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# FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

## Thirty-seventh Session

Quito, Ecuador, 28 March - 1 April 2022

### Summary of the recommendations of the Regional Commissions

#### Executive Summary

FAO Regional Commissions are Statutory Bodies of the Organization.<sup>1</sup> This document sets out recommendations for the FAO Regional Conference and Programme of Work issued by the following bodies: the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC), the Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean (CLDLAC), the Commission for Small-Scale and Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPPESAALC) and the FAO-OEA/CIE-IICA Working Group on Agricultural and Livestock Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean.

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## I. Introduction

1. The Regional Commissions fall under the umbrella of FAO Statutory Bodies and examine key issues and technical aspects in forestry (the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission [LACFC]), livestock (the Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean [CLDLAC]) and fisheries (the Commission for Small-Scale and Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture of Latin America and the Caribbean [COPPESAALC] and the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission [WECAFC]).<sup>2</sup> Recommendations by the FAO-OEA/CIE-IICA Working Group on Agricultural and Livestock Statistics for Latin America are also included in this document.

2. The Commissions issue technical recommendations and lists of regional priorities which are in turn submitted to the Regional Conference under the pertinent agenda items for a given session.

<sup>1</sup> (C 2009/REP, para. 142).

<sup>2</sup> The recommendations from WECAFC are not included in this document as the 2021 session will be held on July 2022.

Documents can be consulted at [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)

## II. Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC) Report<sup>3</sup>

3. The Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC) held its 32nd Session from 6 to 10 September 2021, virtually, at the invitation of the Government of Jamaica. Delegates from 32 Members attended the session, along with representatives of 22 organizations as observers (six agencies of the United Nations system, and 16 international, intergovernmental, and non-governmental organizations). The technical documents and full Report can be viewed on the Commission's official website.<sup>4</sup>

4. In response to the recommendation of the 36th Session of the Regional Conference, LACFC requested FAO to synchronize the future LACFC meetings with the schedule of the Regional Conferences. In this regard, the next LACFC session is tentatively programmed for the second trimester of 2023, allowing it to provide timely inputs to the Regional Conference in 2024.

5. LACFC recommended that FAO Secretariat invites the LACFC Chair to attend the Regional Conference, to optimize the interaction between LACFC and Regional Conference Members, strengthen cross-sectoral policy dialogue and ensure that important regional forestry issues are incorporated into the Regional Conference agenda.

### *Recommendations for the attention of the FAO Regional Conference*

6. Consider food security, agriculture, forestry and other aspects of rural development in an integrated manner.

7. Include the forestry sector in National Development Plans to promote rural livelihood opportunities.

8. Strengthen strategies and coordinate actions to prevent deforestation.

9. Promote the inclusion of trees in agriculture through agroforestry and silvopastoral systems, promote sustainable forest management for climate change mitigation and adaptation and community empowerment.

10. Support the creation of enabling conditions for the management and mobilization of financing to facilitate the restoration of productive landscapes.

11. Highlight the subject of forest fires and promote the integrated management of fire in agricultural and forestry systems.

### *Recommendations for FAO Secretariat*

12. Continue supporting countries on accessing climate and environmental financing.

13. Further strengthen intersectoral work through activities aimed at reducing deforestation and promoting sustainable agriculture and forest management.

14. Continue promoting the territorial and ecosystem approach (landscape approach).

15. Continue supporting countries in accessing funding and developing public/private partnerships for restoration actions.

16. Support coordination between the different regional fire management initiatives.

17. Maintain and strengthen its support for countries on national and global forest monitoring.

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<sup>3</sup> LACFC was established during the 4th Session of the FAO Conference (1948) with the primary function of serving as a neutral forum for the countries in the region to examine forestry issues. The Commission has 33 member countries that work in subregional groups (Caribbean, Mesoamerica, Amazon and Southern Cone).

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.fao.org/americas/eventos/ver/en/c/1414808/>.

### **III. Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean (CLDLAC) Report<sup>5</sup>**

18. The Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean (CLDLAC) is the technical advisory forum on animal production and health for the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean. It brings together representatives from governments and the private sector to exchange experiences in livestock development policies and programmes, and to formulate cooperation strategies to strengthen them.

19. The 15th Session of CLDLAC was held virtually, at the invitation of the Government of Uruguay from 17 to 19 August 2021. The number of participants, including delegates and observers, was 102 from 26 countries in the region. The technical documents and full report can be viewed on the Commission's official website.<sup>6</sup> In the meeting, Members ratified CLDLAC as a regional body in which countries discuss and generate agreements to promote public policies and strategies in relation to the challenges faced by livestock in Latin America and the Caribbean.

#### *Recommendations for the attention of the FAO Regional Conference*

20. Recognize the key role that livestock production in Latin America and the Caribbean plays as a source of food that contributes to global and national food and nutritional security, as well as an important driver of economic development for the countries in the region.

21. Strengthen CLDLAC as a regional body that should promote and improve coordination among international institutions and organizations working in the field of livestock development in Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to unify efforts and have a greater impact.

22. Prioritize actions to promote the sustainable increase of the production, availability and quality of livestock products, promoting access to productive resources, financing and training, technological information and services, to improve the connection between the livestock sector and goods and services markets.

#### *Recommendations for the FAO Programme of Work*

23. Adopt and include CLDLAC recommendations related to technical cooperation for the livestock sector in its biannual programme of work.

24. Support countries to promote dialogue, exchange of experiences and mobilization of resources to implement the necessary actions to advance in more resilient, sustainable, inclusive and competitive livestock production.

25. Promote and support the adoption of good practices, technologies and innovations that promotes resilience, sustainability and competitiveness of livestock production, considering the specificities of the territories and strategies for linking it with the private sector.

26. Make visible the positive impacts and co-benefits of livestock production through the quantification of economic costs and benefits such as income and employment generation, the social and environmental benefits of innovations, available technologies and practices and the balance of capture and emissions of greenhouse gas.

27. Generate and collect relevant data and information on the livestock sector at the local, national and regional levels, to strengthen evidence-based decision-making.

28. Systematize and disseminate innovations and business models to strengthen national capacities and improve the knowledge base on innovations and digital solutions.

29. Identify, systematize and implement successful experiences that promote resilience, sustainability and competitiveness of livestock production.

30. Design a programme to promote animal traceability in Latin America and the Caribbean.

<sup>5</sup> CLDLAC Rules and Regulations: <http://www.fao.org/americas/codegalac/estatutos/en/>.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.fao.org/americas/eventos/ver/en/c/1415051/>.

#### **IV. Commission for Small-Scale and Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPPEAALC) Report<sup>7</sup>**

31. The XVII Regular Meeting of the Commission for Small-Scale and Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPPEAALC) was held virtually at the invitation of the Government of Peru, from 27 to 29 October 2021. It was attended by 62 delegates from 19 Members. The technical documents and full report can be viewed on the Commission's official website.<sup>8</sup>

32. The Commission held active exchanges on the need to: implement actions to accelerate the recovery of fisheries and aquaculture in the post-pandemic period; strengthen regular data collection systems for decision-making in the management of the sector, including the participation of producers; the development and strengthening of the resilience of small-scale aquaculture to the effects of climate change; and the inclusion of artisanal fishers and aquaculturists in national social protection systems, prioritizing the role of women in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

##### *Recommendations for the attention of the FAO Regional Conference*

33. Reinforce Members' efforts to develop and strengthen inland fisheries and small-scale aquaculture, as they contribute substantially to food and nutrition security and household income for multiple communities in the region, many of them indigenous and vulnerable.

34. Promote and encourage the inclusion of artisanal fisheries and small-scale aquaculture in national social protection and decent employment systems and the recognition of their social role.

35. Disseminate and support the actions agreed by the subregional Committees for the celebration of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022 (IYAFA 2022).<sup>9</sup>

##### *Recommendations for the FAO Programme of Work*

36. Continue FAO's technical assistance to countries on sustainable and inclusive aquatic systems to contribute to the resilience of fisheries and aquaculture food systems and accelerate the post-pandemic recovery processes of these sectors.

37. Assist countries in strengthening their capacities and systems for data collection, traceability and use of biological and fisheries information for the sustainable management of fisheries resources to achieve the targets of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14: Life below water.

38. Maintain and expand assistance to countries in actions contributing to the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA), particularly in the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in artisanal fisheries in waters under national jurisdiction.

39. Assist member countries in strengthening small-scale aquaculture by improving their access to innovation and sustainable technologies that enhance their economic competitiveness and resilience to climate change.

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<sup>7</sup> COPPEAALC was established in 1976 by the FAO Council during its 70th Session (Resolution 4/70) to promote the sustainable use of inland fishery resources, act as an advisory body to governments on fisheries management and support aquaculture development.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.fao.org/americas/eventos/ver/en/c/1436859/>.

<sup>9</sup> Related document <https://www.fao.org/3/cb6955en/cb6955en.pdf>.

## V. FAO/OEA-CIE/IICA Report<sup>10</sup>

40. The 30th Session of the FAO-OEA/CIE-IICA Working Group on Agricultural and Livestock Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean was held virtually at the invitation of the Government of Costa Rica from 20 to 23 July 2021. The number of participants including delegates and observers was 92, from 29 countries in the region.

41. The increased emphasis on evidence-based decisions in governments and institutions at all levels highlights the role of statistics, in particular in measuring and monitoring policies and programmes for the achievement of national and international development goals and objectives. Allied with proper policies, sound and timely statistics are instrumental in creating a positive impact on the lives of vulnerable population groups. Moreover, high quality statistics are essential for effectively addressing these issues and in formulating informed policy decisions to eliminate hunger and poverty.

42. Despite their importance, many countries in the region lack comprehensive and reliable agricultural and food security statistics, which undermine their ability to develop targeted evidence-based policy. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated these data gaps by hampering face-to-face data collections, the most common data collection modality in most countries. As a result, many agricultural censuses and household surveys were affected. In particular, around 64 percent of countries in the region reported that their agricultural census was delayed, postponed, or cancelled.

### *Recommendations for the attention of the FAO Regional Conference*

43. Recognize that the gaps in agricultural and food security statistics are undermining the achievement of the SDGs. Reinforce the need to allocate national resources to fill these data gaps and provide statistics that are timelier and disaggregated at low administrative levels, including data for vulnerable populations in order to maximize their use in evidence-based policymaking.

44. Encourage member countries to prioritize the digitization of the agricultural sector, but also the digitization and modernization of agricultural statistical systems by adopting innovative methods and alternative data sources to produce higher quality, and more timely data.

### *Recommendations for the FAO Programme of Work*

45. Acknowledging the progress made through SDGs capacity development, the Working Group recommended FAO to go beyond methodological training and prioritize the development of working groups to facilitate the exchange of practical experiences across countries.

46. Prioritize capacity development and technical assistance on producing disaggregated data, which are urgently needed by decision-makers to target agriculture and food security interventions and the monitoring of progress towards the SDGs.

47. Build capacity in countries to leverage updated survey data collection methods, earth observation data and artificial intelligence methods to produce agriculture statistics that are timelier and more disaggregated.

48. Acknowledging the work of FAO's Data Lab for Statistical Innovation, the Working Group recommended that FAO develop a space for sharing resources on the use of alternative data sources and data science techniques for producing agricultural statistics.

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<sup>10</sup>The FAO-OEA/CIE-IICA Working Group was established under the name CMEN Subcommittee on Agricultural and Livestock Statistics by the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI) at its 24th meeting (1964) and officially approved by the Committee for the Improvement of National Statistics (CMEN) at its 8th meeting (1964). IASI withdrew from the Working Group in 1995 and was replaced by the Organization of American States (OAS, OEA in Spanish) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). OAS and IICA have not taken part in the last four sessions. The working group has retained its original name and is recognized as FAO Statutory Body under Article VI.2 of FAO's Constitution. Its role is to examine the state of agricultural and food statistics in the region and to advise member countries on the development and standardization of agricultural statistics services.

49. Provide support and develop proper methodologies for the collection of fishery data , including inland fisheries, addressing the challenges being faced in this sector by some of the countries in the region.