

## 42nd Session of the Conference

### **Report of the 27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (Item 11.1)**

#### **Introduction to sub-items:**

- 11.1.1: Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) by 2030 (Draft Resolution)*
- 11.1.2: Proposal for the Establishment of a Sub-Committee on Livestock*
- 11.1.3: Proposal for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (Draft Resolution)*
- 11.1.4: Proposal for an International Day of Plant Health (Draft Resolution)*
- 11.1.5: Proposal for an International Year of Date Palm (Draft Resolution)*

I am pleased to present to the Conference five items of the 27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), which was held, in virtual modality, from 28 September to 2 October 2020.

#### 11.1.1 Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) by 2030 (Draft Resolution) - C 2021/LIM/8

The draft Resolution for the Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) by 2030 is brought to the Conference in recognition of the fact that this viral disease of domestic and wild small ruminants causes major socioeconomic impacts and its eradication will contribute significantly to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The Resolution supports the ongoing work of FAO, in partnership with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the development community and other partners, to mobilize resources and coordinate the implementation of the Global Eradication Programme to achieve a PPR-free world by 2030.

#### 11.1.2 Proposal for the Establishment of a Sub-Committee on Livestock - C 2021/LIM/12

The Committee on Agriculture (COAG) at its 27th Session established the Sub-Committee on Livestock (Sub-Committee) and invited the Council and the Conference to endorse the Sub-Committee as an intergovernmental forum with a mandate to discuss and build consensus on issues and priorities related to the livestock sector, and advise COAG, and through it, the Council and the Conference, on technical and policy programmes and activities required to optimize the contribution of the livestock sector to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The establishment of the Sub-Committee was endorsed by the Joint Meeting of the 129th Session of the Programme Committee, the 183rd Session of the Finance Committee and the 165th Session of the Council, which recommended that the 42nd Session of the Conference endorse the establishment of the Sub-Committee, and hold, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, the first session of the Sub-Committee during the first quarter of 2022, prior to the 28th Session of COAG; and agreed with the recommendation to consider revisiting the funding arrangement at subsequent COAG sessions with a view to explore other funding options.

#### 11.1.3 Proposal for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (Draft Resolution) – C 2021/LIM/9

The Committee on Agriculture (COAG) at its 27th session endorsed the proposal by the Government of Mongolia of a draft Conference Resolution on the observance by the UN System of an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) in 2026, and recommended it be submitted for the consideration of the FAO Council at its 165th Session in December 2020 for adoption by the FAO Conference at its 42nd Session in 2021. The Council endorsed the proposal and requested that it be submitted to the 42nd Session of the FAO Conference for adoption. As requested by the Council, the revised draft Resolution

submitted to the Conference provides that financing of the IYRP will be covered by extrabudgetary contributions, including those from the private sector, in line with standing FAO policy, giving due consideration to the FAO Strategy for Private Sector Engagement 2021-2025.

#### 11.1.4 Proposal for an International Day of Plant Health (Draft Resolution) – C 2021/LIM/10

At its 27th session, the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) endorsed the proposal by the Government of Zambia to establish 12 May as the International Day of Plant Health (IDPH), as a key legacy of the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH). At its 165th session, the Council endorsed the proposal. It is expected that the IDPH will provide continuity to the efforts made throughout the IYPH 2020 to raise awareness of the key role of plant health in tackling hunger, poverty, threats to the environment and economic development, and phytosanitary safety of international trade, while highlighting the role of FAO and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

#### 11.1.5 Proposal for an International Year of Date Palm (Draft Resolution) - C 2021/LIM/11

The Committee on Agriculture (COAG), at its 27th session, endorsed the draft Conference Resolution for the observance of an International Year of Date Palm in 2027, for approval by the FAO Council at its 165th Session and adoption by the Conference at its 42nd Session. The date palm provides food and nutrition security for millions and contributes to the livelihoods of rural smallholders and export earnings in many countries. However, there are a number of constraints to production, improved genetic resources, pests and disease, post-harvest handling and processing, marketing and trade, which limit the competitiveness of the date palm sector. Population, gender and consumption dynamics exert external forces on the date palm production and value chain. The observance of an International Year would contribute significantly to raising awareness of sustainable cultivation of date palm under adverse climatic conditions, while directing policy attention to improving value chain efficiencies.

*Mr Bommakanti Rajender, Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture*