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FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE

Thirtieth Session

Antalya, Turkey, 4-6 May 2016

**Report from the outcome of the debate of the 39th Session of the European
Commission on Agriculture (ECA)**

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ECA/39/15/REPORT

REPORT

**Budapest, Hungary
22-23 September 2015**

**European Commission
on Agriculture**

Thirty-ninth Session



Previous sessions of the European Commission on Agriculture (known as the European Committee on Agricultural Technology from 1949 to 1952 and as the European Committee on Agriculture until 1956) are as follows:

- 1. Preparatory Meeting Paris, 27–28 June 1949**
- 2. First Session Rome, 26-30 September 1949**
- 3. Second Session Geneva, 27-30 March 1950**
- 4. Third Session Rome, 25-28 June 1951**
- 5. Fourth Session Rome, 3-6 June 1952**
- 6. Fifth Session Rome, 26-29 May 1953**
- 7. Sixth Session Rome, 14-18 June 1954**
- 8. Seventh Session Rome, 20-24 June 1955**
- 9. Eighth Session Rome, 7-11 May 1956**
- 10. Ninth Session Rome, 17-21 June 1957**
- 11. Tenth Session Rome, 19-23 May 1958**
- 12. Eleventh Session Rome, 25-29 May 1959**
- 13. Twelfth Session Rome, 15-19 May 1961**
- 14. Thirteenth Session Rome, 13-18 May 1963**
- 15. Fourteenth Session Rome, 17-21 May 1965**
- 16. Fifteenth Session Rome, 15-20 May 1967**
- 17. Sixteenth Session Rome, 23-26 October 1968**
- 18. Seventeenth Session Rome, 7-11 September 1970**
- 19. Eighteenth Session Rome, 8-12 May 1972**
- 20. Nineteenth Session Rome, 17-21 June 1974**
- 21. Twentieth Session Rome, 17-23 June 1976**
- 22. Twenty-first Session Rome, 19-23 June 1978**
- 23. Twenty-second Session Rome, 23-27 June 1980**
- 24. Twenty-third Session Rome, 21-25 June 1982**
- 25. Twenty-fourth Session Innsbruck, Austria, 18-22 June 1984**
- 26. Twenty-fifth Session Chania, Greece, 8-12 June 1987**
- 27. Twenty-sixth Session Porto, Portugal, 23-26 May 1989**

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| 28. | Twenty-seventh Session | Herrsching, Germany, 1-5 July 1991 |
| 29. | Twenty-eighth Session | Valletta, Malta, 27 September – 1 October 1993 |
| 30. | Twenty-ninth Session | Bled, Slovenia, 2-6 October 1995 |
| 31. | Thirtieth Session | Nitra, Slovakia, 8-11 October 1997 |
| 32. | Thirty-first Session | Rome, 12-14 October 1999 |
| 33. | Thirty-second Session | Rome, 7-8 March 2002 |
| 34. | Thirty-third Session | Rome, 1-2 March 2004 |
| 35. | Thirty-fourth Session | Riga, Latvia, 7 June 2006 |
| 36. | Thirty-fifth Session | Innsbruck, Austria, 25 June 2008 |
| 37. | Thirty-sixth Session | Yerevan, Armenia, 11-12 May 2010 |
| 38. | Thirty-seventh Session | Baku, Azerbaijan, 17-18 April 2012 |
| 39. | Thirty-eighth Session | Bucharest, Romania, 1-2 April 2014 |

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SUMMARY OF MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

MATTERS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF THE 30TH ERC

Innovation in Family Farming

- Family farming has a role to play in both the formulation of new ideas and in the testing and implementation of these ideas. The extensive experience and 'memory' of methods and products built up over time by family farms can itself be a source of innovation. Family farming also has an important role to play in creating and maintaining employment in rural areas, especially for rural youth
- Encouraged FAO to continue collecting and analysing good practices, successful operational mechanisms such as Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)
- Recognised the need to assist countries in developing capacities required by AIS actors, including indigenous people in Europe and Central Asia, and need for a forum for countries

Combating land degradation for food security

- Confirmed the support to the Global Soil Partnership, the regional European Soil Partnership and the Sub-regional Eurasian Soil Partnership
- Encouraged the Global Soil Partnership and related (sub-) regional partnerships to adopt and implement a comprehensive multi-year programme of work to promote sustainable soil management with measurable targets in line with its five Pillars of Action
- Recognized the key achievements made by FAO to promote sustainable soil management, including the Status of World Soil Resources Report (produced by the Inter-Governmental Technical Panel on Soils) and inquired about how to keep up the momentum achieved during the International Year of Soils 2015
- Noted the importance for Member Countries to increase the area of land in agriculture and forestry under sustainable management, through the mobilization of adequate policy, legal, institutional, technical and financial support
- Noted that the Eurasian Soil Partnership has developed an Implementation Plan.

Gender Sensitive Analysis of Social Protection Programmes

- Noted the progress several countries have made in transforming their national social protection systems to meet new demands. Despite this progress, significant differences remain among countries, meaning that the overall picture is fragmented. However, more efforts should be made to promote gender equality and social protection as fundamental areas in developing national policies and programmes, with special attention to the needs of rural women, who are important agents of change.
- Requested further clarification on FAO's work related to labour migration
- Supported further evidence-based research, presentation of good practices and use of success stories,
- Underlining the importance of FAO focusing its activities within its mandate and core competencies, and seeking to collaborate with other agencies.

Addressing social and economic burden of malnutrition

- Acknowledged the central role of nutrition-sensitive food systems in eliminating malnutrition and the importance of inter-sectorial and inter-agency collaboration, both at country level and within the UN system.
- Recognized that malnutrition has to be addressed in a holistic way, taking into consideration the interactions and effects of measures relevant to various domains of food systems, as well

as the differences and the specificities at country and regional level.

- Recommended that FAO work and cooperation within the region should focus on:
 - The promotion of research and innovation in agriculture to meet the challenges of improving nutrition,
 - The integration of nutrition objectives, including the promotion of diversified and healthy diets, in all relevant strategies, such as food security, agriculture, rural development and public health;
 - The stimulation of effective cross-sectoral actions through a multi-stakeholder approach with the private sector and civil society by public-private partnerships for rapid translation of research into action and policy
 - The establishment of robust national and global monitoring and evaluation systems based on harmonized multi-sectoral indicators
- Reaffirmed the members' commitment to the ICN2 Rome Declaration on Nutrition. Moreover, the Commission underlined that actions taken should align with international frameworks, such as ICN2 and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
- FAO must work within its mandate and in close collaboration with other relevant international agencies such as WHO, UNICEF and the Standing Committee on Nutrition of the UN.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The 39th Session of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA) was held in Budapest, Hungary on 22-23 September 2015.
2. Representatives from 36 member countries and one member organization participated in the ECA session. Four Observers, and nine civil society organizations also participated.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

3. Ms Natalie Feistritzer, Chair of the European Commission on Agriculture opened the 39th Session of the ECA and welcomed the delegates of the ECA session. She thanked the Government of Hungary for hosting the ECA.
4. Ms Katalin Tóth, Deputy-State Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture Hungary, welcomed the delegates to the 39th Session of the ECA and noted that the topics to be discussed are very pertinent for the Region. She highlighted Hungarian Government initiatives related to the topics, and in particular those related to the family farming initiative.
5. On behalf of FAO, Mr Vladimir Rakhmanin, Assistant Director-General/Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia, welcomed the participants and expressed his gratitude to the Government of Hungary for its hospitality and for the excellent facilities provided for the Session. This was supported by all delegations. He mentioned the main delivery mechanisms and technical areas of work of the REU office and underlined the importance of the ECA as a technical body. He noted that the results of ECA discussions need to be properly addressed and presented to the regional conference.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

6. The Commission adopted its Agenda as given in Appendix A of this Report.

APPOINTMENT OF THE RAPPORTEUR

7. Mr Spyridon Ellinas (Cyprus) and Mr Michael Würzner (Switzerland) were appointed as rapporteurs of the ECA.

INNOVATION IN FAMILY FARMING

8. The Commission examined how innovation in family farming can contribute to long-term food-security, rural poverty reduction and environmental sustainability in the Region, but also country- and sub-region specific challenges related to fostering innovation in family farming including policy options and also provided information regarding their experience at national, regional and local level. The item was opened by a panel discussion with the participation of Ms Karin Nichterlein, Moderator, and Messrs. Botir Dosov, Michael Hauser and Ms Nevena Alexandrova, panellists.
9. The Commission:
 - a) Noted that farmers are co-creators of ideas, knowledge and innovation and that a system change towards pluralistic and demand driven AISs should take place in all agricultural sectors including forestry and fisheries. Family farming has a role to play in both the formulation of new ideas and

in the testing and implementation of these ideas. The extensive experience and 'memory' of methods and products built up over time by family farms can itself be a source of innovation. Family farming also has an important role to play in creating and maintaining employment in rural areas, especially for rural youth;

b) Encouraged FAO to continue collecting and analysing good practices, successful operational mechanisms such as Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), and assisting countries in revising their agricultural policies and institutional arrangements along the concept of Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS) including e-Agriculture strategy formulation and implementation.

c) Recognized the need to assist countries in developing capacities required by AIS actors, including indigenous people in Europe and Central Asia, and need for a forum for countries in the region provided by FAO acting as a neutral broker for knowledge sharing on transforming the AISs in the Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia Region (EECA) towards more efficient, inclusive, decentralized and pluralistic systems.

COMBATING LAND DEGRADATION FOR FOOD SECURITY AND PROVISION OF SOIL ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA - INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SOIL 2015

10. The Commission examined the main causes, status and trends of land degradation, and recognized its key challenges in terms of food security and soil ecosystem services in Europe and Central Asia.

11. The Commission:

a) Confirmed the support to the Global Soil Partnership, the regional European Soil Partnership and the Sub-regional Eurasian Soil Partnership, which are essential instruments for moving towards concrete action at regional, sub-regional, national and local levels.

b) Encouraged the Global Soil Partnership and related (sub-) regional partnerships to adopt and implement a comprehensive multi-year programme of work to promote sustainable soil management with measurable targets in line with its five Pillars of Action, and ensure transparency in the financial contribution (including in-kind) of its partners.

c) Recognized the key achievements made by FAO to promote sustainable soil management, including the Status of World Soil Resources Report (produced by the Inter-Governmental Technical Panel on Soils) and inquired about how to keep up the momentum achieved during the International Year of Soils 2015.

d) Noted the importance for Member Countries to increase the area of land in agriculture and forestry under sustainable management, through the mobilization of adequate policy, legal, institutional, technical and financial support.

e) Endorsed the recommendations under Paragraph 33 (except second bullet point) and Paragraph 34.

f) Noted that the Eurasian Soil Partnership has developed an Implementation Plan. However, the Secretariat was requested to prepare a paper outlining the legal and financial implications establishing an empowered advisory authority such as a Eurasian Soil Commission and bring it to the attention of the appropriate governing body for decision.

12. The Commission recommended that FAO strengthen its technical support to Member Countries for halting and reversing land degradation in all land uses, with a focus on restoring degraded soils, in line with the proposed target 15.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals through coordinated action with all relevant actors and stakeholders, including International Organizations, civil society, the private sector and the UNCCD.

GENDER-SENSITIVE ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMS FOR RURAL RESIDENTS

13. The Commission reviewed the results of the regional study on the current status of social protection in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Georgia, as well as the background document prepared based on the regional study on the current status of social protection in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Georgia. The Background paper addressed, in particular, maternity benefits and pension schemes which are critical for rural women's economic empowerment and wellbeing.

14. The Commission:

- a) Took note of the FAO regional study and welcomed the related background document based on this study, which provides an overview of the gender dimensions of two social protection components, namely, maternity benefits and pension schemes.
- b) Noted the progress several countries have made in transforming their national social protection systems to meet new demands. Despite this progress, significant differences remain among countries, meaning that the overall picture is fragmented. However, more efforts should be made to promote gender equality and social protection as fundamental areas in developing national policies and programmes, with special attention to the needs of rural women, who are important agents of change.
- c) Requested further clarification on FAO's work related to labour migration.
- d) Supported further evidence-based research, presentation of good practices and use of success stories, which will further facilitate FAO's efforts to provide the appropriate technical advice and support to the countries.
- e) Endorsed all recommendations outlined in the paper, underlining the importance of FAO focusing its activities within its mandate and core competencies, and seeking to collaborate with other agencies, whose core mandates include gender equality issues and social protection.

ADDRESSING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BURDEN OF MALNUTRITION THROUGH NUTRITION-SENSITIVE AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD POLICIES IN THE REGION OF EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

15. The Commission took note of the various types and prevalence of malnutrition across the ECA countries caused by socio-economic conditions, political commitment, and strategic and operational nutrition capacity in different countries.

16. The Commission:

- a) Noted that the background paper provides an overview of various aspects of malnutrition challenges in the ECA region and policy options to address them.
- b) Acknowledged the central role of nutrition-sensitive food systems in eliminating malnutrition and the importance of inter-sectorial and inter-agency collaboration, both at country level and within the UN system.
- c) Supported the recommendations in paragraph 49 highlighting four areas of action, namely, (i) Strengthen nutrition governance and accountability while fostering inter-sectoral coordination, collaboration, networking and partnerships; (ii) Promote diet diversity, quality and safety, and healthy nutritional habits considering local traditions, biodiversity for nutrition and environmental impact; (iii) Support small-scale and family farming for increased food diversity and resilience; (iv) Measure progress toward achieving nutrition goals and implementation of ICN2 commitments at local, national and regional levels.
- d) Recognized that malnutrition has to be addressed in a holistic way, taking into consideration the interactions and effects of measures relevant to various domains of food systems, as well as the differences and the specificities at country and regional level.
- e) Recommended that FAO work and cooperation within the region should focus on:

- The promotion of research and innovation in agriculture to meet the challenges of improving nutrition, addressing all forms of malnutrition, such as ‘hidden hunger’ and stunting and wasting through nutrition-sensitive and sustainable agriculture and resilient food systems;
- The integration of nutrition objectives, including the promotion of diversified and healthy diets, in all relevant strategies, such as food security, agriculture, rural development and public health;
- The stimulation of effective cross-sectoral actions through a multi-stakeholder approach with the private sector and civil society by public-private partnerships for rapid translation of research into action and policy, and delivery through enhanced capacities, with a particular focus on small-scale and family farmers;
- The establishment of robust national and global monitoring and evaluation systems based on harmonized multi-sectoral indicators, including those in the World Health Assembly Global Monitoring Framework of maternal, infant and young child nutrition, and ensuring adequate data-generation capacity.

f) Reaffirmed the members’ commitment to the ICN2 Rome Declaration on Nutrition. Moreover, the Commission underlined that actions taken should align with international frameworks, such as ICN2 and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

g) FAO must work within its mandate and in close collaboration with other relevant international agencies such as WHO, UNICEF and the Standing Committee on Nutrition of the UN.

COSTS PROPOSAL FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF FUTURE SESSIONS OF THE FAO EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE

17. The Commission considered the detailed cost analysis cost proposal of holding the future sessions of the ECA in Ankara, Budapest or Rome prepared by the secretariat, following the decision of the 38th Session of the ECA and the 29th European Regional Conference.

18. The Commission:

- a) Noted that from a cost perspective there is an advantage of holding future ECA sessions in Budapest, but other aspects need to be taken into account, such as efficiency, effectiveness, interactions among members and with technical staff as well as having the opportunity for any member country to host ECA sessions.
- b) Concluded to take a decision on the location for the next session under item 10.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

19. The Commission elected Ms Marietta Okenkova as Vice Chair of the Executive Committee for a period of four years.

20. Mr Siim Tideman, Mr Damien Kelly, Mr Miroslaw Drygas and Mr Hilmi Erin Dedeoglu were re-elected for a second term of two years, while the new members elected are:

- Mr Oleg Kobiakov elected for the 1st term
- Mr Spyridon Ellinas elected for the 1st term

21. The Chair thanked Mr Vasily Lawrovskiy, the outgoing member of the Executive Committee, for his intensive collaboration in the Executive Committee over the past years.

22. The Commission thanked the outgoing Vice Chair, Ms Alina Popescu, for her dedication and efforts throughout the past years.

OTHER BUSINESS

23. No other business was discussed.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE FORTIETH SESSION

24. The Commission agreed to hold the 40th ECA session in Budapest in 2017, with the date to be determined by the Executive Committee in collaboration with REU. The Commission decided to reconsider the location issue of future ECA sessions at its 40th session together with the assessment to be prepared by the secretariat on the effectiveness of separating ECA from ERC sessions.

REVIEW AND ENDORSEMENT OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

25. The report was endorsed en bloc with some editorial changes by the Commission.

Appendix A

AGENDA

1. **Opening of the Session**

2. **Adoption of the agenda and timetable**
3. **Appointment of the Rapporteur**
4. **Innovation in family farming**

Innovation in family farming¹ highlights that family farms should not be considered an obstacle, but rather as part of the solution for ensuring long-term global food security, rural poverty reduction and environmental sustainability. Therefore, promoting innovation in family farming is globally becoming a priority as well as in Members in Europe and Central Asia. In the last twenty years, the agricultural sector in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia has been marked by an overall shift from collective to individual land tenure, generally accompanied by privatization of legal land ownership. This has: (i) created a massive number of family farms with unequal access to knowledge, markets, conditions and opportunities for innovation, and (ii) left governments with challenges regarding policies and institutional capacities to adequately address innovation demands.

Therefore, a study has been launched for the Region, which contains country- and subregion specific challenges related to fostering innovation in family farming including policy options. Strong focus has to be placed on the demand for a transition from linear, top-down, non-inclusive national research systems, serving centralized economies in the past, towards inclusive, decentralized and pluralistic agricultural innovation systems² that facilitate and coordinate the activities of all stakeholders involved in agricultural innovation. Family farms across the region show extreme diversity in size, market and knowledge access and other characteristics, some of them region-specific, which implies diversity in the policy options for agricultural innovation systems.

The study concluded will provide inter alia conclusions related to the role of family farms for achieving food security as well as the challenges faced by agriculture and institutions that support agriculture innovation, which will be presented to the Members.

It is expected that the Members are reviewing the recommendations from the analysis but also provide information regarding their experience at national, regional and local level. The discussion on this topic should result in policy recommendation fostering innovation in agriculture and also giving clear guidance to FAO regarding its focus of work in the next biennium.

A decision box containing the recommendations from the discussion will be prepared for adoption at the ERC 30th Session.

5. Combating land degradation for food security and provision of soil ecosystem services in Europe and Central Asia – International Year of Soil 2015

Linked to the International Year of Soils 2015, land degradation is a key challenge to food security and soil ecosystem services in the Region and specifically in the Caucasus and Central Asia. Driven by biophysical and socio-economic factors, aggravated by effects of climate change and unsustainable use of land and water resources, it is one of the greatest threats by a majority of European and Central

¹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (2014): State and Food of Agriculture 2014 – Innovation in family farming.

² The term 'agricultural innovation system' refers to the individuals, organizations and enterprises that bring new products, processes and forms of organization into use to achieve food security, economic development and sustainable natural resource management. Like any 'system', it encompasses the different stakeholders or actors as well as the linkages between them. It also includes the so-called 'enabling environment' which, as the name suggests, includes the factors making it all possible, such as political commitment and vision; policy, legal and economic frameworks; budget allocations and processes; governance and power structures; incentives and social norms (FAO, 2012).

Asian countries. Soils, a core component of land resources, are under increasing pressure, and the number of areas reaching the limits of their productive capacity is fast increasing.

To address the challenge, under the Global Soil Partnership, the European Soil Partnership³ and the associated sub-regional Eurasian Soil Partnership⁴ were launched in 2013. Country partners have started drafting the implementation plan for the (sub-) regional partnerships to move into concrete field action at regional, national and local levels.

FAO and other international partners have been promoting a global framework for assessing land degradation on different scales that can provide a baseline, assist in targeting investment and planning interventions for efficient, equitable and sustainable agricultural development. Though the development of this baseline is a long-term task, it is important to progress in order to achieve the proposed target of a “30 percent increase in the area of land under crops, grazing land and forestry under sustainable land management” of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The background paper presented by the Secretariat will highlight the status, trends, challenges and costs related to land/soil degradation in the region of Europe and Central Asia. It will also specify the potential contribution of healthy soils for food security and nutrition, climate change adaptation/mitigation and ecosystem services in the region for guiding policy reforms and investment decisions related to sustainable soil management.

Members will be requested to support the execution of the implementation plans of the (sub) regional soil partnerships and endorse priority actions (e.g. upscaling of integrated natural resources management in drought-prone and salt-affected agricultural production landscapes in Central Asia and Turkey) in order to successfully arrest and reverse current trends in soil degradation at regional, national and local levels and tackle interlinked challenges of desertification, land degradation and drought in line with the 10 year UNCCD strategy (2008-2018).

As decision box containing the recommendations from the discussion will be prepared for the adoption by 30th ERC.

6. Gender-sensitive analysis of social protection programs for rural residents

The positive impact of social protection on rural development is widely recognized, making it a crucial element of pro-poor policies including the post-2015 agenda. From this perspective, FAO is committed to supporting governments and partners in addressing the main challenges of agricultural development and rural poverty reduction by incorporating social protection into regional and national strategies and actions. To build knowledge and understanding of the benefits of social protection programmes for women and men living in rural areas, which are particularly relevant in view of social protection reforms ongoing in the region, a comparative analysis of existing social protection programmes in the CIS Countries and Georgia has been prepared.

The situation of the social protection programmes in the CIS countries and Georgia is different in comparison to other parts of the world as in the process of transition to a market economy, the countries have had to abandon the universal system in order to move to a more targeted approach that would reach the neediest. Drawing on the information from the study and the social protection programmes in other countries of the Region, the background paper for the topic is prepared synthesizing information from the Region and presenting policy recommendations and lessons learned

³ The European Soil Partnership was established in Berlin on October 31 2013. The Secretariat is based in Ispra, Italy, at the Joint research Centre of the European Commission - <http://www.fao.org/globalsoilpartnership/regional-partnerships/europe/en/>

⁴ The Eurasian Soil Partnership was established in Moscow in 18-20 November 2013. The Secretariat is based in Moscow, Russian Federation, at the Eurasian Center for Food Security - <http://www.fao.org/globalsoilpartnership/regional-partnerships/europe/en/> and <http://ecfs.msu.ru/ru/epp/epp.php>

regarding the use and implementation of social protection programmes in the Region for the Members as well as further work proposals for FAO in the coming biennium.

The Members may want to review the results of the study and the synthesis in the background paper and share their experiences regarding social protection programmes on rural development in their country and provide suggestions to improve the existing programmes and give recommendations for the future work of the organization.

As decision box containing the recommendations from the discussion will be prepared for the adoption by 30th ERC.

7. Addressing social and economic burden of malnutrition through nutrition-sensitive agricultural and food policies in the region of Europe and Central Asia

Despite a significant growth in food production over recent decades, stunting among children under five years and undernutrition is still present in some countries of the region. Moreover, due to economic and nutritional transition, the prevalence of overweight and obesity are on raise in all countries, a phenomenon associated with unbalanced and monotonous diets, micronutrient deficiencies and sedentary lifestyle. The consequences of malnutrition are multiple and diverse, including non-communicable diseases (NCDs) - main cause of disabilities and mortality worldwide with high social and economic costs. The cumulative cost of all NCDs, for which overweight and obesity are leading factors, were estimated at about US\$1,4 trillion in 2010 (SOFA, 2013). The social cost of malnutrition, measured by the “disability-adjusted life years” is high worldwide. Beyond the social cost, malnutrition causes high costs to national economies due to lost productivity and employment, high health care costs, missed educational targets and income opportunities. Without action, these problems may expand and become greater. The challenge for policy-makers is how to address undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies, while at the same time avoiding or reversing the scaling up of overweight and obesity in the region.

The objective of the discussion on this topic is to update on social and economic burden of malnutrition and diet-related non-communicable diseases in the region of Europe and Central Asia and to recommend a set of policies, strategies and priority actions to reduce social costs and inequalities in nutrition applicable to various clusters of countries in the region in line with the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) Framework for Action. Policy options for bringing major shifts in the ways the malnutrition is addressed by placing the accent on prevention, promoting the advantages of agri-food systems, nutrition-enhancing and food-based approaches in combating micronutrient malnutrition will be highlighted. Policy options would range from those related to food systems aiming at to achieve better quantity, quality, diversity and sustainable availability of nutrient-rich foods, to consumer centered policies that would facilitate food choices for healthy diets, and to market oriented policies that would make the access to quality and safe food, and nutritionally balanced diets for all income groups of population, including the most vulnerable. The role of various sectors, partnerships and actors in implementing the ICN2 Framework for Action - public and private sectors, civil society, smallholders and family farms will be detailed along with exploring possible mechanisms for more effective inter-sectoral coordination and ways of improving policy coherence across major sectors with an impact on nutrition. The paper will include reflection on strategies for strengthening the linkages between agriculture, food and nutrition, recognizing the importance of matching supply and demand side policies and programmes while taking into account the potential for transformation of raw materials through the food supply chain, perspectives of value chains development and shortening food chains, capitalizing biodiversity for nutrition and other policies to support transition to sustainable food production and consumption within emerging global and regional challenges and trends.

It is expected that the Members review the outcomes of the background document and policy recommendations and also recommendations for future actions of FAO and of the Members.

Recommendations issued from the discussion held during the ECA will be presented in a decision box for the ERC.

8. Costs Proposal for the Organization of Future Sessions of the FAO European Commission on Agriculture

Following the decision of the 38th Session of the ECA and the 29th European Regional Conference the Secretariat was requested to prepare a detailed cost proposal of holding the future sessions of the ECA in Ankara, Budapest or Rome. The secretariat will present the detailed cost analysis to the Members of the ECA. The document will provide an overview regarding the costs, which have been analysed and also give detailed information on the costs, which are comparable in all three locations.

The Members are requested to review the costs proposal for the organization of the future session sessions of the ECA and make a recommendation regarding the future holding of the session of the ECA.

9. Election of Members of the Executive Committee

10. Other business

11. Date and place of the Fortieth Session

Review and endorsement of the Report of the Commission

Closing of the Session

Appendix B**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

ECA 39/15/1Rev 1	Provisional Annotated Agenda
ECA 39/15/2	Innovation in family farming
ECA 39/15/3	Combating land degradation for food security and provision of soil ecosystem services in Europe and Central Asia – International Year of Soil 2015
ECA 39/15/4	Gender-sensitive analysis of social protection programs for rural residents
ECA 39/15/5	Addressing social and economic burden of malnutrition through nutrition-sensitive agricultural and food policies in the region of Europe and Central Asia
ECA 39/15/6	Costs Proposal for the Organization of Future Sessions of the FAO European Commission on Agriculture
INF SERIES	
ECA 39/15/INF/1Rev 1	Provisional Timetable
ECA 39/15/INF/2	Provisional List of Documents
ECA 39/15/INF/3	Statement of Competence and Voting Rights by the European Union (EU) and its Member States