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Food
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Продовольственная и
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Organización
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para la
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y la
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CONFERENCE

Thirty-sixth Session

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Implementation of 2008-2009 Regional Conference Recommendations

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TWENTY-NINTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE

FOR THE NEAR EAST

Cairo, Egypt, 1 - 5 March 2008

The following is a brief summary of actions taken by the Organization on the recommendations made by the 29th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East:

Provide the necessary technical support, in collaboration with ICARDA, on the Black Stem Rust of wheat known as Ug99.

1. FAO launched its Wheat Rust Disease Global Programme (WRDGP) in July 2008 to complement the efforts of its research partners in the Borlaug Genetic Resources Institute. Through this Programme, FAO is taking the lead in supporting national governments in their preparedness to manage Ug99, covering 29 countries, including in the Near East.

Continue its efforts for the establishment of the Animal Health Commission for the Near East and North Africa (AHCNENA).

2. Two follow-up meetings were held in Cairo during 2008 to discuss the establishment of the Commission. The meetings also recommended that each member country donate no less than USD10,000 for the establishment of an information network and a database for animal diseases.

Provide assistance to countries to increase their investment in agriculture.

3. Country studies on investment in agriculture were prepared for Egypt, Morocco and Sudan and a regional debate on "Arab investment in agriculture and food" is scheduled for December 2009.

Provide assistance in formulating strategies and action plans for drought mitigation and early warning.

4. A regional workshop on "Drought Management and Preparedness in the Region" was held in November 2008. Capacity building support was provided for the implementation of "National Drought Strategy" in Syria, launching of "Drought Mitigation Plan for the West Bank and Gaza Strip", and inclusion of drought measures within the framework of several on-going projects in the Region. A manual on "Guidelines for Drought Mitigation and Preparedness Planning" was produced by RNE and widely distributed in the Region.

Prepare studies that would examine possible impact of climate change on agriculture, food security and natural resources.

5. An FAO multi-disciplinary working group has been conducting a review of the likely climate change impacts in the Region and preparing a Regional multi-disciplinary project concept note to address these impacts with a focus on adaptation and mitigation measures.

To assist member countries in promotion of practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

6. No significant action has yet been undertaken.

Work with concerned international, regional and national organizations to improve the use of tools to assess the impact of weather conditions on crops.

7. FAO, together with the World Bank and the Moroccan Government, conducted a study in 2008/09 on the impact of climate change on Moroccan agriculture over the 21st century.

Provide technical assistance to member countries to study how small farmers could benefit from opportunities within the framework of the Clean Development Mechanism (including carbon tax).

8. No significant action has yet been undertaken.

Promote integration of climate change, biodiversity conservation, and desertification control into natural resources management programmes and activities in the Region.

9. These issues are to be addressed by the working group on climate change mentioned above.

Ensure that future studies (on agriculture in the Near East) include alternative policy scenarios and their implications on the Region.

10. FAO, in collaboration with the World Bank and IFAD, conducted a comprehensive study on improving food security in the Region. The results of this study are to be discussed in a regional conference on “Food Security in the Arab Countries” to be held in Doha, Qatar, December 2009.

Support member countries in developing studies for their agricultural sectors by 2030 or 2050.

11. FAO provided assistance to Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Yemen in formulating their food and agriculture development strategies until 2015-30 based on comprehensive assessment of long-term perspectives in food and agriculture.

Organize expert consultations on key policy issue implications of the rapid expansion of bioenergy use.

12. RNE organized regional workshops on “Expansion in bio-fuel and soaring food prices and their implications for agricultural and food policies in the Region” in June 2008, and on “Oil trees for energy and for valorization of marginal land and water resources in the Region” which were attended by 12 countries. A regional expert consultation on “Investment in agricultural lands” is scheduled to take place before end of 2009.

Facilitate analysis of sector trends in updating disease control plans that reflect reports and statistical material developed by FAO.

13. ECTAD decentralized units in Beirut, Tunis and Egypt provided technical advice on the formulation and implementation of the Action Plan for avian influenza preparedness and response in the Region. Technical advice was also provided on information systems, compensation policies, vaccine efficacy and marketing structures.

Support sharing of plans within the Region to contain outbreaks quickly and with minimal socio-economic damage.

14. A regional training workshop on “Epidemiology data collection and organization for effective control of TADs” was organized. A regional workshop on small ruminant production and health is to be organized in November 2009. National preparedness plans have also been

formulated in selected countries to ensure that their responses to disease outbreaks do not negatively impact the livelihoods of the vulnerable as well as biodiversity.

Support member countries in conducting national and regional risk assessments of TADs.

15. FAO provided technical assistance for accreditation of rinderpest free areas according to the OIE guidelines, as well as for control of TADs and zoonoses (Foot and Mouth Disease, Rift Valley Fever, Brucellosis). A regional training workshop on camel transboundary diseases was also organized. In addition, a technical meeting was organized in Rome on “Brucella melitensis infections in Eurasia and the Middle East”. An “Advanced course on epidemiologic surveillance and risk assessment” for effective control of TADs is scheduled for October 2009.

Assist members to safeguard human as well as animal health and wealth.

16. FAO convened three regional capacity building workshops: i) “Milk chain from stable to table in the Region”; ii) “Animal identification traceability and recording”; and iii) “RVF disease recognition epidemiology, and preparedness plans”. In collaboration with OIE, FAO provided assistance in the assessment and gap analysis of the performance of the Veterinary Services of several member countries.

Pay particular attention to requirements for capacity building (for global and regional emergency issues).

17. In close cooperation with ICARDA, short and long-term trainings were provided in Wheat Rust race analysis and trap nurseries to researchers from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Eritrea, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Yemen, Sudan, and Syria, as well as to some countries outside the Region.

Continue to coordinate closely with other UN agencies (on emergency issues).

18. Complementary training on the management and assessment of trap nurseries has been provided to scientists from Eritrea, Egypt, Pakistan, Turkey, Yemen, Sudan, Syria, Iran, Afghanistan and Iraq (in close cooperation with ICARDA and CIMMYT).

Strengthen capacity for plant pest emergency management and animal diseases.

19. The needs for upgrading facilities for wheat rust race analysis in Turkey, Azerbaijan, Egypt and Yemen were assessed and direct support to upgrade these facilities was provided.

Place more emphasis on the establishment of early warning systems.

20. Global Cereal Rust Surveillance Programme (GCRSP) in support to the early warning system for wheat rusts is being established at FAO headquarters in Rome, using the experience gained from the work on Desert Locust. An International Focal Point has been hired by FAO to manage and support all GCRSP relevant activities within the scope of the Borlaug Global Rust Initiative (BGRI) and FAO’s Wheat Rust Disease Global Programme.

Closely monitor the impact of emergency intervention programmes.

21. Support to surveillance has been provided through the purchasing and distribution of several GPS units to all concerned countries for use in the national surveys, in addition to providing direct financial and technical support during the field surveys.

THIRTIETH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Brasilia, Brazil, 14 - 18 April 2008

The following is a brief summary of actions taken by the Organization on the recommendations made by the 30th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean:

Continue work on the “Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative” and Achievement of the MDGs.

22. Additional resources have been successfully mobilized for the financing and implementation of FAO’s projects and activities in the Region. Of particular importance is the “*Regional programme to strengthen the impact of public policies on the elimination of hunger and chronic child malnutrition (2008-2011)*”. This programme financed by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID) aims to foster multisectoral public action for the efficient and effective implementation of food and nutrition security interventions in areas with populations living in extreme poverty and with chronic child malnutrition.

23. The Regional Observatory for Food and Nutrition Security began its operations, producing the document “Panorama del Hambre 2008” (*The Hunger Situation 2008*), which will continue as an annual publication. Technical and financial support has been given to the National Observatories of Colombia, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay, and work began in 2009 with Bolivia, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Central America.

24. Emphasis has been placed on prioritizing food security in national agendas through broad-spectrum awareness-raising activities. There has also been work with Parliaments and a Parliamentary Front Against Hunger has been established, which includes the Central American, Andean and Latin American Parliaments.

Support to building of national capacity to respond to emergencies.

25. In the framework of TCP and other projects financed by the European Commission and Spain, some countries have received FAO assistance for the prevention and mitigation of disasters and for emergency response and rehabilitation in the agricultural sector. Between 2008 and mid-2009, a total of USD55 million were mobilized for actions in response to disasters caused by hurricanes, tropical storms, frosts, earthquakes and transboundary animal diseases, as well as the crisis resulting from soaring food prices. These actions have included assistance to help affected populations recover their agricultural livelihoods, reactivation of food production and activities directed towards improving disaster preparation, mitigation and response. Specific risk management projects are underway in four countries of the Andean Region (Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia and Peru), as well as in Honduras, Dominican Republic and Belize. Projects are being implemented to strengthen the Region’s veterinary services for the control and prevention of transboundary animal diseases.

Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC): work on payment for environmental services, sustainable forest management, including the management of forest plantations, the prevention of wildfires and the management of forest statistics, including information on environmental variables.

26. Training documents have been produced on “Payment for Environmental Services”, with special regard to conservation. As part of the UN-REDD Initiative, actions have been initiated in Bolivia, Paraguay, Ecuador and Panama for mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

27. A regional study has been undertaken to identify best practices in sustainable forest management in Latin America and the Caribbean, with a panel of Latin American and Caribbean experts examining 41 cases submitted by individual countries and selecting 25 as success stories. FAO is implementing a TCP project to build the capacity of Southern Cone countries to monitor, evaluate and report progress made in sustainable forest management.

28. A Regional Cooperation Strategy for Wildfire Management has been established and subregional networks formed between countries of Central America, the Caribbean and South America. Technical training activities have been carried out between the Governments of Colombia and Brazil, and Brazil has provided support to Bolivia on the topic of forest fires.

Promote and provide technical support to cooperation between countries on transboundary diseases.

29. In collaboration with the Ministries of Agriculture and Livestock of the expanded MERCOSUR countries, a Regional Animal Health Programme has been drawn up with investment projects to strengthen the animal health services of each member country and of the regional coordinating bodies. Support has been given to the subregional coordinating mechanism for the elimination of foot-and-mouth disease in the Andean Community, the harmonization of regulations, and the strengthening of programme policies and strategies to eliminate foot-and-mouth disease in the Andean countries. Successful experiences of sustainable livestock development in the Region have been compiled and analysed, leading to the production of the FAO publication "*Helping develop sustainable livestock production in Latin America and the Caribbean: lessons from successful experiences*".

30. FAO has provided support to countries in the prevention of transboundary animal diseases not present in the Region and has helped with the control and progressive elimination of foot-and-mouth disease, classical swine fever and the New World screwworm. It also responded promptly to country requests resulting from the presence of emerging diseases such as H1N1 influenza A and its swine-human interrelations and outbreaks of moderately pathogenic avian flu H5N2 and *porcine enteroviral encephalomyelitis* in Haiti.

31. An Ad hoc Group on Sustainable Livestock Production has been established in the framework of CODEGALAC - Southern Cone and a pilot project has been initiated in five countries for the validation of a model to estimate the costs and marginal benefits of rehabilitating degraded grasslands.

Promote participation of countries in the Region in Codex Alimentarius.

32. Numerous workshops, seminars and training courses have been held on common priority topics to foster the development of technical capability in the countries of the Region, in order to enhance their involvement in the formulation of standards and to facilitate their implementation of those standards. Projects and/or direct technical assistance actions are currently underway in Guatemala, Honduras, Haiti, Belize, El Salvador, Cuba, Chile, Trinidad and Tobago, Panama, Dominican Republic and the East Caribbean.

Continue to promote follow-up to Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD) and promotion of joint action by public and private stakeholders.

33. Project GCP/173/RLA/BRA, supported by the Government of Brazil, is bolstering civil society in areas relating to family farming and access to renewable natural resources and is promoting the joint organization with the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty of six national policy dialogues for discussion of topics relating to rural development and the setting of work agendas involving social movements, the respective governments of each target country and FAO. Also under implementation is the GCP/173/RLA/BRA programme of national dialogues between civil society-governments in five countries of the Region on access to land and rural development, with input from the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty.

TWENTY-FIFTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

Nairobi, Kenya, 16 – 20 June 2008

The following is a brief summary of action taken by the Organization on the recommendations made by the 25th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa.

Adoption of a holistic approach to water management, including water use strategies at basin level so as to cater for all competing needs.

34. In collaboration with the African Union, the African Ministers' Council on Water Development, the African Development Bank, the Economic Commission for Africa, and the Government of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, FAO organized a “Ministerial Conference on Water for Agriculture and Energy in Africa: the Challenges of Climate Change” in December 2008, in Sirte, Libya. This Conference focused on the inter-linkages between water for agriculture and energy production, underlining the need to boost investment in both sectors. As a follow-up to the Conference, work is being carried out to promote investment programmes in water for agriculture and energy in Africa based on financial cost, feasibility by country, subregion, and the whole continent.

35. In response to water use strategies at basin level, the Conference organized a Roundtable “To Save Lake Chad” that gave the Lake Chad Basin Commission an opportunity to urge bordering countries to increase their efforts, and donors and development partners to provide immediate assistance to help save the lake from “looming human and environmental disaster”.

Assist countries to address trade difficulties and increase investment to enhance agricultural production and productivity in Africa, which can increase the current level of intra-African exchange.

36. FAO undertook a study on “Evaluation of the application of regional tariff measures and the impact of agricultural non-tariff barriers and other obstacles to intra- and extra-trade in selected West, Central and Eastern African countries”, providing elements for policy advice on the establishment of an information system for timely information on food and input market opportunities and related affordable transport services as well as the monitoring of progress made in the elimination of trade barriers on road corridors in Central Africa, critical for expanding intra-subregional trade.

37. It established partnerships with other development agencies in support of agribusinesses and trade promotion through the provision of agricultural trade-related policy advice to the stakeholders of joint interest (ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS, ROPPA, ROESAO, COFENABVI, etc.) and the establishment of joint trade-related capacity building programmes and advice to target stakeholders and beneficiaries operating in West Africa.

38. FAO is currently engaged in a study which looks at domestic production, trade and food aid in the Eastern Africa Subregion and compares this with the mapped information with areas of greatest production potential. The study would help identify intra-regional trade opportunities. FAO assisted ECCAS prepare an Agricultural Common Policy for the Subregion to increase trade among its member countries.

Assist countries in setting clear priorities for interventions in the area of climate change.

39. FAO has planned a series of workshops on bio-fuel development and its impact on food security. These will give countries the opportunity to take stock of bio-energy development, analyse its potential and challenges, and formulate recommendations to help prepare policies and strategies for bio-energy development.

Resolutions and recommendations of the Conference be condensed into a statement to be presented to the African Union and the G8 by the Chairman of the Conference with support from FAO and Member Countries.

40. FAO presented the recommendations at the African Union Summit at Sharm el Sheik in Egypt in June 2008.

Continuous contact between the Chairman of the Conference (Kenya) and member countries, with support from the Secretariat, to promote the implementation of the resolutions/recommendations of the Conference, and to monitor and evaluate its effectiveness.

41. In line with IPA Action 2.54, b), iii) the Regional Conference requested that the Chair of the Regional Conference remain in office between sessions. Basic Text changes to implement this decision have been prepared for consideration by the FAO Conference in November 2009.

TWENTY- SIXTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE

Innsbruck, Austria, 26 – 27 June 2008

The following is a brief summary of action taken by the Organization on the recommendations made by the 26th FAO Regional Conference for Europe:

Take a more programmatic approach to design of the Field Programme and support selected countries under the Initiative on Soaring Food Prices (ISFP).

42. Work on National Medium-Term Priority Frameworks (NMTPFs) for Albania, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Tajikistan and Ukraine has progressed and should be completed in the course of 2009. These documents are regarded as programming instruments for FAO activities in line with those of the UN Country Teams and other donors in specific countries. Furthermore, where relevant, NMTPFs define FAO inputs to the One UN process.

43. In addition, specific support within the Initiative on Soaring Food Prices (ISFP) has been provided to Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova and Tajikistan in the form of short- and medium-term direct support to farmers. A regional consultation hosted by REU in relation to ISFP TCP projects has served as a platform to discuss implications of Soaring Food Prices among member countries.

Set a high priority and allocate sufficient resources for activities in the area of climate change.

44. The Regional Office facilitated regional conferences and thematic seminars on climate change, such as the Conference on *Climate Change and European Agriculture* co-hosted by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (in October 2008) and the joint conference with the Hungarian Agricultural Research Institute and EU Agrisafe on *Climate Change: Challenge for the Training of Applied Plant Scientists* (March 2009) and the national seminar on *Impact of Climate Change on Agriculture and Rural Development in Slovakia* (Bratislava, July 2009).

45. A FAO TCP Facility regional project in twelve selected vulnerable CEE and Central Asia countries is undertaking a series of analytical studies to map the impacts of climate change on agriculture, forestry, fisheries and rural areas, to determine approaches for the mitigation of impacts and risks, and to identify policies and programmes to support adaptation to climate change at the sector, village and farm level. This project is being implemented in collaboration with academies of science, agricultural universities and research institutes from Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Hungary, Moldova, Slovakia and Ukraine, with Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Romania, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to follow in 2010, as well as with NGOs, and will provide training and disseminate methodologies to analyse climate change impacts. Where appropriate, a regional approach to define assistance requirements will be used. In addition, REU is to prepare a proposal for a regional trust fund to mobilize additional resources for activities related to climate change.

Integrate issues of Traditional Foods into all areas of work and initiate research and technical assistance on this issue.

46. REU has initiated new and intensified existing activities to promote of traditional regional agriculture products and food. REU has provided a forum for the organization of expert meetings and discussions on the topic to generate and disseminate knowledge. They include at the South-East Europe Technical Seminar “*Quality Food Products linked to Geographical Origin and Traditions*”, in Belgrade, Serbia, in December 2008; the Technical Forum “*Geographical Indication and its contribution to Food Security*”, during the “*Berlin Forum International Green*

Week", Germany, January 2009; and at the expert meeting on "*Livestock based Geographical Indications as an entry point to maintain agro-biodiversity*", in October 2009, in Budapest.

47. As a result of these consultations, new areas of focus, main knowledge gaps and recommendations for FAO technical assistance have been identified.

48. In addition, REU has also been active in providing technical assistance to member countries both in the form of an internet platform to include essential information on policies, legislation and relevant institutions at the international and national level, and through information and links to specific traditional agriculture products.

49. FAO will be participating in events that promote traditional agriculture products and food in order to present FAO's experience and activities related to quality food products linked to geographical origin and its role in enhancing food security and rural development. REU will also assess possible assistance to member countries in relation to Geographical Indication and rural development, as has been done for example for products with Protected Geographical Indication (PGI), Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) and Traditional Speciality Guaranteed (TSG).

50. Different food networks such as INFOODS and CEECFOODS have been supported through further enhancement of the collaboration with SEEC, CIS and Caucasus countries and through cooperation with EUROFIR. It is also envisaged to initiate a training course for new CEECFOODS members. Furthermore REU will encourage CEECFOODS to formulate policies and obtain data about traditional geographical origin foods.

Promote an increase in investment in agriculture and rural infrastructure and knowledge exchange through networks.

51. In October 2009, FAO is organizing a workshop for member countries of the Central Asia subregion focusing on the formulation of investment projects. The aim of this workshop is to assist governments in building capacity to develop investment projects in the agriculture and rural development sector in accordance with international standards.

52. Various consultations have been organized in 2008, including a meeting in December 2008 on "Food Price Fluctuations, Policies and Rural Development in Europe and Central Asia" as well as a training workshop on Formulation of Investment Projects in Agriculture and Rural Development.

53. Numerous initiatives are ongoing or to be launched in 2009 to support existing networks or to strengthen the capacity of local networks, such as the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Central and Eastern Europe (NACEE) and the European System on Cooperative Research Networks in Agriculture (ESCORENA), where support to the development of a new website has been provided by FAO.

54. In addition, capacity-building initiatives related to the Global Online Research in Agriculture (AGORA) have been prepared and will continue in 2009 along with the strengthening of the AgroWeb Network. A knowledge share fair will be organized in 2009 with a focus on the promotion of traditional agriculture products and foods and adaptation to climate change.

TWENTY-NINTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Bangkok, Thailand, 26 – 31 March 2009

The following is a brief summary of action taken by the Organization on the recommendations made by the 29th FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific:

Submit a fully formulated Regional Priority Framework for its review and consideration at the next Regional Conference and report on the restructuring and strengthening of the Regional Office to address these priorities.

55. Immediately following the 29th APRC, RAP initiated a series of consultations with member countries and concerned stakeholders to further review and develop the draft RAP Regional Priority Framework (RPF), which is aimed at translating the Organization's Strategic Framework into regional actions based on a results-based approach. The draft was reviewed at the 8th Meeting of the FAO South West Pacific Ministers of Agriculture (Niue, May 2009), the ASEAN-FAO Regional Conference on Food Security (Thailand, May 2009) and the SAARC-FAO Meeting on the Regional Priority Framework (Bhutan, July 2009). RAP is also undertaking an iterative process to fine-tune the draft RPF after receipt of substantive inputs from member countries and regional economic organizations, as well as technical inputs from headquarters and FAO Representatives. A further consultation with Bangkok-based donors and partner organizations is planned towards the end of 2009 before finalizing the RPF for presentation at the 30th APRC for consideration and endorsement. Meanwhile, RAP is working on scenarios for restructuring the Regional Office as requested by Asia and the Pacific member countries.

Enhance linkages between the regional technical commissions and the Regional Conference.

56. This particular recommendation to be brought to the attention of the various regional technical commissions (RTCs) at their next sessions to involve the commission members in exploring ways and means for enhancing linkages between the RTCs and the APRC. A report on the findings, recommendations and activities of the five regional commissions (plant protection, agricultural statistics, fisheries, forestry and animal production and health) will be prepared and presented at the 30th APRC.

Assist member countries in formulating and implementing practical climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies, including promotion and exchange of information on appropriate agricultural practices, participatory planting calendars, and research and development on salt-tolerant and drought- and flood-resistant varieties of crops needed to respond to anticipated climate change.

57. Improved capacity to respond to climate change and its impacts on agriculture and food and nutrition security has been identified as one of the five priority areas in the Regional Priority Framework for Asia and the Pacific. FAO has been working on formulating national and regional strategies and frameworks on climate change adaptation and mitigation; developing, identifying and disseminating practical technologies; conducting capacity building in member countries; and participating in national, regional and international fora to provide advice to partners on effective policies and approaches to agricultural climate change adaptation and mitigation. A number of projects are under implementation in Bangladesh, China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal and the Philippines covering aspects of water, cropping, IPM, livestock, fisheries and forestry. New initiatives involving studies, technical assistance and projects are under preparation in Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand and the Greater Mekong subregion. Plant protection profiles from 20 countries in Asia-Pacific have been published to help formulate better strategies and policies for pest and pesticide management.

Continue supporting member countries in implementing sustainable forest management, including measures related to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

58. In addition to ongoing work on national codes of practice and reduced impact logging technologies, the following activities have been initiated:

- training and workshops on community-based forest management systems to accelerate tree cultivation and assist in natural regeneration;
- pilot field trials to develop technology and guidelines for implementation of the programme on reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) in selected Asia-Pacific countries; and
- support to Southeast Asian rural communities and smallholders to link them to forestry-related voluntary carbon markets.

Assist in promoting practical crop insurance schemes and social safety nets, in particular targeting small farmers.

59. A policy proposal to establish a rice crop insurance programme and launch a pilot scheme in two provinces in Indonesia has been formulated. A document analyzing policy options and presenting recommendations and an action plan for implementation has been prepared. A regional policy study on the impacts of the financial, economic and food crises on small farmers has been initiated.

Continue its assessment of the opportunities and risks associated with bioenergy development and provide sound and balanced information, policy advice and technical support to member countries.

60. A TCP project is being implemented in the Greater Mekong subregion to integrate pro-poor bioenergy frameworks and strategies into national and regional bioenergy policies through “best practice” case studies, workshops, national plans of action and regional information sharing mechanisms.

Support the development of regulatory frameworks and management policies for fisheries, provide technical assistance to meet the emerging traceability requirements of international markets, and support sustainable aquaculture development.

61. Under a Trust Fund project, a strategic action programme to be developed for the Bay of Bengal region to identify sound policies for community-based approaches to integrated coastal resources management. Capacity building in sustainable aquaculture development is being provided to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and two provinces in China through TCP projects. A TCP project in Cambodia has been initiated to enhance fish quality control and standardization services.

Pursue the establishment of regional support units under the global framework for control and prevention of transboundary animal diseases (GF-TAD) that would consist of epidemiology and laboratory reference centers to assist countries, especially in times of disease emergencies.

62. Three subregional meetings for SAARC, SPC and ASEAN on GF-TADs were convened jointly with OIE where setting up of regional support units was discussed. This culminated in a regional steering committee meeting in Tokyo in July 2009 to review recommendations of the three subregional groups and discuss coordination mechanisms to strengthen surveillance and preparedness plans.

Assist member countries in developing comprehensive policy and strategic frameworks for coping with water scarcity.

63. A comprehensive set of technical and policy assistance instruments are being developed through a regional Trust Fund project to promote sustainable water resource use for agriculture. Strategies and programmes to cope with water scarcity, and capacities to improve water productivity and efficiency within the Region is to be strengthened through technical support, capacity building, advocacy and mobilization of extrabudgetary funding.

Scale up its regional irrigation modernization programme.

64. A TCP project is being finalized to assist five Asian countries in adoption and implementation of irrigation modernization concepts and technologies. Approximately 100 experts from India, Malaysia and Nepal are to be trained in irrigation modernization methodologies and management. Countries in the region where water is a critical factor limiting crop production will be assisted in improving crop water productivity through capacity building.

Support the establishment of regional networks of experts on water management and approaches for coping with water scarcity.

65. Ongoing and planned projects are underway to identify, mobilize and strengthen support to policy-makers, managers and practitioners in member countries to improve water use and management in agriculture.

Continue promoting agro-industries and value chains that deliver benefits to smallholder farmers and small agro-enterprises by assisting member countries to improve services to agro-industries, promoting practices that add value for small farmers, and helping small farmers respond to changing markets and consumer requirements.

66. A joint FAO-EC conference on food quality linked to geographical origin in Asia was held in Bangkok to promote agrifood marketing chains that deliver benefits to smallholder farmers. Case studies are being carried out in 11 Asian countries to better understand how smallholder farmers can link and respond to changing markets and consumer requirements. National workshops will be held in Bhutan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar on regulations, standards and certification for agricultural exports. A regional trainer's manual for producers and exporters in Asia is to be produced. Approximately 60 trainers from five Asian countries were trained in horticultural chain management.