In terms of Recommendation 1 d), it is proposed that: “FAO support international coordination and action on funding activities relating to SDG indicator 2.4.1.” In relation to recommendation 12 item 53, it is proposed that: “The statement on the management of emissions and climate change (climate change mitigation) is made clear as part of the technical support on the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)”. In relation to recommendation 19 item 80, it is proposed that: “FAO support international coordination and action to fund activities on updating information on soil maps”. -Position Peru supports the report on the implementations of the 26th Session of the Committee - COAG.</p>
<p>Morocco (24/09/2020 16:31)</p>	<p>Morocco sends these comments on behalf of the Africa Regional Group on the agenda item "Implementation of the recommendations of the 26th session of the Committee on Agriculture". While thanking the COAG Secretariat for providing this detailed report, the Africa Regional Group notes with satisfaction the state of implementation of the majority of COAG 26 recommendations, including the initiated process of development of a voluntary code of conduct on reducing food loss and waste in order to contribute to the sustainable development of food systems and achieve the SDGs, and welcomes the special attention given to rural youth through the development of a dedicated action plan aimed at strengthening the role of young people through education, the promotion of entrepreneurship, access to markets and services, in particular co-financing and capacity building. Given the importance of the livestock sector in general and the increase in animal production in particular in the fight against hunger, malnutrition and poverty, and in accordance with FAO's mandate, the Africa Regional Group believes that the implementation and creation of the Livestock Sub-Committee is an important phase in achieving FAO's goals for reducing hunger and malnutrition as well as completing the SDGs hosted by FAO. The Africa Regional Group calls FAO to continue to support countries in integrating sustainable food and agriculture into their food systems, to strengthen its assistance to countries in achieving the SDGs, as well as the capacities of small and family farmers in adopting and scaling up productive and sustainable practices. In addition, regarding the recommendation to implement the conclusions of the informal open-ended working group in charge of the program on scientific advice on food safety, the Africa regional group strongly supports the proposal of the Coordinator of the Group of Friends for the Eradication of PPR, for a resolution by the Joint FAO/OIE Secretariat to support the global PPR building program and reaffirms its support for the ongoing work of FAO to eradicate PPR by 2030, in particular through partnership with the OIE and in close coordination with FAO members, farmers representatives, including women's associations, global/regional institutions, research institutes , civil society organizations, the private sector and other partners.</p>
<p>Switzerland (Thu 24/09/2020 17:33)</p>	<p>Switzerland takes note of document COAG/2020/3 and the progress made by FAO in implementing COAG recommendations and advice in particular those of the 26th Session. We acknowledge the progress made by FAO in different areas that are priorities for Switzerland: sustainable food systems (recommendation 2), agroecology (recommendations 3-6), youth (recommendation 7), livestock (recommendation 10), water (recommendation 15-17), biodiversity (recommendation 18), and soil (recommendation 19). All these topics are crucial to accelerate the transformative change of food and agricultural systems towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We would have appreciated if COAG were provided with more information on FAO's role and work on the transition towards sustainable food systems under this Agenda Item in line with FAO Conference Resolution 7/2019. The resolution calls FAO to thoroughly integrate policies and all the approaches towards more sustainable and innovative agricultural and food systems in its planning and work and to demonstrate leadership in promoting inclusive transition towards more sustainable agriculture and</p>

	<p>food systems, and to proactively engage in efforts to address economic, environmental and social trade-offs. The UN Secretary-General called for a UN Summit on Food Systems in 2021. The current 27th session of COAG would be an important opportunity to report to and seek advice by FAO members.</p> <p>Please find below our comments on two specific recommendations:</p> <p>Recommendation 7 Revitalizing rural areas for youth (C 2019/21 Rev.1 para 22)</p> <p>We note with regret that the recommendation from the last COAG session has apparently not been fully implemented. FAO was requested to collaborate with ILO and the other RBS and not to merely consult them as stated in document COAG/2020/3.</p> <p>Recommendation 8 Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) (C 2019/21 Rev.1 para 24)</p> <p>We take note that GIAHS is moving into a cross-cutting programme. Since the majority of the GIAHS registered sites are located in mountain areas, we strongly recommend a strengthening of the collaboration between GIAHS and the Mountain Partnership in order to develop a joint programme on sustain-able food systems for the sustainable development of mountain regions.</p> <p>The year 2021 will mark important global milestones such as the Food Systems Summit and the COP-15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity. We believe that these meetings represent a unique opportunity to promote GIAHS and related activities' contribution to sustainable and resilient food systems in vulnerable ecosystems such as mountains.</p>
<p>New Zealand (Thu 24/09/2020 18:16)</p>	<p>New Zealand commends FAO for its implementation of the COAG 26 recommendations: there has been a significant amount achieved over the last two years with progress and outputs against all of the recommendations. In particular, we support ongoing efforts by FAO to continue to progress its work as far as practicable, in the face of the challenges posed by COVID-19. In terms of guidance for any future reporting, to simplify reader's assessment of the implementation status, a summary table may be a useful addition to the report to assist a quick assessment of the level of progress against each of the recommendations (i.e. completed, ongoing etc.) to complement the detail in the text.</p> <p>With regard to the content of the report, New Zealand takes the opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome the focus on the FAO's work on climate change – particularly in supporting countries with their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in the context of the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture. Also, we have appreciated FAO's engagement with the Global Research Alliance (GRA) in the context of climate change action in the livestock sector. • Support FAO's work to assist countries to implement climate smart agriculture approaches. In particular, we are interested in the new project entitled "Sustainable productivity in agriculture" and would welcome further engagement of FAO with member countries to understand how this will work to support climate smart and agro-ecological approaches to achieve SDG 2.4.1. • Acknowledge particularly the increased funding for IPPC and the Food Safety Science Advice programme – in line with the direction of COAG 26 and other technical committees. Given a significant part of the forward looking strategic focus of FAO's work is on management of transboundary pests and diseases, and the ever increasing workload to support countries, the case for ongoing sustainable funding is as strong as ever to ensure FAO can effectively deliver.
<p>Thailand (24/09/2020 23:20)</p>	<p>Thailand takes note of the report and commends FAO for the satisfactory implementation of recommendations of 26th Session of COAG. We encourage the continuous work of FAO to bring its core competency as the expertise organization in supporting the member countries in achieving the SDGs.</p>
<p>EU (Thu 24/09/2020 19:00)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. We thank the Secretariat for the report on the implementation of the recommendations of the 26th Session of the Committee on Agriculture. 3. The EU and its Member States highly appreciate all efforts of COAG 27 to reach the Agenda 2030 goals, including the transformation towards sustainable food systems, which has become even more urgent due to the new pandemic. 4. The EU and its Member States welcome FAO's various activities relating to Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), including through the joint secretariat of the Tripartite, and underlines that fighting AMR should remain a top priority for FAO. AMR and

animal and plant diseases (PPR, Fall Armyworm, Desert Locust etc) should remain stand-alone items on future COAG agendas.

5. With regard to the FAO's normative and standard-setting work, we appreciate the actions taken in the past two years in the adjustments in FAO's Programme of Work and Budget. A regular update of the work of the scientific advice programme for Codex Alimentarius and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) would be highly appreciated.

6. Finally, we urge FAO, when proposing International Years and Days, to include as the 1st paragraph of the proposal a comprehensive assessment of the presented proposal against the criteria adopted by UN ECOSOC and the 38th FAO Conference in 2013 for the proclamation of International Years.