



联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Organisation des Nations
Unies pour l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

E

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Hundred and Thirty-fourth Session

Rome, 7-11 November 2022

**Update on the development of regional action plans for the FAO Science
and Innovation Strategy**

Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:

Ms Ismahane Elouafi
Chief Scientist
Tel: +39 06570 51082
Email: Ismahane.Elouafi@fao.org

Documents can be consulted at www.fao.org

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The FAO Science and Innovation Strategy (the Strategy) was adopted by the FAO Council at its 170th Session following an inclusive and transparent consultative process. The Strategy is a tool to accelerate the implementation of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, and hence to contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- The document *Development of Regional Action Plans for the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy (2022- 25)* was considered by the 28th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), the 35th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI), and the 26th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO). The Technical Committees reviewed and welcomed the high-level framework for the development of regional action plans.
- The regional action plans for the implementation of the Strategy are developed by the FAO Regional Offices based on the high-level framework, which was prepared to guide the development of the action plans. An update on the current action plans is provided. The regional action plans are living documents that will be updated regularly to reflect new needs, opportunities and challenges.
- Reporting on the Strategy will take place in line with the established corporate reporting processes, including through the Mid-Term Review and Programme Implementation Report. As stated in the Strategy document, the FAO Council will discuss a mid-term review five years after its adoption, and the Strategy may be periodically updated, at Members' request, to reflect important developments.

GUIDANCE SOUGHT FROM THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

- The Programme Committee is invited to take note of the document.

I. Introduction

1. The FAO Science and Innovation Strategy (the Strategy) was adopted by the FAO Council at its 170th Session following an inclusive and transparent consultative process.¹ The Strategy is a tool to accelerate the implementation of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, and hence to contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2. Document *Development of Regional Action Plans for the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy (2022-25)*² was considered by the 28th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), the 35th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI), and the 26th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO).

3. The Technical Committees commended the development of the Strategy and its endorsement by the Council. They reviewed and welcomed the high-level framework for the development of regional action plans taking into account the outcomes and recommendations of the regional consultations and the FAO Regional Conferences 2022. It is important to take into account the guidance provided by Members in refining and developing further the regional action plans and to ensure the action plans capture actions in the Science and Innovation Strategy at country, regional and global levels. Members will be updated regularly on the implementation of the Strategy through the relevant Governing Bodies, as appropriate.

II. Update on the regional action plans

4. The regional action plans for the implementation of the Strategy are developed by the FAO Regional Offices based on a high-level framework, which was prepared to guide the development of the regional action plans. This approach responded to the call by the Regional Conferences to consider local, national and regional circumstances and differences.³ A strong regional approach ensures that implementation responds to countries' diverse challenges, needs and capacities with respect to science and innovation. The importance of adopting a regional approach when implementing the Strategy was highlighted throughout the formal and informal consultations on the Strategy. The regional action plans are living documents that will be updated regularly to reflect new needs, opportunities and challenges.

5. The regional action plans refer to the Strategy's nine outcomes and two enablers and include a number of outputs based on the Strategy document and detailed in the high-level framework for the development of regional action plans, which link the Strategy's outcomes and enablers to relevant Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets and Programme Priority Areas (PPAs).⁴

6. To strengthen science and evidence-based decision-making (Pillar 1), the regions are focusing on improving data availability (including geospatial) and supporting regional knowledge exchange and technical platforms. They are undertaking evidence-based analysis on key issues of policy interest, including climate change, conducting gender assessments, and enhancing cooperation with national, regional and international research bodies. Key themes are climate change, One Health and digitalization, while there are also regional specificities.

¹ Report of the 170th Session of the FAO Council (Rome, 13-17 June 2022), Appendix D. www.fao.org/3/nj485en/nj485en.pdf

² Development of regional action plans for the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy (2022-25): <https://www.fao.org/3/nj610en/nj610en.pdf>

³ Report of the 36th Session of the Regional Conference of the Near East (www.fao.org/3/ni472en/ni472en.pdf); Report of the 36th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (www.fao.org/3/ni469en/ni469en.pdf); Report of the 37th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (www.fao.org/3/ni471en/ni471en.pdf); Report of the 32nd Session of the Regional Conference for Africa (www.fao.org/3/ni468en/ni468en.pdf); and Report of the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for Europe (www.fao.org/3/ni470en/ni470en.pdf)

⁴ Development of regional action plans for the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy (2022-25): <https://www.fao.org/3/nj610en/nj610en.pdf>

7. To support innovation and technology at regional and country level (Pillar 2), the regions are focusing on climate adaptation and digital agriculture, innovation for livestock and One Health. All types of innovation are included, such as technological innovations (e.g. digital agriculture) and policy innovations (e.g. for school feeding). Biodiversity issues emerge through support for agroecology, and land and forest restoration, as well as focus on youth through support for entrepreneurial readiness and digital literacy. Regions are contributing to gathering and dissemination of information on innovations as well as building capacities to innovate on key thematic areas and also providing opportunities for sharing knowledge and exchange. FAO is supporting the development of digital agriculture strategies or policies at country level.

8. To serve Members better by reinforcing FAO's capacities (Pillar 3), the regions are focusing on knowledge management, training for staff on digital innovations, capacity building on science and innovation and science communication. Regions are supporting transformative partnerships and innovative funding and financing (the enablers), including through South-South and Triangular Cooperation, the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund, and through cooperation with research organizations, cities, United Nations bodies and public-private networks.

III. Accountability framework

9. Monitoring will be fully aligned with the causal results chains and SDG targets established in the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, reflecting all three dimensions of sustainability. The technology and innovation accelerators will be monitored through the relevant key performance indicators (KPIs), and activities under the PPAs will be measured through the most relevant SDG indicators. Reporting on the Strategy will take place in line with the established corporate reporting processes, including through the Mid-Term Review and Programme Implementation Report. As stated in the Strategy document, the FAO Council will discuss a mid-term review five years after its adoption, and the Strategy may be periodically updated, at Members' request, to reflect important developments.