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FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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Priorities for FAO in the Region under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31

Executive Summary

The 43rd FAO Conference endorsed the Medium Term Plan 2022–25 and Programme of Work and Budget 2024–25 and approved the Biennial Theme 2024–25 on water resources management for the *four betters*.

Considering the region's development trends, including challenges and opportunities, FAO in the region will continue to focus on supporting Members in the following four Regional Priorities to implement consolidated actions effectively and efficiently, and fully aligned with the Programme Priority Areas under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31.¹ Regional Priorities form the basis of the regional approach towards achieving FAO's vision and the global goals of Members, through the transformation to **more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life, leaving no one behind**. The four Regional Priorities are as follows:

- transforming agrifood systems for sustainable production and healthy diets;
- accelerating sustainable natural resources management for biodiversity conservation and climate action;
- supporting inclusive rural transformation for sustainable agrifood systems and equitable rural societies; and
- building sustainable and resilient agrifood systems in the Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

FAO will continue to apply the four accelerators (technology, innovation, data and complements – governance, human capital and institutions) and three cross-cutting themes (gender equality, youth, inclusion) in all programmatic interventions in order to accelerate impact while minimizing

¹ Refer to Annex 1 for details on the PPAs.

This and other documents can be consulted at www.fao.org

trade-offs. Moreover, FAO will continue to promote the catalytic potential of its key corporate initiatives for sustainable agrifood systems transformation, including the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, One Country One Priority Product (OCOP) and the 1 000 Digital Villages Initiative (DVI).

During the biennium, FAO will emphasize enhanced delivery through a programmatic and results-based approach, integrating technical quality with implementation efficiency that responds to the needs of beneficiaries, Members and donors.

Suggested action by the Regional Conference

The Regional Conference is invited to:

- a. endorse the four Regional Priorities identified for the 2024–25 biennium based on key trends, developments and challenges in Asia and the Pacific region;
- b. recognize the relevance of the individual Programme Priority Area (PPA) mapping to each of the four Regional Priorities in the proposed results framework and in the achievement of the *four betters*;
- c. provide guidance on the proposed results framework, corporate programmes and strategies to be implemented with regional specificities;
- d. advise on emerging issues and partnerships for consideration in further programme development and provide efficient and adequate support to countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and
- e. note the significance of the work of the Regional Commissions in standards setting, development of voluntary guidelines and implementation of globally endorsed legal instruments in key technical areas of the Organization’s mandate.

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I. Introduction

1. The 43rd FAO Conference endorsed the Medium Term Plan 2022–25 and Programme of Work and Budget 2024–25 and approved the Biennial Theme 2024–25 on water resources management for the *four betters*.
2. FAO's work is guided by the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31, which seeks to support the 2030 Agenda through the transformation to MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems for *better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life*, leaving no one behind. Its 20 PPAs articulate FAO's thematic and technical comparative advantage. Regional Priorities are elaborated and aligned with the relevant PPAs and SDGs.
3. Beyond the 2024–25 biennium, and in line with the programming and budgeting cycle elaborated in the FAO Basic Texts, input on priorities from the 2024 Regional Conferences will guide FAO's programming for the 2026–27 biennium and will support the review of the FAO Strategic Framework to be presented to the FAO Conference in 2025.

II. Context

II.1 Medium- to long-term potential futures of agrifood systems

4. Strategic foresight at FAO examines the alternative future patterns of agrifood, socioeconomic and environmental systems, and the dynamics of their driving forces, to identify strategic options for triggering changes towards sustainable and resilient agrifood systems at all levels. Following the guidance of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and other Governing Bodies, FAO is reinforcing its strategic foresight capacity in collaboration with United Nations bodies, academia, civil society, and other foresight networks. This includes implementing Regional Foresight Exercises (RFEs) in all five FAO regions, involving subregions and selected pilot countries. The RFEs aim to accelerate strategic thinking, increase capacity to support transformative changes in agrifood systems, and inform Members on strategic options available to achieve sustainable and resilient agrifood systems.
5. The recently launched FAO flagship report *The future of food and agriculture – Drivers and triggers for transformation*, which formed the basis of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31 and provides the conceptual and methodological grounds for the RFEs, warns that current trends could threaten the sustainability and resilience of agrifood systems and jeopardize the achievement of the *four betters*, potentially leading to increased food crises. Drivers such as population growth, urbanization, macroeconomic instability, poverty, inequality, geopolitical tensions, competition for resources, and climate change are already negatively impacting agrifood, socioeconomic and environmental systems while food prices are increasing. Transitioning towards sustainability may require a new mindset that prioritizes long-term objectives and addresses trade-offs through massive investment in domains with high transformative potential such as the four “triggers for transformation” proposed in the flagship report: governance; consumer and citizen awareness; income and wealth distribution; and innovative technologies and approaches.
6. The FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific has initiated an RFE to identify key regional and subregional drivers of agrifood systems and explore potential futures. Economic growth, interdependencies and climate change are seen as major influencers of future agrifood systems. The region has experienced rapid economic growth and demographic change, lifting millions out of poverty. However, this has been achieved by putting significant pressure on natural resources and the environment. Short-term agricultural productivity gains have increased production, but environmental strains are creating unsustainable externalities in the region and beyond. Trade has benefited the region through increased participation in global value chains, but short-term incentives have raised sustainability concerns and import reliance. The growth model appears unsustainable due to highly labour-intensive processes and associated low-income levels, natural resources constraints, and environmental costs.
7. Initial findings suggest that subregional differences, rural and urban poverty rates, significant inequalities, and lack of public investment are major factors affecting South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands. On the other hand, food price inflation, geopolitical tensions and degradation of

natural resources were found to be common systemic drivers in large economy countries such as China and India.

8. The RFE is conducting further analyses to understand the interplay of these key drivers and envision alternative scenarios for agrifood, socioeconomic and environmental systems. It aims to identify strategic options for transformation through enhanced regional and national cooperation. FAO is piloting Country Foresight Exercises (CFEs) with Nepal and Viet Nam.

II.2 Challenges and opportunities

9. The Asia and the Pacific region has faced numerous challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts, supply chain disruptions, the 5F (food, feed, fuel, fertilizer and finance) crisis, and weather shocks due to climate change. These crises have led to economic slowdowns, increased unemployment and higher food prices. Government policies have mitigated these shocks, helping the agriculture sector to survive. However, the crises have negatively impacted incomes and the affordability of healthy diets, especially for the poor. Undernourishment affected 371 million people in the region in 2022, and food insecurity rose to higher levels in 2022 than in 2019.²

a) Better production: challenges and opportunities

The region's sustainable food production faces challenges such as youth migration, aging farmers and lack of affordable machinery. Opportunities lie in promoting nutrition-sensitive, gender-sensitive and climate-resilient value chains, affordable digital innovations, and inclusive mechanization.

Agritourism and improved market data can aid rural revitalization. Climate change exacerbates transboundary pests and diseases, affecting crop productivity. Solutions include improved fertilizer management, revitalized seed systems, nature-based solutions and sustainable water use. Asia, the largest user of agricultural plastic products, needs to address plastic waste through sustainable farming practices. Aquatic food plays a growing role in food security, but improvements in sustainability, resilience, efficiency and performance are needed to fully realize its potential.

b) Better nutrition: challenges and opportunities

In the region, 371 million people were undernourished in 2022. Rapid urbanization is changing food demand and supply, leading to food insecurity. The cost of a healthy diet is unaffordable for many. The situation is dire in Afghanistan and Myanmar. Interventions to reduce food loss and waste are needed, especially for smallholder producer households which can also market any excess.³ Policies and investments can enhance food availability and affordability, particularly for the poor, women, and children. Adequate governance mechanisms can support healthier diets across rural, peri-urban, and urban areas. Technology and innovation can be crucial for achieving food security and nutrition.⁴

c) Better environment: challenges and opportunities

The region faces severe climate change impacts, including increased disasters and ecosystem degradation. Despite contributing over 50 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions in 2020, the region has robust policies for addressing environmental challenges and taking climate action. However, there is a pressing need to strengthen the implementation of these policies to ensure their effectiveness. Commitments include sustainable resource management, ecosystem restoration and biodiversity conservation. Advanced digital tools and green financing are supporting resource-efficient and climate-smart approaches. Blended financial mechanisms aim to mobilize private investments and promote environmental and climate finance synergies.

² APRC/24/3. <https://www.fao.org/about/meetings/regional-conferences/aprc37/documents/en/>

³ <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb8959en>

⁴ FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). 2023. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023. Urbanization, agrifood systems transformation and healthy diets across the rural–urban continuum*. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc3017en>

d) Better life: challenges and opportunities

In the region, agriculture underperforms due to insufficient support for women farmers and a lack of gender-specific data. Rural youth face unemployment and marginal income, with limited prospects in agriculture. The proportion of women and older individuals in farming has risen due to men moving away from rural areas and low birth rates, respectively. Small and medium enterprises are creating significant economic value in the region, but their engagement in digital agriculture remains limited. However, addressing inequality, expanding social protection, promoting youth employment and entrepreneurship in agrifood systems, and enhancing marginalized groups' education and skills can lead to more inclusive development and sustainable agrifood systems.

III. Priority areas of work in 2024-25 and beyond

III.1 The four Regional Priorities

10. FAO in the region will continue to focus on supporting Members in four Regional Priorities to implement consolidated actions effectively and efficiently, and fully aligned with the PPAs under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31.⁵ Regional Priorities form the basis of the regional approach towards achieving FAO's vision and the global goals of Members, through the transformation to MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems for *better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life*, leaving no one behind.

Regional Priority 1: Transforming agrifood systems for sustainable production and healthy diets

11. The aim of this Regional Priority is to support Members to develop sustainable agrifood systems pathways and identify investment and financing opportunities through system-wide and sector-specific actions.

Regional Priority 1

PPAs	SDG Targets	Regional Areas of Emphasis
BETTER PRODUCTION (BP)		
BP1: Innovation for sustainable agriculture production	2.3, 2.4, 6.4, 9.5, 15.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional phytosanitary activities, harmonized phytosanitary measures, integrated pest management and pesticide management; national pathways and regional partnerships towards more productive and sustainable agrifood systems; and efficiency of livestock production.
BP2: Blue transformation	2.1, 2.2, 14.2, 14.4, 14.6, 14.7, 14.b, 14.c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment and innovation in sustainable aquaculture and mariculture; conservation and rebuilding of stocks within sustainable limits; and regional and international cooperation to strengthen national mechanisms against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.
BP3: One Health	1.5, 3.d, 15.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transboundary animal and zoonotic diseases – Preparedness, Prevention, Response and Recovery; and One Health expanded to include wildlife and environment sectors.
BP4: Small-scale producers' equitable access to resources	1.4, 2.3, 2.4, 6.b, 9.3, 14.b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access by small-scale producers, traders and agri-entrepreneurs to markets, finance, extension services, information and training, technologies (including digital) and innovations

⁵ Refer to Annex 1 for details on the PPAs.

BETTER NUTRITION (BN)		
BN1: Healthy diets for all	1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 3.4, 12.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate-resilient and nature-positive agrifood system approaches for nutritious food production, healthy diets, and prevention of non-communicable diseases; • transformation of food systems for healthy diets, better food security and nutrition in the Association for Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries; and • National food-based dietary guidelines for healthy diets, also informing agricultural diversification.
BN2: Nutrition for the most vulnerable	1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Action Plan on Child Wasting Reduction; • food-based dietary guidelines to improve nutrition and prevent malnutrition, in particular among vulnerable groups, pregnant and lactating women, and young children; and • School food and nutrition programmes for healthy diets, preventing malnutrition.
BN3: Safe food for everyone	2.1, 2.2, 3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cohesive food safety control systems and technical capacities; • enhanced trade through better and harmonized standards, especially the Codex Alimentarius;⁶ • innovation and technologies to improve food safety in retail (including e-commerce) and service sectors.
BN4: Reducing food loss and waste	2.1, 2.2, 12.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional strategy on food loss and waste; and • measuring and reducing food loss and waste at local and national levels.
BN5: Transparent markets and trade	2.b, 2.c, 10.a, 17.11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing, monitoring and analysing trade policy instruments focusing on strategic commodities and digital trade; and • Market information, data collection, policy and prices for prioritized commodities and markets crucial for food security and nutrition.

12. This Regional Priority covers various aspects of sustainable and resilient agrifood systems, including building regional capacity to prevent plant pests, facilitating safe trade, transforming livestock production to use less antimicrobials, and being more climate-smart, efficient, and genetically diverse.

13. Cooperation with the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific and other partners will foster innovation in aquaculture systems, while FAO also builds capacity in fishery assessment and developing evidence-based harvest strategies.

14. FAO's food safety strategy aims to enhance government capacity and support industry compliance, addressing food safety issues in online markets and novel foods. The One Health initiative will continue in collaboration with WHO, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), and the Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD).

15. FAO is committed to enhancing the access of vulnerable farming households to resources and integrating small-scale farmers into markets through the use of digital technologies. FAO aims to demonstrate how science, technology and innovation can be incorporated into transformative projects and promote further digitalization and inclusive mechanization among farming communities.

⁶ <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/home/en/>

Regional Priority 2: Accelerating sustainable natural resources management for biodiversity conservation and climate action

16. The objective of this Regional Priority is to support Members to protect, restore and promote the sustainable use of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, including integrated water resources management, and to combat climate change in realizing more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems.

Regional Priority 2

PPAs	SDG Targets	Regional Areas of Emphasis
BETTER ENVIRONMENT (BE)		
BE1: Climate change mitigation and adapted agrifood systems	2.4, 6.4, 13.1, 13.2, 13.b, 14.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting agrifood systems transformation in the climate change agenda; evidence-based foresight planning for climate change; innovative solutions (agroclimate services and nature-based solutions); climate finance and efficient, resilient and low-emission agrifood systems; and public–private partnerships for blended finance.
BE2: Bioeconomy for sustainable food and agriculture	12.2, 12.4, 12.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancing political will to enable a sustainable bioeconomy; and knowledge exchange, capacity development and partnerships to advance bioeconomy.
BE3: Biodiversity and ecosystem services for food and agriculture	2.5, 6.6, 14.4, 15.1, 15.3, 15.4, 15.5, 15.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable land, water and soil management, forest and landscape restoration, agroforestry, and sustainable fisheries; and mainstreaming sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity in agriculture (primary forests conservation, water ecosystem services, reducing zoonotic disease risks from wildlife).
BE4: Achieving sustainable urban food systems	1.1, 2.1, 11.a, 12.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancing rural–urban market linkages, connecting small farmers to final consumers, and leveraging digital platforms for food provision to urban areas; governance for urban food ecosystems for food availability and access to healthy diets by the urban poor; and knowledge sharing and capacity development in urban food governance.
BETTER LIFE (BL)		
BL4: Resilient agrifood systems	1.3, 1.5, 2.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-hazard and integrated approaches in building resilience of agrifood systems to climate, natural and biological disasters, socioeconomic shocks and protracted crises; and innovative solutions such as anticipatory action and adaptive, shock-responsive social protection.

17. FAO will support Members in transforming and affirming the central role of agrifood systems to address climate change, including strengthening climate resilience and ecosystem management and restoration capacities, through the sustainable management of forests, fisheries, land, soil and water. The approach will focus on regional networks and innovative financing mechanisms.

18. In line with the 2024–25 Biennial Theme on water resources management, FAO will facilitate cross-sectoral integration to manage water-related risks, promote transboundary water management, and support governments in conducting water accounting. FAO will promote sustainable urban food ecosystems and biodiversity mainstreaming, developing tools to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and expanding the Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme in Asia. Furthermore, FAO will share innovations for advancing the bioeconomy in the ASEAN region and develop methodologies for multi-hazard vulnerability and risk assessment to enhance the resilience of agrifood systems.

Regional Priority 3: Supporting inclusive rural transformation for sustainable agrifood systems and equitable rural societies

19. This Regional Priority commits FAO to inclusive rural transformation, including promoting economic growth and supporting vulnerable populations to reduce inequality, leaving no country and no person behind.

Regional Priority 3

PPAs	SDG Targets	Regional Areas of Emphasis
BETTER PRODUCTION (BP)		
BP5: Digital agriculture	1.4, 5.b, 9.c, 17.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 000 Digital Villages Initiative to accelerate the development of rural and village digital ecosystem; and digitally powered agrifood systems through digital policy and strategy development, inclusive of women, youth and small-scale producers.
BETTER LIFE (BL)		
BL1: Gender equality and rural women's empowerment	2.3, 5.4, 5.a, 5.c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Gender Strategy and Action Plan 2022–2025 for Asia and the Pacific; and gender-transformative approach to achieve gender equality in agriculture.
BL2: Inclusive rural transformation	1.1, 8.3, 8.5, 10.1, 10.2, 10.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resilient rural–urban agrifood markets, by reducing the digital divide, promoting inclusive value chains, and empowering women and youth through agrifood and micro, small and medium-sized enterprise (MSME) investments.
BL3: Agriculture and food emergencies	1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 16.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency response through improved agriculture data and assessment information; and risk mapping for decision making for emergencies that impact agriculture and the food supply chain.
BL5: Hand-in-Hand (HIH) Initiative	1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.a, 10.1, 10.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated territorial development and targeted investments to achieve SDG 1, SDG 2 and SDG 10.

20. FAO aims to foster economic growth through the agrifood sector, while supporting vulnerable populations to reduce inequality, ensuring no country or person is left behind. In this context, digitalization and innovation are seen as catalysts for change, with initiatives such as the “1 000 Digital Villages Initiative” (DVI) providing technical support for e-agriculture strategies and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) projects.

21. Another key aspect is empowering rural women, youth and indigenous groups, promoting equal rights, leadership and access to resources. This aspect includes investments in rural revitalization programmes, support for small-scale enterprises and agritech startups, the promotion of economic opportunities, and financial inclusion.

22. In response to natural disasters and crises in the region, FAO aims to proactively enhance resilience within the agriculture sector through data, technology and innovation in order to minimize disruption of food chains and ensure the continuity of agricultural activities.

23. Under the HII Initiative, FAO fosters collaboration among nine countries in the region, embodying its commitment to solidarity and inclusive growth, as further explained below.

Regional Priority 4: Building sustainable and resilient agrifood systems in the Pacific SIDS

24. FAO's work in the Pacific SIDS will place strong emphasis on building sustainable and resilient agrifood systems through the implementation of the current Multi-Country Programming Framework for the Pacific Islands, covering 14 countries in the Pacific.

Regional Priority 4

PPAs	SDG Targets	Regional Areas of Emphasis
BETTER PRODUCTION (BP)		
BP2: Blue transformation	2.1, 2.2, 14.2, 14.4, 14.6, 14.7, 14.b, 14.c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seafood value chains; IUU fishing; and data and statistics: SDG 14 monitoring.
BP3: One Health	1.5, 3.d, 15.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pest and disease prevention and management; early warning and management of health risks, including antimicrobial resistance (AMR); national institutional capacity building, including biosecurity legislation and policy alignment; and ecological alternatives to highly hazardous pesticides.
BP4: Small-scale producers' equitable access to resources	1.4, 2.3, 2.4, 6.b, 9.3, 14.b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to productive nearshore species, effectiveness of community-based fisheries management and small-scale aquaculture; community-based governance and decision-making mechanisms, traditional resource management and farming systems, and value chains; and adaptation of production and yield data collection methodologies in a small islands context.
BP5: Digital agriculture	1.4, 5.b, 9.c, 17.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pacific SIDS Solutions Platform; access to up-to-date technical, meteorological and market information; digital agriculture strategies; and national agriculture censuses.
BETTER NUTRITION (BN)		
BN1: Healthy diets for all	1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 3.4, 12.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food and nutrition policy mainstreaming, programme design and implementation; national food security and nutrition coordination and planning mechanisms; and advocacy for and awareness of healthy diets at all levels.
BN3: Safe food for everyone	2.1, 2.2, 3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good manufacturing, handling, packaging and hygiene practices; and national Codex committees.
BETTER ENVIRONMENT (BE)		

BE1: Climate change mitigation and adapted agrifood systems	2.4, 6.4, 13.1, 13.2, 13.b, 14.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Smart Agriculture for crops, trees and livestock production; • Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture and Nationally Determined Contributions implementation; • strengthen SDG 15 monitoring; and • support countries to access Global Environment Facility and Green Climate Fund
BE3: Biodiversity and ecosystem services for food and agriculture	2.5, 6.6, 14.4, 15.1, 15.3, 15.4, 15.5, 15.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pacific Action Plan for Mainstreaming Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture (2024–2030); • biodiversity and sound management of chemicals in agriculture; • forest and landscape restoration; • use of diverse, multipurpose local species in agroforestry systems; and • evidence-based management and governance, technological innovation, and private-sector engagement in marine ecosystem restoration and biodiversity conservation.
BETTER LIFE (BL)		
BL4: Resilient agrifood systems	1.3, 1.5, 2.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food security monitoring system; • policy development and implementation, including resource allocation; • emergency assistance following natural disasters; and • fisheries Disaster Risk Reduction strategies and management.

25. Escalating climate change and non-communicable diseases, the economic impact of COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine continue to characterize the Pacific development context. The Pacific region is also witnessing an unfolding geopolitical repositioning by various stakeholders. FAO will strengthen internal control, financial, technical and procedural efficiencies and human resource capacity, and will build more creative partnerships to advance Pacific governments' development agendas towards the *four betters* and SDGs during 2024–2025 and beyond. FAO will strengthen its relationships with governments to deliver the priorities of the Pacific Multi-country Programming Framework in 2023–2027.

III.2 Accelerators and cross-cutting themes

Accelerators

26. Following the Science and Innovation Strategy and the Regional Action Plan for Asia and the Pacific, FAO country offices will incorporate innovative technological, institutional and financial initiatives in country programming. FAO will also share knowledge and experience, facilitate partnerships and promote innovations.

27. Data and statistics remain vital for evidence-based decision making and monitoring. FAO will support the adoption of international methodologies to facilitate inter-temporal and cross-country comparisons of food and agriculture statistics. FAO will also host events to share country experiences with past agricultural censuses and priorities towards the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2030. To ensure effective use of data, FAO will work on anonymized micro data and multi-layered geospatial maps and platforms, and pilot modular questionnaires to minimize response burden and maximize data quality.

28. The SIDS Solutions Platform will continue to be the major driver of FAO's accelerators in the Pacific, while also strengthening FAO's capacity as a distinguished convenor for development planning, dialogue, and partnership building.

Cross-cutting themes

29. FAO will continue to provide policy guidance and technical advice to Members on gender equality through knowledge products, including country gender assessments, which provide an updated profile on gender and agriculture, and inform project and programme formulation and country planning.
30. FAO will strengthen the capacities of rural youth by narrowing the gap between education and employment through vocational training, such as junior farmer field schools, and developing school curricula to promote intergenerational skills transfer. FAO will support governments to prevent child labour and strengthen youth networks and their participation in decision-making processes.
31. Through various events, FAO will share knowledge on addressing gender inequalities and empowering women and youth as key stakeholders of agrifood systems. Furthermore, FAO will strengthen social and gender safeguards in the Asia and the Pacific region and enhance the approach on Accountability to Affected People in emergency and crisis contexts.

III.3 FAO's corporate strategies and initiatives

32. FAO's corporate initiatives have catalytic potential for agrifood systems transformation. For example, Regional Priority 2 is fully aligned with the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022–2031, which aims to mainstream sustainable agrifood systems transformation into the climate change agenda, while supporting Members to achieve higher climate ambitions. A regional plan in Asia and the Pacific will be developed.
33. Under the HIH Initiative, FAO will promote inclusive rural transformation by fostering collaboration among countries, donors and various institutions. This includes developing Hand-in-Hand investment plans informed by Geographic Information System (GIS) analysis, with special perspectives from SIDS and resilience considerations. Value chain investments will be made through partnerships with international financial institutions and multilateral funds including IFAD and the Global Agriculture and Food Security Fund.
34. Under the One Country One Priority Product (OCOP) Initiative, FAO will boost regional knowledge management, share best practices on Special Agricultural Products (SAPs), and establish a regional science and technology network. FAO will assist countries in processing, value additions, quality control and market access, and in improving legal and regulatory frameworks. FAO will also facilitate access to major SAP food fairs and establish networks between producers and buyers.
35. Under the 1 000 Digital Villages Initiative (DVI), FAO will continue to support inclusive rural transformation that is country-owned, user-centred and bottom-up, and that balances digital solutions with needs, capacity and affordability while allowing for flexible approaches under a no-solution-fits-all principle. This will be achieved by translating technological innovations into accessible, adapted and affordable digital services that benefit small-scale producers, rural women, small-scale entrepreneurs, and rural communities and villages.

IV. One FAO

36. FAO in the region will focus on enhancing results-based management by aligning projects with SDGs, PPAs and Regional Priorities. This vision is being reinforced at both country and regional levels, where the portfolio has seen significant growth, particularly under the Global Environment Facility (GEF). FAO will continue to provide capacity support to ensure that resource partners are approached in a programmatic manner, and their requirements met efficiently and harmoniously. FAO will enhance country capacities in field programme implementation, with emphasis on the project cycle and various implementation modalities. Constant support will continue to be provided to address operational constraints efficiently, prioritizing technical work and responding to the needs of beneficiaries, Members and resource partners.
37. FAO's work in the region will also benefit from enhanced effectiveness and efficiencies through continued engagement in the UN Development System repositioning, as well as by leveraging

innovative partnerships and initiatives to support the formulation of inclusive priorities and actions at country and regional levels towards sustainable agrifood systems transformation.

Annex 1

Annex 1. The *four betters* and 20 PPAs

PPA	Outcome Statement	SDG Targets
BETTER PRODUCTION	<i>Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, through efficient and inclusive food and agriculture supply chains at local, regional and global level, ensuring resilient and sustainable agrifood systems in a changing climate and environment</i>	
BP1: Innovation for sustainable agriculture production	Sustainable crop, livestock and forestry production systems that are productive, resilient, innovative and competitive, and create integrated entrepreneurial and business opportunities, inclusive of small-scale and vulnerable producers, supported through enabling technologies and policies	2.3, 2.4, 6.4, 9.5, 15.2
BP2: Blue transformation	More efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable aquatic food systems promoted through improved policies and programmes for integrated science-based management, technological innovation and private-sector engagement	2.1, 2.2, 14.2, 14.4, 14.6, 14.7, 14.b, 14.c
BP3: One Health	Strengthened and better performing national and international integrated One Health systems for human, animal, plant and environmental health achieved through improved pest and disease prevention, early warning and management of national and global health risks, including invasive alien species and AMR	1.5, 3.d, 15.8
BP4: Small-scale producers' equitable access to resources	Enhanced equitable access of small-scale producers and family farmers to economic and natural resources, markets, services, information, education and technologies ensured through improved policies, strategies and programmes	1.4, 2.3, 2.4, 6.b, 9.3, 14.b
BP5: Digital agriculture	Accessible digital ICT technologies to enhance market opportunities, productivity and resilience integrated into agrifood systems policies and programmes, with a focus on ensuring affordable and equitable access of poor and vulnerable rural communities	1.4, 5.b, 9.c, 17.8
BETTER NUTRITION	<i>End hunger and achieve food security and improved nutrition in all its forms, including promoting nutritious food and increasing access to healthy diets</i>	
BN1: Healthy diets for all	The right to adequate food established and transition towards healthy diets for national populations prioritized in integrated institutional, policy and legal environments that ensure and incentivize engagement of consumers and the private sector	1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 3.4, 12.8
BN2: Nutrition for the most vulnerable	Identifying and ending food insecurity and malnutrition for individuals with most vulnerability in all contexts made the specific focus of targeted policies, strategies and programmes developed and implemented by countries	1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2
BN3: Safe food for everyone	Integrated, multi-sectoral food safety policies and legislation across national agrifood systems adopted and implemented by governments, and capacities and awareness of value chain operators and consumers enhanced	2.1, 2.2, 3.2
BN4: Reducing food loss and waste	Clear, specific and contextualized roadmaps to prompt and enable all actors in the food supply chain, the food environment and at consumer level to reduce food loss and waste put in place and implemented by governments and intergovernmental organizations	2.1, 2.2, 12.3
BN5: Transparent markets and trade	Improved market transparency and equitable participation in markets, global value chains and international trade achieved through better data and information, policy coordination and human and institutional capacities for evidence-based decision-making	2.b, 2.c, 10.a, 17.11

PPA	Outcome Statement	SDG Targets
BETTER ENVIRONMENT	<i>Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial and marine ecosystems and combat climate change (reduce, reuse, recycle, residual management) through more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems</i>	
BE1: Climate change mitigation and adapted agrifood systems	Transformation and resilience of agrifood systems to achieve sustainability and Paris Agreement goals enabled through the establishment and implementation of agricultural practices, policies and programmes in support of climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation	2.4, 6.4, 13.1, 13.2, 13.b, 14.3
BE2: Bioeconomy for sustainable food and agriculture	A bioeconomy that balances economic value and social welfare with environmental sustainability promoted through formulation and implementation of integrated evidence-based policies and practices in micro and macro environments, using technological, organizational and social innovations	12.2, 12.4, 12.5
BE3: Biodiversity and ecosystem services for food and agriculture	Biodiversity for food and agriculture maintained and sustainable use, conservation and restoration of marine, terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, and their services promoted through adoption of targeted policies and practices	2.5, 6.6, 14.4, 15.1, 15.3, 15.4, 15.5, 15.6
BE4: Achieving sustainable urban food systems	More efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable urban and peri-urban agrifood systems transformation that addresses urban poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition, enables healthy diets and catalyses inclusive and sustainable rural transformation while safeguarding the underlying natural resources base, promoted through the adoption of supportive policies and programmes, and the initiation and scaling-up of actions and investments by national and local stakeholders	1.1, 2.1, 11.a, 12.1
BETTER LIFE	<i>Promote inclusive economic growth by reducing inequalities (urban/rural areas, rich/poor countries, men/women)</i>	
BL1: Gender equality and rural women's empowerment	Women's equal rights, access to, and control over resources, services, technologies, institutions, economic opportunities and decision-making ensured, and discriminatory laws and practices eliminated, through gender-responsive policies, strategies, programmes and legal frameworks	2.3, 5.4, 5.a, 5.c
BL2: Inclusive rural transformation	Inclusive rural transformation and revitalization of rural areas ensuring equal participation of and benefits to, poor, vulnerable and marginalized groups accelerated through implementation of targeted policies, strategies and programmes	1.1, 8.3, 8.5, 10.1, 10.2, 10.7
BL3: Agriculture and food emergencies	Countries facing or at risk of acute food insecurity provided with urgent livelihood and nutrition assistance and, adopting a humanitarian-development nexus and its contribution to a peace approach, their populations equipped with appropriate capacities to better withstand and manage future shocks and risks and contribute to the transformation of agrifood systems	1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 16.1
BL4: Resilient agrifood systems	Resilience of agrifood systems and livelihoods to socio-economic and environmental shocks and stresses strengthened through improved multi-risk understanding and effective governance mechanisms for implementation of risk and vulnerability reduction measures	1.3, 1.5, 2.4
BL5: Hand-in-Hand (HIH) Initiative	Agricultural transformation and sustainable rural development accelerated through targeting the poorest and the hungry, differentiating territories and strategies, bringing together all relevant dimensions of agrifood systems through analysis and partnerships and enabling scaled-up investment	1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.a, 10.1, 10.2
BL6: Scaling up investment	Transformation towards sustainable agrifood systems with large-scale impacts on reducing inequalities and eradicating poverty and hunger accelerated through increased public and private investment, and improved capacities to leverage future investments	1.b, 2.a, 10.1, 10.2, 10.b, 17.5