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# COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

## Twenty-ninth Session

Rome, 30 September - 4 October 2024

### Implementation of the recommendations of the 28th Session of the Committee

#### Executive Summary

The Committee on Agriculture (COAG) is the main technical Governing Body of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) providing overall policy and regulatory guidance on issues related to agriculture, livestock, food safety, nutrition, rural development and natural resources management. COAG plays a key role in guiding FAO and provides strategic advice on the challenges faced by FAO in assisting its Members to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 28th Session of COAG reviewed several matters requiring the attention of the FAO Conference and Council and its Members. This report provides an update on the implementation of the recommendations of the 28th Session of COAG.

#### Suggested action by the Committee:

The Committee is invited to take note of the report and to provide any guidance it may find necessary for future reporting.

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

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## I. Introduction

1. The Committee on Agriculture (COAG) plays an important role in guiding the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The 28th Session of COAG (COAG 28) held in July 2022, reviewed and made a set of recommendations detailed below on programmatic, policy and regulatory matters within its competence. Topics discussed included:

- (i) Report of the First Session of the Sub-Committee on Livestock;
- (ii) FAO Strategic Priorities for Food Safety within the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31;
- (iii) One Health and related policy and technical guidance;
- (iv) Progress report on the FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) 2021-2025;
- (v) The future of food and agriculture – Drivers and triggers for transformation;
- (vi) Promoting more coherent and integrated Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS) by strengthening national agricultural research and extension systems;
- (vii) The catalyser role of the UN Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028 (UNDIFF) and progress towards its implementation;
- (viii) Agriculture and forestry linkages;
- (ix) Progress report on the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors and its 2021-23 Action Plan;
- (x) State of the World's Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture (SOLAW21);
- (xi) Governance of tenure of water resources for food and agriculture;
- (xii) Guidance on use of agricultural plastics;
- (xiii) Progress towards the implementation of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030;
- (xiv) Report of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP);
- (xv) Action Plan for the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031;
- (xvi) Development of regional action plans for the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy (2022-2025);
- (xvii) FAO's Programme of Work in the Agrifood Sectors under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31;
- (xviii) Implementation of the recommendations of the 27th Session of the Committee;
- (xix) Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Committee (MYPOW); and
- (xx) Proposal for an International Day of Potato.

2. This report provides a summary of the main achievements of FAO as a result of the implementation of COAG 28 recommendations. For each item, the main action-oriented COAG 28 recommendations are inserted for ease of reference, indicating the relevant item and paragraph numbers corresponding to the Report of the 28th Session of the Committee on Agriculture.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> COAG/2022/REP <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/e9afa285-7dd8-44e7-a606-e16a6ad9181e/content>

## II. Status of implementation of recommendations of the 28th Session of COAG

### Report of the First Session of the Sub-Committee on Livestock (C 2023/22, from para 10 to 11) [COAG 28 Item 2.1]

**Recommendation 1:** *The Committee commended the work of the Sub-Committee on Livestock and its successful inaugural session and endorsed the Report of the First Session of the Sub-Committee on Livestock and the recommendations therein.*

**Recommendation 2:** *The Committee approved the revised draft Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2022-25 of the Sub-Committee on Livestock.*

3. The COAG Sub-Committee on Livestock (the Sub-Committee) held its Second Session from 16 to 18 July 2024. The agenda was framed by the three major areas of work of the Sub-Committee's Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW).<sup>2</sup>

4. During the intersessional period 2022-2024, the Sub-Committee Bureau convened nine meetings and engaged in discussions with representatives of strategic partners.<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, to strengthen collaboration and develop joint actions, in line with the Sub-Committee's MYPOW (2022-25), the Secretariat and the Chairperson participated in several meetings of regional Governing and Statutory Bodies and organizations.<sup>4</sup>

5. The Secretariat regularly monitors the implementation of the MYPOW and the progress made in addressing the recommendations of the First Session of the COAG Sub-Committee on Livestock (March 2022).<sup>5</sup> Accordingly, after the Component Document 1 of the "Global assessment of the contribution of livestock to food security, sustainable agrifood systems, nutrition and healthy diets",<sup>6</sup> published in April 2023, the draft Component Documents 2<sup>7</sup> and 3<sup>8</sup> were prepared by FAO, of which updates and key findings were submitted to the Second Session of the Sub-Committee.<sup>9</sup> Further details are provided in the MYPOW for the period 2024-27 (COAG:LI/2024/11)<sup>10</sup> and the *Report of the Second Session of the COAG Sub-Committee on Livestock* (COAG/2024/5).<sup>11</sup>

### FAO Strategic Priorities for Food Safety within the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 (C 2023/22, para 12) [COAG 28 Item 2.2]

**Recommendation 3:** *The Committee recommended that FAO refer to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security instead of referring to Right to Food in the document on FAO's strategic food safety priorities.*

**Recommendation 4:** *The Committee endorsed the proposed Strategic Priorities for Food Safety within the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 considering comments made during the Session and recommended that it be submitted for consideration by the 171st Session of the FAO Council through the Programme Committee.*

**Recommendation 5:** *The Committee expressed its interest in the development of the Joint FAO/World Health Organization (WHO) Implementation Plan and stressed the importance of the development of*

<sup>2</sup> COAG/2022/21, para 11 <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/nj142en>

<sup>3</sup> COAG:LI/2024/11, para 7(ii-iii.) <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/np455en>

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid* para 7(iv.) <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/np455en>

<sup>5</sup> COAG/2022/5 <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/ni966en>

<sup>6</sup> FAO. 2023. *Contribution of terrestrial animal source food to healthy diets for improved nutrition and health outcomes – An evidence and policy overview on the state of knowledge and gaps*. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc3912en>

<sup>7</sup> FAO. 2023. *Drivers of supply and demand of terrestrial animal source food. An evidence and policy overview on the state of knowledge and gaps (draft)*. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd1131en>

<sup>8</sup> FAO. 2023. *Contribution of the livestock sector to food security and sustainable agrifood systems – benefits, constraints, synergies and trade-offs (draft)*. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd1129en>

<sup>9</sup> COAG:LI/2024/2 <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/np489en>

<sup>10</sup> COAG:LI/2024/11 <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/np455en>

<sup>11</sup> COAG/2024/5 <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/e4d41b98-376e-4a33-98b9-3d18c8a6731b/content>

clear targets and indicators associated with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), that are inclusive of the activities within other UN Agencies and suitable for the assessment of progress made.

**Recommendation 6:** The Committee *invited* FAO to continue providing demand-driven policy and technical support to Members, in line with the United Nations Development System (UNDS) reform process, in their efforts to improve food safety in formal and informal settings, and to ensure the availability of resources for such support to be delivered.

**Recommendation 7:** The Committee *encouraged* Members to continuously improve their national food control systems, data collection and analysis, and actively participate in international food safety governance.

6. The 171st Session of the Council endorsed the FAO Strategic Priorities for Food Safety within the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31.<sup>12</sup> The 43rd Session of the Conference endorsed the Report of the 28th Session of COAG.

7. The document *Coordination framework for the FAO Strategic Priorities for Food Safety (2022 - 2031) and WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety (2022 - 2030)* is currently being developed and is expected to be published in the first or second quarter of 2025. Further updates on progress made are provided in the Programme Implementation Report (PIR) 2022-23 under PPA BN3 'Safe food for everyone'. Relevant FAO and WHO activities are jointly reported to Codex Alimentarius, including on the *FAO/WHO scientific support to Codex: report on activities, budgetary and financial matters*,<sup>13</sup> matters arising from FAO and WHO<sup>14</sup> and on FAO and WHO capacity development activities.<sup>15</sup>

### **One Health and related policy and technical guidance (C 2023/22, para 13) [COAG 28 Item 2.3]**

**Recommendation 8:** The Committee *highlighted* the role of One Health in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and implementing the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, and noted with appreciation the focus of the One Health Priority Programme in applying a holistic, coordinated, science and evidence-based One Health approach for sustainable agrifood systems, and the progressive management pathway for biosecurity as a framework to reduce the risks of animal and plant diseases, emerging zoonoses, and antimicrobial resistance.

8. Updates on the implementation of the One Health related recommendations are further provided in document COAG/2024/10 *Scaling up One Health through an integrated approach for food chain crisis management, agrifood systems and ecosystem health*. Selected highlights are detailed below.

9. FAO has mainstreamed holistic and science-based biosecurity management pathways from producer to national level to support agrifood systems transformation, with the Progressive Management Pathway for Terrestrial Animal Biosecurity (PMP-TAB)<sup>16</sup> and the PMP-Aquaculture biosecurity being implemented in several countries.

10. FAO supported Members in managing emerging high impact animal diseases collaborating with its partner World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), within Global Framework for the

<sup>12</sup> CL 171 REP, para. 29 <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/e3f4f9be-283c-443d-a28b-3c0e139618d4/content>

<sup>13</sup> CAC/46 INF/2 [https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/sh-proxy/en/?lnk=1&url=https%253A%252F%252Fworkspace.fao.org%252Fsites%252Fcodex%252FMeetings%252FCX-701-46%252FWorking%2BDocuments%252FINF%252Fcac46\\_INF2e.pdf](https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/sh-proxy/en/?lnk=1&url=https%253A%252F%252Fworkspace.fao.org%252Fsites%252Fcodex%252FMeetings%252FCX-701-46%252FWorking%2BDocuments%252FINF%252Fcac46_INF2e.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> CX/CAC 23/46/24 [https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/sh-proxy/en/?lnk=1&url=https%253A%252F%252Fworkspace.fao.org%252Fsites%252Fcodex%252FMeetings%252FCX-701-46%252FWorking%2BDocuments%252Fcac46\\_24e.pdf](https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/sh-proxy/en/?lnk=1&url=https%253A%252F%252Fworkspace.fao.org%252Fsites%252Fcodex%252FMeetings%252FCX-701-46%252FWorking%2BDocuments%252Fcac46_24e.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> CAC/46 INF/1 [fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/sh-proxy/en/?lnk=1&url=https%253A%252F%252Fworkspace.fao.org%252Fsites%252Fcodex%252FMeetings%252FCX-701-46%252FWorking%2BDocuments%252FINF%252Fcac46\\_INF1e.pdf](https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/sh-proxy/en/?lnk=1&url=https%253A%252F%252Fworkspace.fao.org%252Fsites%252Fcodex%252FMeetings%252FCX-701-46%252FWorking%2BDocuments%252FINF%252Fcac46_INF1e.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> FAO. 2023. *Progressive Management Pathway for Terrestrial Animal Biosecurity (FAO-PMP-TAB)*. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/3/cc5771en/cc5771en.pdf>

Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF – TADs)<sup>17</sup> and the Quadripartite.<sup>18</sup> The global spread of high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) and spillover into several mammalian species, led to FAO convening global experts to discuss the latest scientific evidence, and provide policy recommendations. Additional details can be found in the One Health related documents presented to the Second Session of the COAG Subcommittee on Livestock.<sup>19,20</sup> The joint *FAO-WOAH Global strategy for the prevention and control of high pathogenic avian influenza (2033-2024)* was launched in May 2024, to prevent HPAI epizootics and protect livelihoods, public health, and biodiversity through transforming poultry systems. The joint assessment of pandemic risk for avian influenza has been undertaken in collaboration with WHO<sup>21,22</sup> and the WOA/FAO Network of Expertise on Animal Influenza (OFFLU) has provided technical guidance to Members. The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the FAO Co-Convened Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds have released a joint statement on “H5N1 High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza in wild birds - Unprecedented conservation impacts and urgent needs”<sup>23</sup> and delivered webinars to develop the capacity of Members to protect wildlife.<sup>24</sup>

11. FAO, within the Quadripartite (FAO, the United Nations Environment Programme [UNEP], WHO, WOA), led the development of the *United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework guidance note on One Health*, published in December 2023, for the UN Country Teams and governments, to integrate the One Health approach into national development plans and strengthen health systems.

12. FAO continues to play a leading role in minimizing and controlling the impacts of AMR in agrifood systems through a One Health approach. The implementation of the FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance 2021-2025 has substantially progressed during the period 2022-23. For more details see paragraphs 24-44 in this report and document COAG/2024/INF/7.<sup>25</sup>

**Recommendation 9:** *The Committee recommended FAO to strengthen cooperation between the Quadripartite and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) to consider plant health.*

13. The IPPC Secretariat implemented the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluations (PCE),<sup>26</sup> and the Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems (POARS) to develop national capacities on plant health to prevent the introduction and spread of plant pests, which can have cascading effects on human and animal health. The PCE was included in the inventory of One Health tools, developed by the Quadripartite One Health High-Level Expert Panel.

14. In 2023, eleven PCEs were completed, namely nine in Africa and two in Asia. They were linked to the food control system assessment contributing to One Health. In April 2024, the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) of IPPC presented a paper to the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures-18 to consider

<sup>17</sup> FAO, OIE. 2022. *GF-TADs Strategy for 2021–2025*. Rome. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cb8962en>

<sup>18</sup> One Health. n.d. *Quadripartite - who we are*. In: FAO, Rome. [Cited 11 July 2024]. <https://www.fao.org/one-health/background/coordination/en>

<sup>19</sup> COAG:LI/2024/6 <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/np161en>; COAG:LI/2024/INF/5 <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/np208en>

<sup>20</sup> COAG/2024/10 <https://www.fao.org/governing-bodies/technical-committees/committee-on-agriculture/coag-2024/en>

<sup>21</sup> FAO, WHO, WOA. 2024. *Joint FAO/WHO/WOAH preliminary assessment of recent influenza A(H5N1) viruses*. Rome. [https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/joint-fao-who-woah-preliminary-assessment-of-recent-influenza-a\(h5n1\)-viruses](https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/joint-fao-who-woah-preliminary-assessment-of-recent-influenza-a(h5n1)-viruses)

<sup>22</sup> FAO, WHO, WOA. 2024. *Preliminary FAO/WHO/WOAH Joint Rapid Risk Assessment Human infection with influenza A(H5N1), Cambodia (2023)*. Rome. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/bfa86dae-142f-4184-b6c4-ae320cf4a46/content>

<sup>23</sup> FAO & CMS. 2023. *Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds statement*. Germany, CMS Secretariat. <https://www.fao.org/3/cc6936en/cc6936en.pdf>

<sup>24</sup> FAO. n.d. *How to protect wildlife from avian flu in UNESCO World Heritage sites, Biosphere Reserves and Ramsar sites*. [Cited 13 June 2024]. <https://www.fao.org/animal-health/news-events/events/detail/how-to-protect-wildlife-from-avian-flu-in-unesco-world-heritage-sites--biosphere-reserves-and-ramsar-sites/en>

<sup>25</sup> COAG/2024/INF/9 <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/fd07b0c0-6847-4a1a-b56e-26a514933ee6/content>

<sup>26</sup> FAO. *Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE)*. In: FAO [Cited 8 May 2024].

<https://www.ippc.int/en/about/core-activities/capacity-development/phytosanitary-capacity-evaluation/>

engagement in the ongoing One Health dialogue and programme planning. A paper outlining the benefits and importance of developing a coordinated One Health early-warning framework that would enable the identification of emerging pathogens of broader concern and the potential application of artificial intelligence will be presented at the 8th World One Health Congress in 2024, that will be held in South Africa from 20 to 23 September 2024. The IPPC Secretariat participates in the FAO One Health Technical Working Group (OH-TWG) and its involvement in the Quadripartite would provide further contributions to the One Health plant health domain.

**Recommendation 10:** *The Committee recommended FAO to enhance data integration and sharing across sectors, while fully ensuring its protection and the integrity of sensitive information, to strengthen global One Health knowledge and scientific information systems, and early warning for resilience to emerging cross-sectoral threats.*

15. FAO has initiated a multi-hazard risk communication dashboard for country use to integrate early warning signals from multiple agrifood sectors to bring together the early warning work of the individual Emergency Prevention System (EMPRES) components and provide holistic early warning of emerging and ongoing threats including animal diseases (terrestrial and aquatic), plant pests and diseases, aquaculture, forests, AMR, foodborne diseases and threats to the health of the environment (including radiological emergencies).

16. Data integration and sharing across sectors at global level have also been addressed in the architecture for a One Health Intelligence System (OHIS), led by FAO in collaboration with the Quadripartite. The Joint FAO–OIE–WHO Global Early Warning System for health threats and emerging risks at the human–animal–ecosystems interface (GLEWS+) is being modernized to become a new, improved platform for multisectoral information sharing. FAO is providing technical support to the African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) within the One Health Data Alliance Africa to adopt the architecture proposed.

**Recommendation 11:** *The Committee recommended FAO to support Members, as appropriate, upon their request, to develop or enhance national One Health early warning frameworks to support national, regional and international needs for rapid risk assessments of animal and zoonotic disease threats.*

17. FAO is developing a Strategic Framework for Early Warning of Animal Health Threats, to be complemented with guidelines and tools for countries to draw roadmaps to strengthen national early warning systems using a One Health approach and is supporting initiatives for syndromic and community-based surveillance, and integration of their tools with the EMPRES-I platform.

**Recommendation 12:** *The Committee recommended FAO to collaborate with WOA, UNEP and WHO to finalize the One Health Joint Plan of Action, consult with Members on its Implementation Plan and provide regular updates on progress, with consideration of the principle of multilingualism.*

18. FAO led the development, in collaboration within the Quadripartite, of the One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA),<sup>27</sup> to accelerate implementation, adaptation, and adoption of the One Health approach at global, regional and national levels. The Addendum A guide to implementing the One Health Joint Plan of Action at national level<sup>28</sup> was published in December 2023.

19. FAO supported two Quadripartite regional stakeholder workshops on One Health implementation: for the Near East and North Africa Region, held in Oman in May 2023, and for Asia and the Pacific Region, held in Bangkok in September 2023. FAO promotes the mainstreaming of One Health in high-level events, including engagements, such as at the UN General Assembly (UNGA), and the new ‘Pandemic Instrument’, and through partnerships with the World Bank, the Pandemic Fund, the G7, the G20, and the G77.

<sup>27</sup> FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOA. 2022. One Health Joint Plan of Action (2022–2026). *Working together for the health of humans, animals, plants and the environment*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc2289en>

<sup>28</sup> FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOA. 2023. *A guide to implementing the One Health Joint Plan of Action at national level*. Geneva. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/36cef66c-4d4e-4489-8c4e-e94593aa039d/content>

20. In 2023, as a follow-up to the Pandemic Fund first call of proposals, FAO supported Members to formulate projects in collaboration with other implementing entities, mainly WHO, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Bank, at country and regional levels. As a result, two project proposals were approved mobilizing USD 60 million. These projects will contribute to the implementation of Action Tracks 2, 3 and 4 of the OH JPA.

**Recommendation 13:** *The Committee encouraged FAO to enhance One Health knowledge and evidence exchange and dissemination, from communities to policy makers, to scale up One Health actions for agrifood systems transformation in a coherent manner, as appropriate and in accordance with and dependent on national contexts and capacities.*

21. The seven regional hubs of the FAO Virtual Learning Centres (VLCs) offered knowledge on One Health and biosecurity in different languages tailored to different agriculture professionals, including 75 courses reaching about 19 000 people (49 percent of whom were women). A successful “Female leadership in One Health” course, also covering gender bias and gender violence, has been delivered to more than 500 participants from the human and animal health sectors.

22. Led by FAO and in close collaboration within the Quadripartite, the One Health Knowledge Nexus was launched in November 2023, hosting the One Health themed Communities of Practice (CoPs) based on experience-based community learning principles. Three CoPs engaged over 1000 members on: (i) Acaricide Resistance Management on Livestock Ticks; (ii) Animal Biosecurity; and (iii) the Return on Investment for One Health. Two CoPs on Laboratory AMR practices and AMR risk-reduction in the agrifood sector are to be launched shortly.

#### **Progress report on the FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) 2021-2025 (C 2023/22, para 14) [COAG 28 Item 2.4]**

**Recommendation 14:** *The Committee requested FAO to continue the implementation of the Action Plan through a One Health approach in close collaboration within the Quadripartite.*

23. Updates are reported in the document ‘Progress made in the implementation of the FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) 2021-2025’ (COAG/2024/INF/7).<sup>29</sup> Key progress made in the implementation of the FAO Action Plan and highlights of selected activities and achievements are provided for the below objectives:

24. Under objective no. 1, focused on increasing awareness and stakeholders’ engagement, FAO continues to support World AMR Awareness Week annually in November. Several videos have been produced featuring good antimicrobial use (AMU) practices in countries, in collaboration with ReAct, a global network dedicated to the problem of antibiotic resistance, namely innovative interventions integrating behavioural science applied in four countries in Africa through 25 farmer field schools, training 750 farmers in effectively reducing antimicrobial use in poultry production. In November 2023, FAO organized an interactive exhibition on One Health and AMR at FAO headquarters during the first Plenary Assembly of the AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform.

25. Under objective no. 2, FAO has expanded the scope of its activities to provide countries with mechanisms to catalyze the set-up of AMR surveillance networks and to report and use their AMR data in alignment with international standards. FAO has completed the development of the International FAO Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (InFARM) in 2024, and the first annual open call for data has been launched. FAO continued the implementation of the *Assessment Tool for Laboratories and AMR Surveillance Systems* (ATLASS), reaching deployment in more than 55 countries. Additionally, FAO is working closely with other Quadripartite partners to finalize the development of the Global Integrated System for Surveillance of AMR/AMU (GISSA), to be launched at the end of 2024. FAO is supporting the Quadripartite Technical Group on AMR/AMU Integrated surveillance (QTG-AIS), the implementation of the Codex Alimentarius Guidelines on Integrated Monitoring and Surveillance of

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<sup>29</sup> COAG/2024/INF/7 <https://www.fao.org/governing-bodies/technical-committees/committee-on-agriculture/coag-2024/en>

foodborne AMR, and the development of the Quadripartite One Health Priority Research Agenda on AMR.

26. For objective no. 5, on strengthening governance and allocating resources sustainably, following the launch of the AMR-LEX, a subset of FAO-LEX, FAO led the efforts to launch the Quadripartite One Health Legislative Assessment Tool for AMR, designed to help countries identify legal areas related to AMR. FAO's Progressive Management Pathway for AMR tool (FAO-PMP-AMR) assisted 40 countries in integrating food and agriculture elements into their AMR national action plans. As part of this pillar, FAO continued working together with other Quadripartite Agencies including supporting advocacy efforts of the Global Leaders Group, and a side event on the transformation of agrifood systems and AMR was organized in July 2023, on the sides of the UN Food Systems Summit + 2 Stocktaking Moments.

27. The Organization launched a ten-year FAO initiative to reduce the need for antimicrobials on farms for sustainable agrifood systems transformation (RENOFARM) with the aim to target 100 countries.

28. FAO established linkages with the Group of Friends on AMR in Rome and aims to strengthen collaboration to address AMR within the agrifood sectors.

**Recommendation 15:** *The Committee recommended FAO to support Members in their implementation of AMR actions based on the revised Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance, which was adopted at the Codex Alimentarius Commission in November 2021.*

29. FAO continues implementing the project “Action to support implementation of Codex AMR Texts (ACT)” focused on the implementation of Codex Guidelines for Risk Analysis of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance, Codex Guidelines on Integrated Monitoring and Surveillance of foodborne AMR (GLIS) and the Codex Code of Practice to minimize and contain foodborne AMR (CoP). An expert meeting took place in July 2023 to develop scientific advice on “Alternative Feed Practices to Promote Responsible Use of Antimicrobials”. FAO continues to mainstream recommendations in the codex standards on AMR into all products, including for data management, manuals, guidelines, and trainings.

**Recommendation 16:** *The Committee encouraged FAO to conclude the development of the FAO Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring (InFARM) data platform to support strengthened generation and usage of AMR data in food and agriculture sectors, and to keep Members informed of progress, including with regard to pilot testing activities, and encouraged capacity building on antimicrobial use (AMU) in plant protection.*

30. In 2024, FAO has completed the development of the InFARM system to assist countries in collecting, collating, analysing, visualizing, and effectively utilizing their AMR monitoring and surveillance data, primarily from livestock, fisheries, aquaculture, and the associated food products. Further information is available on the InFARM website,<sup>30</sup> InFARM Implementation Factsheet 2024,<sup>31</sup> and InFARM Manual for Implementation 2024.<sup>32</sup>

31. In May 2024, FAO issued the first global call for AMR data. The InFARM System will be accepting AMR data in animals and food generated from 2015 until 31 October 2024. FAO is contacting key personnel among national authorities responsible for AMR surveillance in livestock, fisheries and aquaculture, with a view to identify national focal points to enroll in InFARM and will evaluate the data submissions and study the feasibility of producing a first global report with baseline AMR data in 2025. Open calls are foreseen to be repeated in annual cycles, similar to the annual open calls for the WHO's

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<sup>30</sup> FAO. n.d. *Antimicrobial Resistance*. In: FAO. Rome. [Cited 12 June 2024]. <https://www.fao.org/antimicrobial-resistance/resources/infarm-system/en/>

<sup>31</sup> FAO. 2024. *The International FAO Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring (InFARM) system*. Rome. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/834106c1-9891-4cde-93c7-370016bb5760>

<sup>32</sup> FAO. 2024. *The International FAO Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring (InFARM) system – Manual for implementation 2024*. Rome. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/ea38939f-5fc0-4052-87f8-d9187b38addf>



Global AMR/U Surveillance System (GLASS) and WOA's ANUMUSE platform collecting AMU in terrestrial and aquatic animals. The three systems (InFARM, GLASS and ANIMUSE) will contribute data on an annual basis to the Quadripartite Global Integrated System for Surveillance of AMR and AMU (GISSA).

32. Concurrently, FAO has initiated the digitalization of ATLASS, which will be essential for assessing the reliability of AMR data in InFARM and identifying gaps for capacity building in surveillance systems.

33. Moreover, FAO is collecting data in the plant health sector on the use of antimicrobials as pesticides and the associated resistance, envisioned through the InFARM platform, but also through IPPC initiative via surveys on fungicide and antibiotic use in crops. The FAO Statistics Division collects data on fungicide and antibiotic use as pesticides in an aggregated way.

**Recommendation 17:** *The Committee acknowledged the importance of the One Health approach in addressing AMR, the role of Codex Alimentarius, WOA and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) in developing coherent texts to support efforts to address AMR, in line with the conclusions of the 81st Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC81) and the 44th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC44), and encouraged FAO to work with the IPPC Secretariat, as appropriate, to prioritize the development of guidance on the use of antimicrobial agents for phytosanitary purposes.*

34. The IPPC Secretariat provided an update to the IPPC Strategic Planning Group (SPG) and the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) Bureau on activities related to One Health and AMR. The SPG recommended to prepare a paper for the CPM-17 (2023), to highlight the important contribution that plant health can make in achieving the One Health Agenda and to indicate potential areas that require more work, such as possibly funding an analysis on the scope of antimicrobial resistance in the plant production and health sector.

35. The IPPC Secretariat presented the document “One Health and antimicrobial resistance (AMR)”<sup>33</sup> to the CPM. The CPM-17 (i) *requested* that the Secretariat and the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) consider how to conduct a study efficiently to better understand the nature and scope of the risks associated with AMR in the phytosanitary context, including resistance to fungicides; (ii) *agreed* that a survey on the use of antimicrobials should be conducted by the Secretariat utilizing the IPPC Observatory; and (iii) *encouraged* contracting parties to note the call from the European Food Safety Authority/*Université catholique de Louvain* PLANTIBIO project for the collection and exchange of data on antimicrobial use and associated resistance in plant pathogenic bacteria.

36. Following the CPM-17 decision,<sup>34</sup> the IPPC Secretariat launched the IPPC Observatory AMR survey in two phases (one on antibiotics and one on fungicides) to gather initial information on the products used in countries, on which crops, for what pests, and the approximate quantity of those products, to understand better the nature and scope of risks associated with AMR in the phytosanitary context, including resistance to fungicides.

37. Out of 76 respondents, the preliminary results highlighted that only 32 percent confirmed the use of antibiotics in plant protection with Kasugamycin (23,7 percent) and Streptomycin (25 percent) as the most frequently cited. Almost 70 percent of respondents did not use antibiotics for plant protection, and the estimated quantities for those using them are modest compared with the overall use of antibiotics. On

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<sup>33</sup> CPM 2023/23. [https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2023/01/23\\_CPM\\_2023\\_One\\_Health\\_AMR\\_2023-01-10.pdf](https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2023/01/23_CPM_2023_One_Health_AMR_2023-01-10.pdf)

<sup>34</sup> FAO, and IPPC. 2023. *Seventeenth Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures* (Rome, 27–31 March 2023). [https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2023/04/CPM-17\\_FINAL\\_REPORT.pdf](https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2023/04/CPM-17_FINAL_REPORT.pdf)

the use of fungicides, 47 countries provided information on the products used. The preliminary results of the IPPC Observatory AMR survey<sup>35</sup> have been presented to the CPM-18 in April 2024.

**Recommendation 18:** *The Committee called for the implementation of the Codex Guidelines/Standards on AMR and supported the development of guidelines, in line with the Action Plan, on monitoring the use of antimicrobials with WOA.*

38. The FAO project “Action to support implementation of Codex AMR Texts (ACT)” provides support to countries in adopting the Codex standards to minimize and contain foodborne AMR. FAO continues to mainstream recommendations in the codex standards on AMR into all products, including materials for data management, manuals, guidelines, and training.

**Recommendation 19:** *The Committee recommended FAO to support Members in the implementation of good production practices, as well as AMR management throughout the food supply chain to reduce the need for and to promote the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials in agrifood systems.*

39. In response to countries’ request, FAO has launched the global initiative to reduce the need for antimicrobial use in agrifood systems RENOFAARM initiative<sup>36</sup> engaging the entire production chain, from farm to fork, and strengthening partnerships, including public-private ones. The initiative is deeply rooted and guided by FAO’s Action Plan on AMR 2021-2025 and the One Health approach. It is also embedded in the FAO Priority Programme Area (PPA) on One Health, the Quadripartite Strategic Framework for collaboration on antimicrobial resistance, and the Quadripartite One Health Joint Plan of Action.

**Recommendation 20:** *The Committee took note of the progress made in establishing the AMR Multi-stakeholders Partnership Platform, highlighted the importance of supporting these activities, including through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund, and encouraged relevant actors from the agriculture sector to engage actively in it.*

40. The AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform, established in November 2022, counts more than 200 members from research and academia, civil society, governments, private sector, resource partners, financial institutions, philanthropies, UN Agencies and intergovernmental organizations.

41. In the run-up to the UNGA high-level meeting (HLM) on AMR, to be held in September 2024, the Action Group on the UNGA HLM is developing key recommendations to Members. Moreover, FAO is working with the Multi-Partner Trust Fund on AMR (MPTF), in collaboration with other Quadripartite Agencies, to support the implementation of national action plans on AMR through the One Health approach, together with its Members and governmental agencies.

42. FAO is working with other Quadripartite Agencies to support these processes and advocate for strong commitments in addressing AMR in the agrifood sectors. FAO has developed a set of key messages to be shared with Members and stakeholders focusing on the need to reduce the necessity of antimicrobials in agrifood systems.

### **The future of food and agriculture – Drivers and triggers for transformation (C 2023/22, para 15) [COAG 28 Item 2.5]**

**Recommendation 21:** *The Committee encouraged the finalization of the FOFA-DTT report by taking into account the comments provided by Members and looked forward to its publication and launch.*

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<sup>35</sup> IPPC Secretariat. 2024. *Commission on Phytosanitary Measures. Eighteenth Session. IPPC Survey on Antimicrobial Products Used in Phytosanitary Context.* <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/93121/>

<sup>36</sup> FAO. n.d. *Reduce the Need for Antimicrobials on Farms for Sustainable Agrifood Systems Transformation.* In: FAO. Rome. [Cited 12 June 2024]. <https://www.fao.org/antimicrobial-resistance/background/fao-role/renofarm/en/>

43. Following the presentation of the item on the FAO flagship report *The future of food and agriculture – Drivers and triggers for transformation* (FOFA-DTT)<sup>37</sup> to COAG 28, FAO implemented a wide range of activities to respond to the recommendations of COAG 28 and to the requests of several Members and partners. Detailed information is provided in the document “*Update on The Future of Food and Agriculture: FAO foresight activities, including at regional level*” (COAG/2024/INF/6),<sup>38</sup> with selected highlights and achievements listed below.

44. The flagship report FOFA-DTT was finalized by taking into consideration the comments provided by Members at COAG 28 and was officially launched on 2 December 2022, together with the web-based data dashboard and related communication material. The summary report was also translated into all FAO official languages and was disseminated widely with the support of FAO Liaison and Regional Offices, including presentations to key FAO partners at the UN headquarters, the World Bank and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), and to Members. The report was very well received and further collaboration on foresight for agrifood systems has been implemented within and outside the UN system, including with the UN Futures Lab, the UN Foresight Network, UN Agencies and with Members.

**Recommendation 22:** *The Committee recommended FAO to reinforce its strategic foresight, with contributions from all technical divisions, technical partners, relevant stakeholders, and in collaboration with the United Nations High-Level Committee on Programmes Strategic Foresight Network and other UN agencies and international bodies.*

**Recommendation 23:** *The Committee recommended Members to use FAO’s foresight products to inform national development strategies for sustainable and resilient agrifood systems.*

**Recommendation 24:** *The Committee recommended Members to further support FAO in the dissemination of foresight products and in the generation of substantive policy dialogues on critical issues emerging from these products.*

45. FAO is collaborating with the UN Foresight Network and other networks. The UN Foresight Network requested a presentation on methodological aspects of foresight activities based on the FAO’s Corporate Strategic Foresight Exercise (CSFE) run between 2020 and 2022, and for dissemination of the technical findings of the FOFA report and follow-up activities at regional level, and with the Foresight for Food network.

46. For the web-based dashboard on drivers of agrifood systems, the upgrade of the FOFA dashboard<sup>39</sup> is ongoing. Originally used to feed into the FOFA-DTT report, it contains country level historical and projected data for key variables describing drivers of agrifood systems and is currently used within and outside FAO to support strategic work at all levels.

47. Within the global framework set by the CSFE and the resulting FOFA-DTT report, FAO continues to be engaged in several strategic foresight initiatives focusing on sectoral, subsectoral or domain-specific strategic foresight initiatives, including, *inter alia*, activities on food safety, agroecology, and on the trigger for transformation “Innovative technologies and approaches”.

48. FAO supports strategic foresight work at regional and subregional levels, including support provided to the FAO Regional Conferences held in 2024, and is currently implementing Regional Foresight Exercises (RFEs) in all Regions. The RFEs aim at: (i) developing Regional and Subregional strategic visions and actions to move agrifood systems towards sustainability and resilience; (ii) framing in a strategic Regional and Subregional context Common Country Assessments (CCAs) and Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs); (iii) creating the background for the next global strategic foresight exercise in support to the forthcoming review of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 and Medium

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<sup>37</sup> FAO. 2022. *The future of food and agriculture – Drivers and triggers for transformation*. The Future of Food and Agriculture, no. 3. Rome. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/66a787f4-af91-4f6e-b436-560010ab72d4>

<sup>38</sup> COAG/2024/INF/6. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/4a4c87e9-198f-43a2-9b83-5807f04ed3e5/content>

<sup>39</sup> FAO. 2023. *The future of food and agriculture (FOFA Dashboard)*. [Cited 23 May 2024]. <https://foodandagricultureorganization.shinyapps.io/FOFA-DASHBOARD/>

Term Plan (MTP); and (iv) enhancing institutional capacities on strategic foresight exercises at all levels. Details on the RFE methodology and its achievements are provided in document COAG/2024/INF/6.

49. Further to the need emerging from the RFEs to extend strategic foresight to the country level, FAO engaged in selected Pilot Strategic Country Foresight Exercises (CFEs) in various Regions, producing guidelines to support strategic foresight, aiming at framing CCAs, the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCF), CPFs and other country level assessments within medium- long-term views on the future of agrifood systems.

50. Overall, Regional Conferences welcomed FAO's strategic foresight work, acknowledging that FAO's programmes are grounded on strategic foresight findings and are well positioned to support Members in the strategic foresight domain to improve country analyses (CCAs, UNSDCF, CPFs and decision-making processes to achieve the SDGs).

51. To implement the CSFE and RFEs that cut across and benefit from FAO's various technical areas, a reinforced institutional set-up for foresight activities is required at global and regional levels, including through the FAO Foresight Network (FFN), which is now supporting FAO strategic foresight activities at all levels and interacts with the UN and other stakeholders involved in the strategic foresight for sustainable development.<sup>40</sup>

**Promoting more coherent and integrated Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS) by strengthening national agricultural research and extension systems  
(C 2023/22, para 16) [COAG 28 Item 2.6]**

**Recommendation 25:** *The Committee recommended FAO to strengthen its support to Members, including in resource mobilization, when necessary, for institutional development of NARS and EAS to broaden their services beyond agricultural production with an agrifood systems perspective.*

**Recommendation 26:** *The Committee recommended FAO to align the work on NARS and EAS with the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy and the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031 and their action plans.*

**Recommendation 27:** *The Committee recommended FAO to support Members in the development of, and application or enhancement of existing multistakeholder mechanisms, to improve knowledge exchange and partnerships, including research, extension platforms and innovation hubs, subject to available resources.*

**Recommendation 28:** *The Committee recommended FAO to further develop and promote participatory, coherent and integrated approaches for agricultural research for development and for pluralistic EAS, and relevant voluntary guidelines and tools for assessment, capacity development and monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) of agricultural innovation systems (AIS).*

**Recommendation 29:** *The Committee called on Members to participate in global, regional and/or national initiatives to review and assess their NARS and EAS, update relevant policies and plans, and promote more coherent and integrated AIS with increased investment for research and extension.*

52. Development of knowledge products and best practices: FAO has developed a common framework and AIS assessment guidelines and training resources and delivered to its Members to enhance efficiency in functioning of National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) and Extension and Advisory Services (EAS) through the Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP), a multi-stakeholder engagement mechanism to promote AIS. Guidelines for monitoring and evaluation of public extension and advisory services system and digital extension services were developed and applied. An e-learning tool on capacity development of AIS was developed jointly with FAO's e-learning Academy and published in 2024. Best practices were presented during major events, such as the UN Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (STI Forum) and

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<sup>40</sup> COAG/2024/INF/6 <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/4a4c87e9-198f-43a2-9b83-5807f04ed3e5/content>

the stock-taking during India's G20 Presidency in 2023 for promoting efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems.

53. Support for institutional development of NARS and EAS: FAO is currently providing technical support to 22 Members for resource mobilization and institutional development of NARS to improve their capacity for research, for developing pluralistic EAS that include multiple actors covering the entire value chain beyond agricultural production. About 35 case studies are being reviewed for possible advocacy in Asia and the Pacific, Africa, as well as in Latin America and the Caribbean Regions. Through the TAP, FAO provided support to the Regional Research and Extension Organizations (RREOs) to integrate TAP tools, methods and guidelines into their programmes and projects to support Members.

54. Alignment of AIS work with FAO Science and Innovation Strategy and FAO Strategy on Climate Change: FAO's work related to promoting a coherent and integrated AIS and strengthening of NARS and EAS is directly linked to four major outputs of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy. This includes output 1.1 "Research for development strengthened"; output 2.1 "Access to, and use of, inclusive, sustainable, affordable and context specific innovations and technologies by small-scale producers, family farmers and other agrifood systems actors enhanced", and output 2.2 "Capacities of national agrifood innovation systems to prioritize, co-create, and scale sustainable and appropriate innovations and technologies strengthened", and output 2.3: "National capacity to design, implement and evaluate strategies, policies and regulatory frameworks on science, technology and innovation strengthened". It is further aligned to the Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031 with a focus on climate relevant, productive and sustainable transformative agrifood systems.

55. Multi-stakeholder mechanisms: FAO is supporting Members to develop multi-stakeholder mechanisms in 15 countries to strengthen agricultural innovation systems through various projects including nine countries through the TAP-AIS project. Multi-stakeholder innovation platforms, targeting EAS actors are also being developed and supported in Azerbaijan, the Comoros, Georgia, Liberia and Tunisia. Multi-actor innovation platforms (MAIP) including Science Technology Backyards (STB) are implemented in Malawi and explored for Kenya.

56. Promoting participatory approaches, tools for assessment, capacity development, evaluation and learning: FAO is supporting Members in the assessment of national AIS for better understanding of current status and providing insights on gaps and opportunities for strengthening the AIS. The AIS assessments, capacity development, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) frameworks were implemented with support from the European Union in nine countries. The assessments underline the capacity development gaps and needs for both functional and technical skills. Training on AIS assessment and policy dialogue was delivered at the country level. An indicators' framework was developed to understand the factors that enable agricultural innovation, system interactions and innovation provision intensity, as well as knowledge, adoption and sustainable development outcomes.

57. Global, regional and national initiatives to review NARS/EAS and promote coherent AIS: FAO made available the results of a global assessment of public sector extension and advisory services conducted with technical experts from over 40 Members, along with recommendations. At global level, TAPipedia, a TAP knowledge portal with more than 4000 resources on 54 topics contributed to by over 80 organizations and 190 countries, offers resources for the capacity development of AIS, which hosts a global dashboard providing AIS indicators.

### **The catalyser role of the UN Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028 (UNDF) and progress towards its implementation (C 2023/22, para 17) [COAG 28 Item 2.7]**

**Recommendation 30:** *The Committee invited FAO to ensure family farmers are prioritized within the implementation plans of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy and the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031.*

**Recommendation 31:** *The Committee invited FAO to continue its close coordination with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in their leadership of the UNDF, to mobilize*

required financial resources to promote concrete actions on the ground and to strengthen the resilience of family farmers.

**Recommendation 32:** *The Committee invited Members to accelerate efforts to support the UNDFE through the adoption of supportive policies and further investments.*

58. The UNDFE continues to act as a catalyst to support the work done by FAO at the national level to leverage national platforms and policy frameworks. Further updates on the UNDFE are provided under the information document “*United Nations Decade of Family Farming 2019 – 2028 (UNDFE) - Enhanced data collection and analysis for evidence-informed public policies for family farming*” (COAG/2024/INF/9).<sup>41</sup>

59. The Action Plan of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy refers to the UNDFE by highlighting the importance of promoting participatory research, with the inclusion of the knowledge of small-scale producers and the reinforcement of their capacities on innovation practices (output 1.3.3); and the need to reduce inequalities and foster inclusion by promoting innovations for women, youth and family farmers, including through innovative economic opportunities and market solutions promoting services and goods of multifunctional family farming (output 2.1.4).

60. In its Action Plan 2022 – 2025 for the implementation of the Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031, FAO aims to improve country level climate decision-making processes with the effective involvement and participation in relevant processes of family farmers, among other groups. This includes the Action Areas 3.1.1, on the empowerment of farmers and local communities embracing both traditional good practices and innovations, and building on science-based evidence; 3.1.2, to increase family farmers’ resilience to climate risks; and 2.2.1, on providing support to mainstream climate change and biodiversity loss into policies.

61. In December 2023, IFAD approved a grant of USD 1 million to support the UNDFE, with resources provided to FAO to co-fund the organization of the UNDFE Midterm Forum, and to the World Rural Forum (WRF) to support activities of ten National Committees of Family Farming (NCFE) for inclusive participation in consultations for fair policy development. The Joint FAO and IFAD Secretariat is seeking co-financing opportunities from traditional and non-traditional sources of financing.

62. To date, three Regional and 13 National Action Plans for family farming have been approved, while 262 policies, laws and regulations have been developed and approved to support family farming and the transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems. Overall, 77 countries promoted policy changes since the launch of the UNDFE, while 40 countries have a policy framework related to the UNDFE. Over 2,625 relevant actors were involved in dialogue processes or platforms, including 1,853 family farmers’ organizations and federations.

### **Agriculture and forestry linkages (C 2023/22, para 18) [COAG 28 Item 2.8]**

**Recommendation 33:** *The Committee recommended FAO to continue collecting and analysing necessary science and evidence-based data on agriculture and forestry interdependencies, including on the direct and underlying drivers of deforestation and land degradation, by further enhancing consistency between agricultural and forest data sets and compiling case studies and good practices which should be reported at COAG 29, and requested the COAG Secretariat to share this information with the COFO Secretariat, if relevant.*

**Recommendation 34:** *The Committee invited FAO to support Members, upon request, to further identify opportunities and implement actions to improve complementarity between the agriculture and forestry sectors and strengthen coordinated policy responses towards the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recommending that these initiatives do not create unnecessary barriers to trade and do not worsen the situation for small-scale producers’ well-being.*

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<sup>41</sup> COAG/2024/INF/9 <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/fd07b0c0-6847-4a1a-b56e-26a514933ec6/content>

**Recommendation 35:** *The Committee invited FAO to conduct, subject to available extra-budgetary resources, a global assessment of the status and scaling-up potential of agroforestry, and to report on progress to COAG 29, and requested the COAG Secretariat to share this information with the COFO Secretariat, if relevant.*

**Recommendation 36:** *The Committee encouraged FAO to continue playing an active role in relevant international fora by promoting open dialogue on enhancing and promoting sustainable agrifood systems and further working with other international partners, including all relevant stakeholders and particularly members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), to upscale synergies between agriculture and forestry.*

**Recommendation 37:** *The Committee invited Members to promote greater and inclusive policy coherence between the agriculture and forestry sectors, including through integrated land use planning, landscape approaches and secured access to land, as well as support to small-scale producers, family farmers, women, youth, local communities and Indigenous Peoples.*

**Recommendation 38:** *The Committee on drivers of deforestation and land degradation requested FAO and Members to put greater emphasis on ways to decouple growth in agricultural production from forest and other biodiversity loss, keeping in mind the necessity of poverty eradication and fighting hunger, and the needs of developing countries in terms of financial assistance and capacity building.*

**Recommendation 39:** *The Committee invited FAO to report regularly on the mainstreaming of biodiversity in the agriculture and forestry sectors.*

63. Detailed and additional information on progress made on this item is provided in the documents “Scaling up actions on agriculture and forestry linkages” (COAG/2024/6, COFO/2024/3) and COFO/2024/INF/5 (para. 17). At its 164th and 165th Sessions, FAO Council requested FAO “to showcase and promote existing and complementary practices between agriculture activities and the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of forests, avoiding deforestation and maintaining ecosystem services, noting that agriculture and forestry can synergistically support sustainable development”<sup>42</sup> and to strengthen “coordination between COFO and COAG on cross-sectoral matters, and recommended that future papers dealing with interrelated issues between agriculture and forests be presented to both COFO and COAG”.<sup>43</sup>

64. Accordingly, both Committees addressed agriculture and forestry linkages as a joint item at COFO 26<sup>44</sup> and COAG 28 and the conclusions of these discussions were presented in December 2022 to the FAO Council at its 171st Session,<sup>45</sup> that endorsed them and provided further guidance.

65. In early 2023, the COAG Bureau and the COFO Steering Committee agreed to an *Intersessional Roadmap towards COFO 27 and COAG 29 (2024)*<sup>46</sup> as part of the COAG-COFO collaboration on agriculture and forestry which also reflects the joint work conducted by the COAG Sub-Committee on Livestock and the COFO Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems.

66. A further joint item addressing cross-sectoral and interrelated issues for *Scaling up actions on agriculture and forestry linkages*, with the aim to highlight opportunities for closer integration between the agriculture and forestry sectors to address global challenges, is presented to both COFO 27 (COFO/2024/3) and COAG 29 (COAG/2024/6).<sup>47</sup>

67. The COFO Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems (COFO Working Group) and the COAG Sub-Committee on Livestock have been jointly promoting agroforestry and

<sup>42</sup> FAO.2020. *Report of the 165th Session of the Council* (Rome, 30 November – 4 December 2020).

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/80ab797c-29bd-4127-93e1-7e9b6d91f531/content>

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid* CL 165/Rep. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/80ab797c-29bd-4127-93e1-7e9b6d91f531/content>

<sup>44</sup> COFO/2022/REP. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/4eee3cd3-c68b-4d36-ab2b-2ef5a6aab5e2/content>

<sup>45</sup> CL 171/REP (Paragraphs 20 and 24, respectively). <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/e3f4f9be-283c-443d-a28b-3c0e139618d4/content>

<sup>46</sup> The roadmap is available with the Secretariat.

<sup>47</sup> COAG/2024/6 <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/f7fd8fd9-0384-4446-9ea2-06ac6494fe2f/content>

silvopastoral systems as a major vehicle for empowering small-scale producers in dryland zones. At its 3rd Session, held from 11 to 13 September 2023 in Amman, Jordan,<sup>48</sup> the COFO Working Group addressed agriculture and forestry linkages and underscored the importance of this joint work in enhancing coordinated responses to Members' needs for integrated dryland management. The Second Session of the Sub-Committee on Livestock, held from 16 to 18 July 2024, discussed the item *Forest and agriculture linkages: A path towards integrating forests, trees and livestock in dryland silvopastoral systems*.<sup>49</sup>

68. FAO continued to collect and analyse science- and evidence-based data on agriculture and forestry interdependencies, and published a technical paper on large-scale and small-scale farming contributions to global deforestation,<sup>50</sup> based on the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)-FAO Business Handbook on Deforestation and Due Diligence in Agricultural Supply Chains.<sup>51</sup> In addition, FAO is developing a database (based on existing FAOStat data) to explore the ways trade of food and forest products are linked to the land needed for their production.

69. To further identify opportunities and implement actions to improve complementarity between the agriculture and forestry sectors and strengthen coordinated policy responses, FAO Forestry Division (NFO) and Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP) have established an interdivisional Working Group on agroforestry resulting in multiple joint agroforestry activities, including publications, project proposals, capacity development initiatives and new partnerships.

70. Regarding the global assessment of the status and scaling-up potential of agroforestry, the study is anticipated to be launched at the same time as the next Global Forest Resources Assessment in 2025. For further updates, please refer to document COFO/2024/3.

71. The Global Environment Facility (GEF-7) Impact Programs on Dryland Sustainable Landscapes (DSL-IP) and Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR-IP) have progressed to collect evidence, develop case studies and capture good practices on agriculture and forestry interdependencies, including on the direct and underlying drivers of deforestation and land degradation. Under the DSL-IP, The *Sustainable Landscape Production Framework* (SLPF) has been finalized in six countries within the Southern African Miombo/Mopane ecoregion and will pilot the SLPF with FAO's cross-divisional technical support. The approach will be further adjusted based on evidence from the countries for upscaling purposes.

72. For the FOLUR-IP, FAO supports two main workstreams: the Participatory Informed Landscape Approach (PILA) that supports countries on integrated landscape assessments, rights-based land use planning development, management and transformative governance of productive landscapes; and the "sustainability instruments package" covering normative work on the cost of commodity production, licensing and traceability systems.

73. The GEF-8 Food Systems Integrated Program, co-led by FAO and IFAD, will build on the efforts of the GEF-7 Impact Programs. It will seek to mobilize the private sector and funding to upscale proven practices and approaches to reduce the pressure of agrifood systems on forests and biodiversity in 32 countries worldwide.

74. FAO supports a number of countries implementing climate resilient and low emission investment projects to promote deforestation-free production systems and agroforestry projects through Green Climate Fund (GCF) resources. Details on these projects are provided in document COFO/2024/INF/5 (para. 17).

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<sup>48</sup> FAO.2023. *Report of the COFO-Working Group on Drylands and Agrosilvopastoral Systems*.

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/19001205-780f-490b-b0b4-c92aaa30ca5a/content>

<sup>49</sup> COAG/LI/2024/9. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/f1e21d8c-1f35-4c6e-ab7e-51ee842384d1/content>

<sup>50</sup> DeValue, K., Takahashi, N., Woolnough, T., Merle, C., Fortuna S., and Agostini, A. 2022. Halting deforestation from agricultural value chains: the role of governments. Rome, FAO. 2022. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc2262en>

<sup>51</sup> OECD & FAO. 2023. *OECD-FAO Business Handbook on Deforestation and Due Diligence in Agricultural Supply Chains*. Paris, OECD Publishing. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cc6595en>



75. FAO has continued to play an active role in the UN Forum on Forests, the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the SDGs Summit, in promoting sustainable agrifood systems, including through the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF).

76. To strengthen its actions on and promote a more inclusive One Health approach, a policy brief was published in October 2022 on “*How natural resource management sectors can contribute to reducing emerging infectious diseases: the example of forest ecosystems*” providing recommendations on how these sectors can play a more active role in reducing risk and mitigating the impact of emerging infectious diseases, targeting national government authorities in charge of natural resource management. In 2024, FAO published the Information Brief: “*The wildlife–livelihoods–health nexus: challenges and priorities in Asia and the Pacific*”.<sup>52</sup>

77. For more information, please also refer to documents “*Scaling up actions on agriculture and forestry linkages*” (COAG/2024/6 and COFO/2024/3).<sup>53</sup> FAO is implementing a wide range of activities, in collaboration with partners, and global projects, such as the “Building Global Capacity on Halting Deforestation and Conversions from Agricultural Commodities” (BiG-CHANCE) to harmonize the agricultural and forestry sectors to achieve climate, biodiversity, land degradation and sustainable development targets, and the UN-REDD Programme, to provide support on new tools to integrate elements of reduced deforestation in agricultural supply chains, addressing the agriculture–forest nexus. This includes technical assistance for adapting existing geospatial information on forests and land use to new market requirements related to deforestation.

78. Based on the dataset of the Global Forest Resource Assessment Remote Sensing Survey (RSS), FAO has developed a technical document on large-scale and small-scale farming contributions to global deforestation,<sup>54</sup> aiming to build evidence-based knowledge on agriculture and forestry interdependencies for better decision-making.

**Progress report on the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors and its 2021-23 Action Plan  
(C 2023/22, para 19) [COAG 28 Item 3.1]**

**Recommendation 40:** *The Committee welcomed progress made in the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors and its 2021-23 Action Plan, and encouraged FAO to continue to provide support to its Members in their efforts to mainstream biodiversity.*

**Recommendation 41:** *The Committee reviewed and welcomed the development of the draft 2024-27 Action Plan for the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors, and requested to continue open, inclusive and transparent consultations with Members for the finalization of the Action Plan.*

**Recommendation 42:** *The Committee recommended FAO to finalize the Action Plan taking into account other FAO Strategies, guidance provided by the Committee, and further developments under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.*

79. Following COAG 28, COFI 35 (5-9 September 2022), COFO 26 (3-7 October 2022) and the 19th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA 19) (17-21 July 2023), reviewed and welcomed progress made in the implementation of the FAO Strategy on

<sup>52</sup> FAO. 2024b. *Information brief: The wildlife–livelihoods–health nexus: challenges and priorities in Asia and the Pacific*. Bangkok. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/df98889-4e0b-41b2-a727-fe0bc95cf883>

<sup>53</sup> COFO/2024/3. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/np168en>

<sup>54</sup> Branthomme, A., Merle, C., Kindgard, A., Lourenço, A., Ng, W.-T., D’Annunzio, R. & Shapiro, A. 2023. *How much do large-scale and small-scale farming contribute to global deforestation? Results from a remote sensing pilot approach*. Rome, FAO. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/29404c26-c71d-4982-a899-77bdb2937cef/content>

Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors<sup>55</sup> and its 2021–2023 Action Plan,<sup>56</sup> as well as the development of the draft 2024–2027 Action Plan. The revised version of the draft 2024–2027 Action Plan was submitted to Members for their written comments and launched in 2024.<sup>57</sup>

80. The progress made is reported in the document “*Update on the implementation of the Action Plan 2024–2027 for the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors*” (COAG/2024/INF/5) and key developments are provided below.

81. As of 31 December 2023, 176 (97 percent) of the deliverables in the 2021 - 2023 Action Plan had been completed; five (2 percent) have been delayed to 2024 or 2025; and one (1 percent) has been cancelled. The FAO Biodiversity Knowledge Hub<sup>58</sup> was launched in December 2023, helping customers access and use over 350 existing tools, guidance and other resources on biodiversity developed by FAO. Information has been produced on agricultural practices that conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and favour ecosystem services, including the Toolbox for Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA)<sup>59</sup> under the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA). Members have received support to improve their capacity to collect, analyse and provide data on the status of biodiversity, including a monitoring system for the diversity of managed honeybees<sup>60</sup> established in the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS) and SoiLEX<sup>61</sup>, a global online database that facilitates access to information on legal instruments on soil protection.

82. Mainstreaming biodiversity is a regular item on the agenda of relevant FAO Governing and Statutory Bodies, including Regional Bodies. In addition, 113 Country Offices (78 percent) reported in 2023 that the current Country Programming Framework (CPF) includes biodiversity-specific activities and outputs.

83. The 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (COP15) adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) in December 2022 in Montreal, Canada (CBD/COP/DEC/15/4). The GBF supports the achievement of SDGs and includes four goals for 2050 and 23 targets for 2030 to achieve the global vision of “living in harmony with nature”.

84. The linkages between biodiversity and food security, and particularly the fact that sustainable use of biodiversity is crucial to food and agriculture, are reflected in the GBF, with most of the targets directly related to agrifood sectors. Over 20 indicators in the monitoring framework for the GBF are under FAO’s responsibility,<sup>62</sup> and many more use FAO’s data. Several other COP15 decisions are directly relevant to the work of FAO, including the adoption of the Plan of Action 2020–2030 for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity (CBD/COP/DEC/15/28). The Strategy remains fully aligned with, and is supportive of, the implementation of recent CBD decisions, including the adoption of the GBF.

85. FAO is also promoting the mainstreaming of biodiversity across agricultural sectors through GCF projects, such as the projects *Ecosystems-based Adaptation for resilient Watersheds and Communities* in Malawi and *Building a Resilient Churia Region in Nepal* (BRCRN) aimed at strengthening ecosystems and, therefore, improving land resilience, which has direct influence in the long-term availability of resources for agricultural production and local communities.

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<sup>55</sup> FAO. 2020. *FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors*. Rome.

<https://doi.org/10.4060/ca7722en>

<sup>56</sup> FAO. 2021. *2021–23 Action Plan for the Implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb5515en>

<sup>57</sup> FAO. 2024. *Action Plan for the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity Across Agricultural Sectors 2024–2027*. Rome. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/efef8ccc-dc90-4eb4-a710-cf530a769869>

<sup>58</sup> FAO. n.d. *Biodiversity Knowledge Hub*. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/biodiversity/knowledge-hub/en>

<sup>59</sup> FAO.n.d. *International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. Rome. [Cited 13 June 2024].

<https://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/tools/toolbox-for-sustainable-use/overview/en>

<sup>60</sup> FAO. n.d. *Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS)*. Rome. [Cited 13 June 2024]. <https://www.fao.org/dad-is/bees-data-sheet/en>

<sup>61</sup> FAO.n.d. *FAO SOILS PORTAL*. Rome. [Cited 13 June 2024]. <https://www.fao.org/soils-portal/soilex/en>

<sup>62</sup> FAO. n.d. *Data and Indicators*. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/biodiversity/knowledge-hub/data-and-indicators/en>

**State of the World's Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture (SOLAW21)  
(C 2023/22, para 20) [COAG 28 Item 3.2]**

**Recommendation 43:** *The Committee, taking into consideration resource implications and availability of new data, recommended that FAO consider reporting these issues through a regular flagship publication to address the need for sufficient, reliable information, knowledge and analyses for informed policy decisions and programmes on food and agriculture at national, regional and global levels.*

**Recommendation 44:** *The Committee encouraged Members to disseminate SOLAW21 widely and to strengthen cooperation and use its assessments in order to enhance the sustainable management of land and water resources, to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, within FAO's mandate for promoting the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 and its four betters (better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life).*

86. The Council, at its 171st Session in December 2022, noted the importance of the *State of the World's Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture* (SOLAW) and recommended FAO to consider reporting these issues through a regular flagship publication. Accordingly, the SOLAW will be published on a regular basis as an FAO flagship report, with thematic reports every three years and one comprehensive report every ten years. Each edition of the SOLAW will focus on a different major theme. The next SOLAW will focus on the potential of natural resources for food production - the potential to produce more and better - to provide reliable information, knowledge, and analysis to inform policy decisions on the food production potential now and in the future at various levels and considering the impact of climate change on land/crop suitability.

87. SOLAW 2021 was launched during the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD), held in Abidjan, the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire in May 2022. Several partners and countries were invited to enhance the dissemination of SOLAW 2021. The dedicated SOLAW website<sup>63</sup> of the FAO Land and Water Division (NSL) provides open access to all published resources, including the full report, synthesis report, presentations, video, and background studies, among others. SOLAW findings on the status, challenges and responses of sustainable land and water management are distributed and used by many stakeholders.

**Governance of tenure of water resources for food and agriculture  
(C 2023/22, para 21) [COAG 28 Item 3.3]**

**Recommendation 45:** *The Committee recognized the importance of addressing water scarcity in the context of achieving food security and nutrition and recommended FAO to step up the work of the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG) of water tenure for the sustainable management of natural resources.*

**Recommendation 46:** *The Committee recommended FAO to undertake an assessment of existing water tenure arrangements and their components, building on FAO's work to date.*

**Recommendation 47:** *The Committee recommended FAO, in close collaboration with relevant UN agencies, to support Members, upon request, in building and developing capacities to produce data on available and actual use of water resources for agriculture.*

**Recommendation 48:** *The Committee recommended FAO, in close collaboration with relevant UN agencies, to initiate a Global Dialogue on Water Tenure on matters that include water rights' administration, tenure arrangements within water user organizations, and to provide regular updates to the Committee on Agriculture.*

**Recommendation 49:** *The Committee encouraged Members to participate in a series of exchanges among countries at regional and global levels, including through the Global Dialogue on Water Tenure, in identifying principles for the responsible governance of water tenure.*

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<sup>63</sup> FAO. n.d. *The state of the world's land and water resources for food and agriculture: Systems at breaking point (SOLAW 2021)*. Rome. [Cited 12 June 2024]. <https://www.fao.org/land-water/solaw2021/en/>

88. As a follow-up to the Praia Call for Action adopted during the 2nd International Forum on WASAG, held in Praia, the Republic of Cabo Verde, in February 2023, the high-level Rome Water Dialogue on Water Scarcity in Agriculture will take place at FAO headquarters on 17 October 2024 during the World Food Forum. It was preceded by a technical preparatory meeting, held from 29 to 30 April 2024, that considered proposals for improved operating mechanisms for WASAG, aimed at increasing impact and effectiveness, including through the establishment of a Member-led Steering Committee. WASAG is strengthening synergies with the Inter-Regional Technical Platform on Water-Scarcity in Agriculture, as well as the Regional Water Scarcity Initiatives in Asia and the Pacific, as well as the Near East and North Africa Regions. In support of the Value Adding Impact Area (VAIA) “Addressing Water Scarcity in Agriculture and the Environment” (AWSAME), funded by FAO’s Flexible Voluntary Contribution (FVC), drought resilient, nutritious, and indigenous crops are promoted in some countries, starting with Cabo Verde, Malawi, Morocco, and South Sudan. This is further aligned with the Vision for Adapted Crops and Soils (VACS) initiative<sup>64</sup> led by USA, in partnership with FAO and other organizations. Further information on WASAG is provided in document COAG/2024/INF/8.<sup>65</sup>

89. FAO has developed a methodological framework to assess water tenure arrangements as part of a comprehensive water resources assessment with a view to improving water allocation systems. The methodology has been applied in five countries (Indonesia, Rwanda, Senegal, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam), and is being rolled out in Cambodia, Colombia and Thailand. The water tenure assessment methodology will be published during 2024, while the results from these assessments are available online.<sup>66</sup>

90. The experiences of countries as regards water tenure assessments were widely shared by FAO during the World Water Day 2023,<sup>67</sup> and on the UN-wide observance website on World Water Day 2024: Water for Peace and Prosperity.<sup>68</sup>

91. As part of the Global Dialogue on Water Tenure, FAO will facilitate a series of regional and sectoral dialogues. A first regional dialogue is planned in Bangkok, the Kingdom of Thailand in December 2024, as part of the International Soil and Water Forum. FAO is liaising with the UN Water Task Force on Country Level Engagement on the Dialogue to involve other UN Agencies in the process.

92. The Global Dialogue on Water Tenure was featured at a dedicated side event co-sponsored by Australia, Germany, Rwanda, Senegal, Sri Lanka and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as partners from academia and civil society during the 51st Plenary Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in October 2023. In 2024, the Dialogue was featured at the following global events: the World Water Forum and the World Bank Land Conference, held in May 2024, as well as the World Water Week, held in Stockholm, Sweden, in August 2024.

93. The Government of Germany is funding a three-year global project “Scaling up capacities for water tenure for food security, social inclusion and climate resilience – ScaleWat” in support of the Global Dialogue (November 2024 – October 2026) to: (i) sustain the dialogue process; (ii) organize multistakeholder dialogues on responsible governance of water tenure in two Regions (Latin America and Southeast Asia) and in two countries (Colombia and Thailand); and (iii) develop capacity on water accounting and water tenure assessment. Discussions are ongoing with donors to fund further the implementation of the Global Dialogue. Further information is provided in document COAG/2024/7.<sup>69</sup>

### **Guidance on sustainable use of plastics in agriculture (C 2023/22, para 22) [COAG 28 Item 3.4]**

<sup>64</sup> PC 137/INF/3. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/0c8e25e6-efdc-4a53-a30b-1b4df36942ff/content>

<sup>65</sup> COAG/2024/INF/8 <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/1af41844-b719-45ae-80c1-f2bb2102f438/content>

<sup>66</sup> FAO. n.d. *Country assessments*. Rome. [Cited 12 June 2024]. <https://www.fao.org/in-action/knowat/wt-assessment/country-assessments/en/>

<sup>67</sup> FAO. 2023. *UN World Water Day*. Rome. [Cited 12 June 2024]. <https://www.fao.org/family-farming/detail/en/c/1634856/#:~:text=World%20Water%20Day%202023%20is,industry%2C%20and%20disasters%20to%20peace>

<sup>68</sup> UN. n.d. *World Water Day*. New York, USA. [Cited 12 June 2024]. <https://www.un.org/en/observances/water-day>

<sup>69</sup> COAG/2024/7 <https://www.fao.org/governing-bodies/technical-committees/committee-on-agriculture/coag-2024/en>

**Recommendation 50:** *The Committee encouraged FAO to undertake further scientific and evidence-based assessments related to the distribution, benefits, trade-offs and risks of plastics for agricultural use and their alternatives, to address knowledge gaps on plastics in agriculture, and requests for the development of policy instruments, taking into account Members' past and ongoing efforts, as well as developing countries' needs and challenges.*

**Recommendation 51:** *The Committee recommended FAO, subject to the assessments in paragraph c. and to the availability of resources, to address existing knowledge gaps through inclusive and transparent consultations with Members and relevant stakeholders, in close coordination with other relevant UN initiatives to avoid duplication of work, to develop, within its mandate, a Voluntary Code of Conduct on the sustainable use of plastics in agriculture, taking into account the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument (UNEP/EA.5/Res.14), to be presented for consideration at the 29th Session of COAG based on the three dimensions of sustainable development, shared goals, and cooperation towards the 2030 Agenda taking into account the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy and the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031.*

**Recommendation 52:** *The Committee encouraged FAO to support deliberations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution established by the United Nations Environment Assembly Resolution End plastic pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument (UNEP/EA.5/Res.14) with guidance on the issues of plastics used in agriculture.*

94. Since COAG 28, the following knowledge products have been published by FAO:

- a) FAO (2022). *Microplastics in food commodities: A food safety review on human exposure through dietary sources (2022)*.<sup>70</sup>
- b) FAO (2023). *The impact of microplastics on the gut microbiome and health – A food safety perspective*.<sup>71</sup>
- c) Two Technical Guidelines: *Manual for marking fishing gear (2023)*<sup>72</sup> and *A framework for conducting a risk assessment for a system on the marking of fishing gear (2023)*.<sup>73</sup>
- d) FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular: *Operationalization of FAO Voluntary Guidelines for the Marking of Fishing Gear in the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) area of competence (2022)*.<sup>74</sup>

95. To bridge the existing knowledge gaps and respond to the recommendations of the 171st Session of Council, FAO is developing working papers on summary reviews of national and international instruments relevant to the sustainable use of plastics in agriculture; a summary of findings from recent research projects to inform public policies on the sustainable use of plastics in agriculture, and a summary of the public consultation conducted as part of the preparation of the Voluntary Code of Conduct on the sustainable use and management of plastics in agriculture (VCoC). These documents are being finalized for publication.

96. In response to the recommendations of the 28th Session of the COAG, subsequently endorsed by the 171st Session of the FAO Council and the 43rd Session of the FAO Conference, FAO conducted inclusive and geographically representative consultations with a wide range of stakeholders for the

<sup>70</sup> FAO. 2022. *Microplastics in food commodities: A food safety review on human exposure through dietary sources*. <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc2392en>

<sup>71</sup> FAO. 2023. *The impact of microplastics on the gut microbiome and health – A food safety perspective*. <https://www.fao.org/3/cc5294en/cc5294en.pdf>

<sup>72</sup> FAO. 2023. *Manual for marking fishing gear*. <https://www.fao.org/responsible-fishing/resources/detail/en/c/1633386/>

<sup>73</sup> FAO. 2023. *A framework for conducting a risk assessment for a system on the marking of fishing gear*. <https://www.fao.org/responsible-fishing/resources/detail/en/c/1630451/>

<sup>74</sup> FAO. 2022. *Operationalization of FAO Voluntary Guidelines for the Marking of Fishing Gear in the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) area of competence*. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc2889en>

development of the VCoC. An informal briefing for FAO Members was held in May 2023. A Global Expert Meeting was held from 27 to 28 June 2023. Six regional multi-stakeholder consultation meetings were held from August to October 2023 to collect technical input and expert feedback from both FAO Members and other stakeholder groups. In addition, to ensure wider outreach, a public online consultation was conducted through the Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition (FSN Forum) from September to November 2023.

97. Based on these consultations, FAO has developed the draft VCoC, which was made available to Members on 15 February 2024, and subsequently revised based on consultations with Members held from February to May 2024. The resulting VCoC document is submitted as Annex to the COAG 29 document “*FAO’s work on the use and management of plastics in agriculture and the Voluntary Code of Conduct on the sustainable use and management of plastics in agriculture* (COAG/2024/8).<sup>75</sup>

98. FAO participates as an Observer in the meetings of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. FAO supports Members to ensure the new instrument balances benefits and trade-offs, as well as sustainability of the use of plastics in food and agriculture sectors and perspectives of relevant stakeholders, including smallholder farmers. FAO’s submission for the fourth session of INC, held in April 2024, is available on the INC website.<sup>76</sup>

### **Progress towards the implementation of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 (C 2023/22, para 23) [COAG 28 Item 3.5]**

**Recommendation 53:** *The Committee recommended FAO to address the restoration of agricultural production ecosystems within FAO policies and programmes.*

**Recommendation 54:** *The Committee encouraged Members to support the activities of the Decade and enhance their ecosystem restoration efforts.*

99. FAO continues to support the implementation of the Decade according to its mandate, Members’ goals and the Strategic Framework 2022-31. Notes on Ecosystem Restoration (including on restoration of agricultural production ecosystems), and progress towards the implementation of the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration were submitted both to COAG 27 (COAG/2022/17) and COFO 26 (COFO/2022/6.5), and to COFO 27 (COFO/2024/6.3).<sup>77</sup> A specific position paper was prepared for information at the 2020 sessions of COAG (COAG/2020/INF/13), COFO and COFI. FAO Council at its 171st Session urged FAO to support Members with tools, methodologies and capacity development initiatives to strengthen their capacity to scale up forest ecosystem restoration efforts.

100. FAO Members are enhancing their ecosystem restoration efforts and have made commitments to this end, and a number of these efforts are supported by FAO. For example, FAO’s *Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism* is supporting more than 15 Members to implement large-scale restoration initiatives, and recently started the implementation of a new global project to increase access to funding and technical assistance for forest and smallholder farm producers and enterprises, with a view to accelerating restoration-based value-added innovation to support the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100).<sup>78</sup>

101. Members were encouraged to submit their restorations initiatives as World Restoration Flagships through the first call of nominations of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. The ten first flagships selected in 2022 were officially launched at the CBD COP 15 Restoration Day (full list of World Restoration Flagships<sup>79</sup>). FAO has supported the design of several of these. Three flagships are

<sup>75</sup> COAG/2024/8. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/5578973a-5059-4683-a0a5-2d58e90f8da6/content>

<sup>76</sup> FAO. n.d. *Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC-4)*. [Cited on 11 July 2024]. [https://resolutions.unep.org/incres/uploads/fao\\_statement\\_to\\_inc-4\\_final.pdf](https://resolutions.unep.org/incres/uploads/fao_statement_to_inc-4_final.pdf)

<sup>77</sup> COFO/2024/6.3 <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/86221d71-82eb-4558-b474-019be2f17304>

<sup>78</sup> FAO. African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) <https://www.fao.org/wood-energy/search/detail/en/c/1370746/> and <http://www.afr100.org/>

<sup>79</sup> UNEP. World Restoration Flagships <https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/world-restoration-flagships>

receiving full technical and financial support focusing on selected areas within: Great Green Wall, Central American Dry Corridor, and the Small Island Developing States. In February 2024, a second group of flagships was announced during the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) which will receive targeted support (some of them through FAO), followed by a second call for nominations open up to May 2024. Financial support to the Decade and its flagships is received through a Multi-partner Trust Fund established by FAO and UNEP, with contributions from the Federal Republic of Germany and the Kingdom of Denmark.

102. In dryland countries, ecosystem restoration continues to be supported by the FAO Action Against Desertification programme<sup>80</sup> (AAD) in support of Africa's Great Green Wall. Furthermore, building on the approach used and lessons learned from AAD, FAO, in partnership with the national authorities, has submitted a multi country project currently under review by the GCF entitled "Scaling-Up Resilience in Africa's Great Green Wall (SURAGGWA)" aiming to contribute to a major paradigm shift and tackle land restoration, climate change and sustainable livelihoods simultaneously, building ecological and nutritional resilience in eight Sahel countries recognized as the most vulnerable to climate change in Africa: Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal.

103. Restoration efforts are also being supported by the UN-REDD Programme on reducing deforestation and forest degradation in tropical countries. FAO supports ecosystem restoration through the on-going GEF multi-agency programmes, namely *The Restoration Initiative*, and the two GEF-7 Impact Programs: (i) on Dryland Sustainable Landscapes; and (ii) on Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration, that are all building expertise and best practices to scale up including through the GEF-8 round that included restoration activities in their new integrated programs (on ecosystem restoration, critical forest biomes, as well as on food systems). Another restoration project is being prepared in Fiji for submission to the GCF.

104. In addition, FAO leads two of the Task Forces established for the Decade. The first one is *the Monitoring Task Force* that supports the development of guidance for monitoring and reporting on Target 2 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and compiling data on global progress on ecosystem restoration. It has developed the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM),<sup>81</sup> that enables consistent and transparent monitoring and reporting of the progress of restoration efforts throughout the duration of the UN Decade. The second one is the *Best Practices Task Force* that focuses on knowledge dissemination and capacity development and has developed principles<sup>82</sup> and standards<sup>83</sup> to guide ecosystem restoration; a *Capacity, Knowledge and Learning Action Plan for the Decade*<sup>84</sup> based on the results from a global capacity needs assessment;<sup>85</sup> and a platform<sup>86</sup> to document and disseminate good practices integrated into the FERM. Additional information is provided in document COFO/2024/6.3.

### **Report of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) (C 2023/22, para 24) [COAG 28 Item 3.6]**

***Recommendation 55:*** *The Committee endorsed the new GSP Action Framework 2022-2030 Healthy Soils for a healthy life and environment: from promotion to consolidation of Sustainable Soil Management, and encouraged FAO and all GSP members to implement the activities outlined therein, as well as tools and initiatives of the GSP including the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil*

<sup>80</sup> FAO. Action Against Desertification <https://www.fao.org/in-action/action-against-desertification>

<sup>81</sup> FAO. n.d. *Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring*. <https://ferm.fao.org/>

<sup>82</sup> FAO, IUCN CEM and SER. 2021. *Principles for ecosystem restoration to guide the United Nations Decade 2021–2030*. Rome, FAO. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/8bcc26f1-1a1d-42ce-beb6-2db709d779e6>

<sup>83</sup> Nelson., et al. 2024. *Standards of practice to guide ecosystem restoration: A contribution to the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration*. Rome, FAO. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/79174fa7-7cf2-413d-a4e4-6e5369e69394>

<sup>84</sup> Taskforce on Best Practices for the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. 2023. *Capacity, Knowledge and Learning Action Plan for the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration*. Rome, FAO. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/9bc52566-6f88-42e4-b28e-8d38246184a2>

<sup>85</sup> FAO. 2021. *Global capacity needs assessment: Key gaps and capacity priorities for restoration to support the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030*. Rome. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/72dc5555-64eb-49ad-a7b8-87780b6f74c2>

<sup>86</sup> UN FERM. n.d. *FERM Registry*. <https://ferm.fao.org/search/good-practices>

*Management, the International Code of Conduct for the Sustainable Use and Management of Fertilizers, among others, as appropriate.*

**Recommendation 56:** *The Committee taking into account the recommendations made by the 10th GSP Plenary Assembly and its Extraordinary Session regarding the institutionalization of the GSP, recommended FAO to prepare an in-depth analysis of option 5 (establishing a Sub-Committee on Soils and maintaining the GSP in its current structure), working transparently and collaboratively, with the analysis to be submitted to the 11th GSP Plenary Assembly for discussion, and with its recommendations to be provided to the 29th Session of COAG.*

**Recommendation 57:** *The Committee called on Members to contribute actively to the implementation of the GSP activities and development of products.*

105. At the 11th GSP Plenary Assembly held in July 2023,<sup>87</sup> the Kingdom of Thailand suggested to establish a UN Decade on Soil Health and requested the GSP Secretariat to prepare a document for consideration at the 12th Plenary Assembly, held from 3 to 5 June 2024, and further submission for consideration by COAG 29.

106. The Secretariat coordinated the implementation of the new GSP Action Framework 2022-2030. A Working Group was established to develop the Indicator System to report on its implementation. A Global Soil Health Dashboard is being designed to report on progress towards the vision “A world in which soils are healthy and resilient, ensuring the sustained provision of ecosystem functions and services for all, leaving no one behind”. The Secretariat continues to advocate and support the adoption and implementation of the *Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management and the International Code of Conduct for the Sustainable Use and Management of Fertilizers*.

107. The Secretariat launched the *Global Status of Black Soils* report during World Soil Day 2022 to guide further actions under the International Network of Black Soils. Successful case studies and best management practices for black soils are being collected by the International Network on Black Soils (INBS) and several webinars have been organized to share successful experiences and identify policy and technical frameworks that will help conserve these important soils for global food security.

108. In response to the COAG 28 recommendation, an in-depth analysis of the legal and financial implications of maintaining the GSP with all its components and creating a new COAG Sub-Committee on Soils was prepared and submitted for consideration at the 11th GSP Plenary Assembly. After considering the institutional and financial implications included in this analysis, the 11th GSP Plenary Assembly requested further detailed information on the legal, governance, and financial implications<sup>88</sup>. A detailed analysis was presented to the 12th GSP Plenary Assembly<sup>89</sup> that decided to maintain the GSP in its current structure including all its structures and participation of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders and suggested establishing a Working Group to prepare a detailed analysis of the possible mandate and Terms of Reference of the proposed COAG Sub-Committee on Soils and on how it would complement the GSP without duplication. Further information is provided in the document *Report of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) (COAG/2024/9)*.<sup>90</sup>

109. Australia, Germany, the Republic of Korea, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United States of America, the Russian Federation, the European Union, and one private sector partner, PhosAgro, are providing financial support to implement actions under the GSP Action Framework. Several Members are providing in-kind support for the implementation of GSP initiatives and programmes as part of national initiatives or in combination with other projects, e.g. those funded by the Global Environment Facility on Land Degradation Neutrality, Chemicals and Waste, and Food Systems,

<sup>87</sup> FAO. 2023. GSPPA: XI/2023/9. *Progress of the GSP technical networks*.

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/30662349-f082-4209-af3d-fca23102e09a/content>

<sup>88</sup> FAO. 2023. GSPPA: XI/2023/Rep. *Report of the Eleventh Session of the Global Soil Partnership Plenary Assembly*.

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/a428fbd8-41c9-4e89-ae8f-574368811d8a/content>

<sup>89</sup> FAO. 2024. GSPPA: XII/2024/3. *Implications of the establishment of a Sub-Committee on Soils under FAO's Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and maintaining the GSP in its current structure*.

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/bitstreams/2fbb8dc5-1b82-4320-880b-7e3e2f7569a8/download>

<sup>90</sup> COAG/2024/9 <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/21505a80-1f62-4591-922b-b348501f9b11/content>



or by the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Detailed information on the progress made by the GSP is provided in the document *Report of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) (COAG/2024/9)*.<sup>91</sup>

**Action Plan for the implementation of the FAO Strategy on  
Climate Change 2022-2031 (C 2023/22, para 25) [COAG 28 Item 3.7]**

**Recommendation 58:** *The Committee recommended that the Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy clearly sets out FAO's priorities for climate action in the agrifood systems at sectoral level, including for the crops, forests, fisheries and aquaculture, and livestock sectors, and at local, national, regional and global levels, taking into account synergies with work by other relevant UN agencies and international organizations.*

**Recommendation 59:** *The Committee requested FAO to continue to organize open, inclusive, transparent and timely consultation processes, and to take into account the guidance provided by Members in refining and further developing the Action Plan.*

**Recommendation 60:** *The Committee requested FAO to provide regular updates to the Governing Bodies on progress made with the Action Plan, as appropriate.*

110. The Action Plan for the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change for the period 2022–2025 was published in July 2023. It provides modalities to measure progress towards reaching the vision, impact and expected outcomes of the Strategy. It integrates modalities for monitoring and reporting every two years in line with FAO's reporting procedures, the Strategic Framework 2022-31, and its PPAs. The first progress report was submitted to the respective Governing Bodies Sessions as an Annex to the PIR 2022-23 in May 2024.<sup>92</sup> The progress report provides a comprehensive analysis of the contribution of FAO's workplan for 2022–2023 to the different areas of the Action Plan, as well as regional and sectoral highlights of implementation.

111. Thanks to the contributions from FAO Divisions and Decentralized Offices, as well as FAO Members, the Action Plan sets out priorities for climate action in the various sectoral areas of agrifood systems and at the appropriate geographical level, and considers the collaboration and synergies among FAO, Rome-based Agencies and other UN Agencies in addressing climate-related issues linked to agrifood systems, natural resources, food security and nutrition. The modalities set up for monitoring and reporting on the progress in the implementation of the Strategy and its Action Plan have contributed to provide a better overview of the sectoral and regional contributions to FAO's climate action, therefore facilitating its coordination and mainstreaming across FAO.

112. The Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031 has been developed in an inclusive manner with FAO Divisions, FAO Decentralized Offices, and valuable contributions from FAO Members. FAO remains committed to providing regular updates on the implementation to its Members, through the PIR, and in view of the mid-term review and subsequent update of the Action Plan in 2025–2026.

**Development of regional action plans for the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy  
(2022-25) now referred to as the Action Plan 2022-2025 for the Implementation of the  
FAO Science and Innovation Strategy (C 2023/22, para 26) [COAG 28 Item 3.8]**

**Recommendation 61:** *The Committee encouraged FAO to ensure that the regional action plans align with and contribute to the implementation of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031, the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors, and the FAO Strategy for Private Sector Engagement 2021-25, and are aligned and consistent with agreed texts in international fora.*

**Recommendation 62:** *The Committee requested FAO to continue to organize open, inclusive, transparent and timely consultation processes, to take into account the guidance provided by Members*

<sup>91</sup> COAG/2024/9 <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/21505a80-1f62-4591-922b-b348501f9b11/content>

<sup>92</sup> C 2025/8 <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/4de8e6ce-990e-4317-b850-93cb3b4f9cda>

*in refining and further developing the regional action plans, and to ensure the action plans capture actions in the Strategy at all levels – global, regional and country.*

**Recommendation 63:** *The Committee requested FAO to provide Members, as appropriate, with information on the human resources capacity and the financial implications that will be needed for the implementation of the [FAO Science and Innovation] Strategy and the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031 and, in addition, to provide Members with regular updates on progress with the action plans to the Governing Bodies as appropriate.*

113. The high-level framework for the development of regional action plans was used to develop a single action plan that serves as a common framework for action at the global, regional and country levels, responding to guidance from the Programme Committee to include global and inter-regional perspectives for implementation. The final draft Action Plan was shared with Members in January 2023 for their written feedback, following the request of the FAO Council at its 171st Session in December 2022. An update on the implementation of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy was discussed at the 135th Session of the Programme Committee in March 2023.<sup>93</sup> After considering Members' written feedback and guidance from the Programme Committee, the Action Plan 2022–2025 for the Implementation of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy<sup>94</sup> was released in September 2023. The first monitoring report of the Strategy is contained in an Annex to the PIR 2022-23.<sup>95</sup>

114. The FAO Science and Innovation Strategy is being implemented through its Action Plan in a coordinated manner in synergy with FAO's relevant strategic documents and aligns in particular with the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031, the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors and the Strategy for Private Sector Engagement 2022-25. The FAO Strategies on Climate Change and Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors emphasize the importance of science and innovation, while the Science and Innovation Strategy strengthens this work through its Pillars 1 and 2, but also focuses on FAO's capacities to support science and innovation through Pillar 3. Synergies with the Strategy for Private Sector Engagement are two-fold. FAO will engage with private sector knowledge and innovations and harness them to achieve the *four betters*. At the same time, innovative funding and financing – for example through public-private partnerships – is needed to ensure that low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) do not fall behind on harnessing science and innovation, further exacerbating existing divides. This is captured in the Strategy's enabler on innovative funding and financing.

115. FAO Regional Offices are mobilizing resources to implement the regional action plans of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy, as appropriate. In addition, FAO has conducted an analysis on competencies and gaps in human resources in innovation to respond adequately to the needs of Innovation in FAO.

#### **FAO's Programme of Work in the Agrifood Sectors under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 (C 2023/22, para 27) [COAG 28 Item 4.1]**

**Recommendation 64:** *The Committee noted with appreciation the achievements made by FAO to support and advance the food and agriculture sector during the 2020-2021 biennium, invited FAO to address the gaps and incorporate lessons learned during the past biennium, and acknowledged the identified developments and trends that are likely to influence FAO's future work with respect to the food and agriculture sector.*

**Recommendation 65:** *The Committee expressed concern over global food security, as the unfolding war in Ukraine is likely to exacerbate the already severe 2022 acute food insecurity forecasts, given that the*

<sup>93</sup> PC 134/INF/4 and PC 135/INF/5. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/86c60300-8bb0-448d-bd84-9880abf85669/content> and <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/nl208es>

<sup>94</sup> FAO. 2023. *The Action Plan 2022–2025 for the implementation of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy*. Rome. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/1492051a-63c0-4d37-acee-833d96240ccb/content>

<sup>95</sup> *Ibid* <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/4de8e6ce-990e-4317-b850-93cb3b4f9cda>

*repercussions of the war on global food, energy and fertilizer prices and supplies have not yet been factored into most country-level projection analyses.*

**Recommendation 66:** *The Committee recalled the decision and recommendations of the 169th<sup>96</sup> Session of the Council about the impact of the war in Ukraine on global food security and agrifood systems, and stressed the important technical role of FAO in addressing the impacts of the war on global food security and agrifood systems.*

**Recommendation 67:** *The Committee encouraged FAO to maintain its efforts towards a reinvigorated business model to maximize impact at country level, and called on FAO to continue to strengthen its normative and standard setting work.*

116. The Medium Term Plan (Reviewed) 2022-25 and Programme of Work and Budget 2024-25 was endorsed by the FAO Conference in July 2023. As outlined in the document, FAO continues to work to ensure that as “One FAO” it is fit-for-future, including optimizing human and financial capital and ensuring a modern and efficient Decentralized Offices network. FAO perseveres in its work to create an inclusive and agile Organization that is transparent, open, innovative, responsible, effective and impactful, and that serves its Members to achieve the *four betters*. FAO is also improving its data and analytical support to the UN Common Country Analysis (CCA) and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) formulation processes. This ensures a robust diagnosis of agrifood systems, addresses trade-offs, and identifies synergies for the most effective positioning of FAO at the country level. Additionally, the FAO Hand-in-Hand Initiative continues to play a crucial role in accelerating agricultural transformation and sustainable rural development in countries, bringing together all relevant dimensions of agrifood systems through analysis and partnerships.

117. FAO is shifting towards a more forward-looking business model promoting science, technology and innovation. Through the implementation modalities of the Strategic Framework 2022-31, FAO’s analytical, technical, policy and investment capacities are being positioned to deliver better targeted and more impactful results, together with partners, and to bring together normative and project work in an outcome-focused programmatic approach. In the 2024-25 biennium, FAO will continue to leverage its normative strengths and emphasize support for the development and implementation of normative and standard-setting instruments for more efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable agrifood systems. This includes the production of high-quality corporate flagship publications.

118. Concerning the war in Ukraine and its implications for global food security, FAO has provided information and assessments,<sup>97</sup> as well as background documents for the FAO Governing Bodies. The Organization has continued through its regular activities to provide timely data and information, objective assessments, and market outlooks. Products include, among others, the FAO Food Price Index,<sup>98</sup> FAO Cereal Supply and Demand Brief,<sup>99</sup> Food Price Monitoring and Analysis (FPMA) Bulletin, Food Outlook,<sup>100</sup> Crop Prospects and Food Situation,<sup>101</sup> and the OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook.<sup>102</sup> In close partnership with other international organizations, FAO persisted in leading the work of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS),<sup>103</sup> with the regular publication of the AMIS Market Monitor and the organization of thematic webinars. In March 2023, AMIS organized a webinar on “Ukraine One Year Later – The Impact of the War on Agricultural Markets and Food Security”.

<sup>96</sup> Roll call (decision CL169/REP, para. 10-11) vote with total votes cast: 27; votes in favour: 23; votes against: 4; abstentions: 16.

<sup>97</sup> In Focus: FAO response to global food security challenges <https://www.fao.org/in-focus/en>

<sup>98</sup> FAO. n.d. *Food Price Index*. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/foodpricesindex/en/>

<sup>99</sup> FAO. n.d. *Cereal Supply and Demand Brief*. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/csdb/en/>

<sup>100</sup> FAO. n.d. *GIEWS - Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture*. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/giews/reports/food-outlook/en/>

<sup>101</sup> FAO. n.d. *Crop Prospects and Food Situation*. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/giews/reports/crop-prospects/en/>

<sup>102</sup> OECD and FAO. 2023. *OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2023-2032*. Paris, OECD.

<sup>103</sup> AMIS. n.d. *Market Monitor May 2024*. <https://www.amis-outlook.org/home/en/>

119. The 2023 edition of *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World* (SOFI) included an assessment of the war in Ukraine on the medium-term food security outcomes, by group of countries and regions, and projections of the Prevalence of Undernourishment up to 2030 at the global and regional levels, including a scenario in which the war had not occurred. The recently released SOFI 2024 report provides an updated assessments and analysis.<sup>104</sup>

120. FAO has supported the establishment and continuation of the Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI). Following the termination of the Initiative in July 2023, FAO published a brief on the potential implications for global food markets and food security that was published on the dedicated FAO webpage.

121. FAO also participated actively in the Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG) on Food, Energy and Finance, established by the United Nations Secretary-General, with the aim to help policy makers to mobilize solutions to help countries address the interlinked crisis with food, energy and finance. FAO co-led the workstream on food and contributed to the work of the GCRG through technical inputs, data and information, as well as participation in meetings.

122. In February 2024, FAO launched the FAOSTAT Food and Diet Domain<sup>105</sup> to help close data gaps and contribute to better guidance for nutrition-sensitive agrifood systems policies. The Food and Diet Domain is the first centralized location for the sharing of statistics on all forms of dietary-related data. Diets are the core link between food systems and health and nutrition outcomes and policymakers need to ensure that all parts of the food systems work together to deliver nutritious food to enable healthy diets and prevent food insecurity and malnutrition. The platform provides user-friendly statistics on four different types of dietary data, visually accessible through maps, charts and tables.

123. Statistics on global food availability are included,<sup>106</sup> based on FAO's supply utilization accounts (SUA), offering information on food, energy and nutrient supply for 186 countries from 2010 onwards, for the 530 SUA items – including 435 crop and livestock items. Figures are now available for the supply of energy, protein, fat, carbohydrates, fibre, calcium, iron, magnesium, zinc, phosphorous, potassium, thiamin, riboflavin, vitamin C, vitamin A. Statistics are also provided for household and individual level dietary surveys. The domain will be further populated with additional statistics as more data becomes available and are processed for inclusion. Further details are provided in the document COAG/2024/13.<sup>107</sup>

### **Implementation of the recommendations of the 27th Session of the Committee (C 2023/22, para 28) [COAG 28 Item 4.2]**

**Recommendation 68:** *The Committee encouraged FAO to staff its country and regional offices, according to specific needs, to be able to support Members towards achieving the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.*

**Recommendation 69:** *The Committee commended the work of the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG) in dealing with water scarcity in agriculture, and encouraged FAO to step up its work in the interactive platform and toolbox to support Members while also making use of South-South and Triangular Cooperation in FAO.*

**Recommendation 70:** *The Committee recognizing the importance of reporting on COAG recommendations, invited FAO to continue to take actions in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to report regularly to the Committee and to Members.*

124. In order to ensure FAO's country presence is optimally positioned to support national sustainable development priorities, FAO has developed proposed models for country office staffing and resources

<sup>104</sup> FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2024. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024 – Financing to end hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd1254en>

<sup>105</sup> FAO. 2024. *Launch event: New data domain on food and diet*. FAO. [Cited 8 May 2024].

<https://www.fao.org/statistics/events-detail/launch-event--new-faostat-data-domain-on-food-and-diet/en>

<sup>106</sup> FAO. (n.d.). *FAOSTAT*. FAO. [Cited 8 May 2024]. [www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/SUA](http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/SUA).

<sup>107</sup> COAG/2024/13 <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/36392da8-f41f-43a9-8d5b-2a2d529115e7/content>

tailored to countries' specific needs and contexts, guided by principles of flexibility, efficiency and strengthened capacity. FAO is pursuing a transparent process of consultation with Members on these proposals, including discussions during the Regional Conferences 2024 and planned country-level consultations with full engagement of Members.

125. Updates on WASAG are provided in document COAG/2024/INF/8 “*Update on the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG)*”<sup>108</sup> and COAG/2024/7 “*Integrated water resources management and governance of tenure of water resources for food and agriculture*”, and in paragraph 90 of this report.

126. In line with COAG recommendations, FAO provides continued reporting and information on key activities, including regular reporting to the COAG Bureau during the intersessional period, discussion and information documents for COAG 29, as well as a wide range of publications and updates relating to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### **Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Committee (MYPOW) (C 2023/22, para 29) [COAG 28 Item 4.3]**

**Recommendation 71:** *The Committee emphasized the role of the COAG within the areas of its competence in monitoring and analysing the impacts of crises and conflicts, recalled the decisions and recommendations of the 169th<sup>109</sup> and 170th Sessions of the Council about impacts of the war in Ukraine on global food security and agrifood systems and stressed the important role of FAO in addressing impacts of the war on global food security and agrifood systems, and recommended FAO to continue paying full attention to the ongoing global impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on agrifood systems and multidimensional food security and nutritional challenges posed by climate change, biodiversity loss and conflicts and other causes.*

**Recommendation 72:** *The Committee suggested that the Committee consider inputs from the Regional Conferences, aligned to the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, during its 29th Session.*

**Recommendation 73:** *The Committee approved the MYPOW 2022-2025.*

127. As detailed in the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) document COAG/2024/4,<sup>110</sup> the development of the provisional agenda for the COAG 29<sup>th</sup> Session was also informed by the outcomes of the 2024 Regional Conferences. Furthermore, FAO facilitated intersessional activities described in the MYPOW, including regular Bureau meetings and collaboration with other Technical Committees, providing further opportunities to integrate regional insights into COAG deliberations.

128. Updates on FAO’s work on the global food crisis have been provided at the Council 171st Session<sup>111</sup> and 172nd Sessions.<sup>112</sup> Further to the Council documents CL 171/3 and CL 172/5, an update was provided to the 174th Session of the Council through document CL 174/4 on “*Global food security challenges and its drivers*”,<sup>113</sup> which provided an update on the global food security situation and discussed the drivers and threats. The document also included a section on the impacts of the war in Ukraine and a section on the food security situation in Gaza. Furthermore, FAO continued monitoring developments on international commodity markets, providing timely data and information, and conducting and publishing assessments of the impacts of crises. A further update was provided at the 175th Session of Council<sup>114</sup> in June 2024.

<sup>108</sup> COAG/2024/INF/8 <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/1af41844-b719-45ae-80c1-f2bb2102f438/content>

<sup>109</sup> Roll call (decision-CL169 REP, para.10-11) vote with total votes cast: 27; votes in favour: 23; votes against: 4; abstentions: 16.

<sup>110</sup> COAG/2024/4 <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/6bdea4df-6da3-4ea5-ac41-4ba974c5b5c4/content>

<sup>111</sup> CL171/3 <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/328126a8-3952-45de-985d-0e8080cbc4a6/content>

<sup>112</sup> CL172/5 <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/9bb7d35b-91c8-47fb-82c2-93a032713e69>

<sup>113</sup> CL 174/4 <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/fb74f426-787e-409a-bf3e-68b9ed2d4b86/content>

<sup>114</sup> CL 175/4 <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/2aa51afe-226e-40a1-8e9e-90a262dac36b/content>

129. The crisis of climate change combined with the persistent challenges of food insecurity and malnutrition are interrelated threats to sustainable development. FAO continues to advance evidence and knowledge on the potential for policy, programme and investments that enable healthy diets for better nutrition to support the achievement of climate mitigation and adaptation goals. Working with WHO and other partners, FAO has led support to the COP27 Presidency's flagship global *Initiative on Climate Action and Nutrition* (I-CAN), which aims to catalyze, mobilize, connect and advocate for integrated climate and nutrition action. In support to I-CAN, FAO launched the publication *Climate Action and Nutrition - Pathways to Impact*,<sup>115</sup> which reviewed the evidence of integrated action for improving both climate- and nutrition-relevant outcomes and outlined response options with evidence of this dual benefit at CFS 51. It provides a menu of initiatives to realize the goals defined in the FAO document *Achieving SDG2 without breaching the 1.5C threshold: A global roadmap, Part 1*.<sup>116</sup> In efforts to increase stable financing toward integrated actions, FAO also published *A guidance note to enhance nutrition sensitivity in Global Environment Facility investments and programming*.<sup>117</sup> FAO has also supported a number of countries with technical expertise in updating their food-based dietary guidelines to include aspects of environmental, social and economic sustainability.

130. In October 2023, FAO published a flagship report entitled *The impact of disasters on agriculture and food security*,<sup>118</sup> estimating losses caused by disasters on agricultural production over the past three decades and examines the diverse threats and impacts affecting the crops, livestock, forestry, and fisheries and aquaculture subsectors. It analyzes the complex interplay of underlying risks, such as conflicts, climate change, pandemics and epidemics, and how they drive disaster risk in agriculture and agrifood systems and provides examples of actions and strategies for investing in resilience and proactively addressing risks in agriculture.

131. FAO has contributed to the production of the 2024 Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC),<sup>119</sup> a flagship publication produced by the Food Security Information Network (FSIN), providing estimates of people facing acute food insecurity and malnutrition in countries with crises and analyzing the drivers. The 2023 edition of the GRFC showed that conflict and insecurity were the most significant drivers of acute food insecurity in crisis-prone countries. Other drivers included economic shocks and weather extremes. In addition, FAO, jointly with WFP, publishes the FAO-WFP Hunger Hotspots report three times a year, providing a forward-looking, early warning analysis of countries/territories and situations, where acute food insecurity is likely to deteriorate over the coming months.

132. Under the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (GIEWS), FAO monitors the food security situation at country and regional levels and issues special updates and alerts on particular food supply difficulties. GIEWS also publishes the Crop Prospects and Food Situation report three times a year, which includes the list of countries requiring external food assistance for food and a description of the main drivers of food insecurity.

#### **Proposal for an International Day of Potato (C 2023/22, para 30) [COAG 28 Item 4.4]**

**Recommendation 74:** *The Committee endorsed the draft Conference Resolution for the observance of the IDP, as contained in Appendix D.*

**Recommendation 75:** *The Committee invited the Council at its 171st Session and Conference at its 43rd Session to approve the draft Conference Resolution.*

133. The FAO Council at its 171st Session reviewed and endorsed the Report of the 28th COAG Session, including the proposal to establish an International Day of Potato (IDP). The 43rd Session of the

<sup>115</sup> FAO. 2023. *Climate action and nutrition – Pathways to impact*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc8415en>

<sup>116</sup> FAO. 2023. *Achieving SDG 2 without breaching the 1.5 °C threshold: A global roadmap, Part 1 – How agrifood systems transformation through accelerated climate actions will help achieving food security and nutrition, today and tomorrow*, In brief. Rome. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/b86cd543-e8ca-4e95-b5d2-06ea6af23842>

<sup>117</sup> FAO. 2023. *A guidance note to enhance nutrition sensitivity in Global Environment Facility (GEF) investments and programming*. Rome. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/61f70626-2dd1-4143-98e9-6a5659ecdeb3>

<sup>118</sup> FAO. 2023. *The Impact of Disasters on Agriculture and Food Security 2023 – Avoiding and reducing losses through investment in resilience*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc7900en>

<sup>119</sup> FSIN and Global Network Against Food Crises. 2024. GRFC 2024. Rome. <https://www.fsinplatform.org/grfc2024>

FAO Conference (July 2023) adopted Resolution 3/2023 for the observance of the International Day of Potato.<sup>120</sup> On 8 December 2023, the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) reviewed and adopted the resolution A/RES/78/123 to establish an annual International Day of Potato.

134. The first observance of the IDP was held on 30 May 2024, at FAO headquarters, jointly with Members and partners supporting the event, and in several other countries worldwide, attracting a high level of participation and engagement.

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<sup>120</sup> C 2023/REP, Appendix C <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/f1f7c772-8139-4931-ac88-12dc5f927220/content>