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Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

TWENTY-FIFTH REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

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REPORT ON FAO ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION 2006-2007 WITH A FOCUS ON THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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ANNEX

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Ten years after the 1996 Rome World Food Summit (WFS), the number of undernourished people in the world remains persistently high. Little progress has been made towards the WFS target and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of halving the number of undernourished people by 2015. FAO estimates that attaining these goals in the developing countries by 2015 will require a reduction of 31 million undernourished people per year. Africa in particular, needs to boost efforts to accelerate development and poverty reduction, and promote agricultural growth. The 24th FAO Regional Conference for Africa (ARC), held early 2006 in Bamako, Mali identified critical needs, including training in the areas of food security, which were endorsed by Member Countries in December 2006 during the Abuja Summit on Food Security. The current report provides again an opportunity for collective reflection on progress made for the achievement of the MDGs.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 24th ARC RECOMMENDATIONS

2. The 24th ARC recommended for the attention of FAO the following:

- Extend to the whole continent the support provided in relation to the Avian Influenza (AI) crisis.
- Carry out an assessment of what needs to be done to promote trade within Africa and, in consultation with specialized institutions, contribute to the organization of training in financing.
- Support efforts by Member States and Regional Economic Groupings to develop intra and inter-regional trade in food products, particularly from food surplus to deficit zones.
- Play an active role in: (i) Capacity building to strengthen skills on international trade standards in order to enhance access to markets; (ii) Analyzing in which commodities member countries have competitive and comparative advantages and (iii) Studies to develop common agricultural policies in the Regional Economic Communities (RECs).
- Develop with Member States, an action plan with clear indications of detailed activities, timeframes and allocation of responsibilities for the aggressive promotion of the use of improved seeds by farmers.
- Pursue efforts and support in fire control at different levels.
- Pursue with relevant partners, work on studying and documenting the impacts of fire on carbon emissions and climate changes (improve understanding and knowledge).
- Assist in strengthening the capacity of the African Union Commission (AUC) in order to improve coordination of food security initiatives.
- Contribute towards reinforcing the capacity of farmer organizations to defend their land rights (information, training and experience-exchange programmes).
- Adopt the right to food sovereignty as a right to be defended.
- Put in place an effective programme for developing a multiparty partnership against hunger.
- Put in place a more effective mechanism for partnership with civil society, notably through reinforcement of the operating capacity of the FAO/NGO/CSO unit at different levels.

The actions taken by FAO on these recommendations are summarized below:

3. Most African countries have received FAO support in relation to HPAI H5N1 since 2006, notably in training for emergency preparedness, the use of diagnostic kits and personal protective equipment. Furthermore, FAO established a Crisis Management Centre and an Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) in Rome and is, in collaboration with OIE and AU-IBAR, setting up several Regional Animal Health Centres to enhance the management of animal disease emergency.
4. FAO prepared a paper on “Enhancing intra-African Trade for Food Security” (mid-2006) and organized a Meeting of African Ministers for Agriculture in November 2006, in Libreville, Gabon, which discussed factors that should promote intra-African trade.
5. FAO, in collaboration with the AUC, is currently conducting an analysis of constraints to intra-African trade in basic food products.
6. Moreover, FAO is implementing in several countries in West and Central Africa, an organic and fair trade project for increasing incomes and food security of small farmers.
7. FAO has undertaken/initiated actions aimed at:
 - Facilitating farmers access to improved seed suited to their agro-ecological conditions through sub-regional activities of the African Seed and Biotechnology Programme.
 - Harmonizing rules and regulations to strengthen the seed system in West Africa in collaboration with international institutions and relevant stakeholders.
 - Assisting several African countries to develop and implement national seed policy and regulations and to strengthen national seed systems.
8. Concerning support to bush fire control, the following actions have been taken:
 - Production and publication of a Fire Management Working Paper,
 - Fire management capacity building projects (Botswana, Cape Verde, Zimbabwe),
 - Animating the Regional Fire Management Networks –AFRINET,
 - Establishment of the Fire Management Actions Alliance
9. FAO collaborates with the AUC in evaluating the process of harmonizing the trade policy in basic food product for the RECs, while similar work is being carried out in collaboration with the CEN SAD.
10. FAO also supports the AUC’s efforts for implementing the December 2006 Abuja Summit’s recommendations, including the preparation of an Action Plan highlighting trade promotion activities along the line of value-chains for each of the strategic commodities identified.
11. Upon invitation by FAO, civil society groups discussed the right to food during a side event on World Food Day 2007.

12. FAO, UNDP, and UNCTAD are currently preparing a project to support the database and information technology for COMESA member countries to identify shortage and surplus of basic food in the sub-region.

13. FAO continued to provide staffing support to the NEPAD Secretariat for coordinating the implementation of the CAADP action plan. Furthermore, the multidisciplinary technical team of the recently created FAO Sub-regional Office for East Africa in Addis Ababa provides direct technical support to the AUC food security initiatives.

III. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTED AND ON-GOING PROGRAMME OF WORK 2006-2007

a. Natural Resources Management and Environment

14. In relation to MDGs, particularly MDG1¹ and MDG2², Special Programmes on Food Security (SPFS) were formulated and implemented, which resulted in National Programmes on Food Security (NPFS) so far being carried out in 4 countries³ with emphasis on small-scale water control schemes and diversification of agricultural production. A joint FAO, AfDB, IFAD, IWMI and World Bank study on Investment in agricultural water for poverty reduction and economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa was validated by a regional seminar which called for a re-engagement in agricultural water management. An ongoing study aims to describe linkages among water development, rural poverty and livelihoods, and the potential for improving livelihoods by investing in agricultural water use. An assessment of economic and environmental sustainability of irrigation practices in Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture (UPA) was carried out in Ghana, Benin and Burkina Faso. Guidelines for sustainable inland valley development in Sub-Saharan Africa have been drafted. The implementation of capacity building for irrigation development under Japanese funding is underway in 14 East, West, Central and Southern African countries and assistance was provided for the formulation of irrigation policies and strategies in Ghana, Tanzania and Zambia.

15. The promotion of conservation agriculture continues in several countries including Ghana, Kenya and Lesotho. The formulation of Country Strategic Investment Framework for sustainable land management has been planned or ongoing in five countries⁴ in the framework of TerrAfrica.

16. Assistance was provided to the African Soil Science Society and the Regional Association for Irrigation and Drainage (RAID/ARID) in West and Central Africa to enhance technical networking. FAO sponsored the second African Regional Conference of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) held in South Africa in November 2007.

17. FAO has been able to mobilize funding and assist national programmes to build, through a multi-holder participatory approach, national information-sharing mechanisms

¹ Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

² Achieve universal primary education

³ Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Nigeria,

⁴ Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Uganda, etc.

addressing *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation as well as utilization efforts undertaken during the last 12 years within the framework of the *Global Plan of Action on Plant Genetic Resources (PGRFA)*.

b. Research and Extension

18. In support of FAO's commitment to assist member countries during the biennium 2006-2007 to attain MDG1⁵ and MDG7⁶, technical assistance was provided to member countries for:

- Strengthening National Agricultural Research and Extension Systems (NARES) in research and extension policy and planning, human resources development, institutional set-up, technology transfer and improvement of linkages between research, extension and farmers;
- The formulation of the Framework for Africa Agricultural Productivity (FAAP) and the continuing cooperation with the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA);
- The rehabilitation of the national research systems, the development of human resources and the improvement of research facilities, in 5 countries⁷;
- The reform of the national extension systems and the improvement of national capacities for the provision of extension services⁸. In Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda a rural knowledge network is being established with support from IFAD. In Kenya and Mozambique, assistance has been provided to integrate the Farmer Field School (FFS) approach into the national extension system.
- The formulation of national policies in biotechnology and strengthening of national biosafety systems;
- Building national capacities for the safe application of biotechnology;
- The formulation of national policies of communication for development including support to community-based, interactive rural radio schemes.

c. Plant Production and Protection

19. FAO has continued to support pilot participatory field activities, to introduce and develop Integrated Production Systems, to enhance production, transformation and marketing of agricultural products, through the adoption of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs). In this connection, urban and peri-urban agriculture strategies are being promoted to integrate horticulture, small livestock and aquaculture activities, as well as training and demonstration for micro-garden technologies. Through a partnership with FARA, work on GAPs is to be scaled up in Burkina Faso and then shared across the region. FAO support to the implementation of the Global Cassava Development Strategy continued in several countries⁹ in West and Central Africa). A number of traditional and

⁵ MDG1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

⁶ MDG7: Ensure environmental sustainability

⁷ DRC, Eritrea, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal

⁸ (Egypt, Morocco, South Africa and Sudan)

⁹ Senegal, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Congo and Democratic Republic of Congo.

non-traditional data producing countries have been supported in efforts to improve or develop their national date palm sectors. FAO has been involved in partnership with other international institutions in supporting the development of a regional cooperation initiative on date palm for the Sahelian region.

20. In an effort to increase national and institutional capabilities for better use of plant genetic resources, so far 21 African Member States¹⁰ have participated in the global survey in plant breeding and biotechnology, contributing directly to the Global Capacity Building Partnership Initiative.

21. Following the request of the AUC to build an Africa-wide seed and biotechnology program, FAO has developed, through a wide consultation process, the African Seed and Biotechnology Programme (ASBP), to provide a strategic and coordinated approach for the comprehensive development of the seed sector in Africa.

22. FAO has supported actively the harmonization of seed rules and regulations in West Africa through workshops involving private and public sector experts as well as efforts on creating concrete linkage between research, extension service and farmers.

23. As part of its Crop Protection Programme, a project (GCP/RAF/009/NET) on Integrated Production, Pest and Pollution Management (IPPM) through Farmer Field Schools (FFS) began in June 2006, benefiting four countries¹¹ (US\$9.5millions). Other IPPM /FFS programmes included the GCP/RAF/399 in Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya.

24. A TCP on Banana wilt was also established to strengthen farming communities' capacities in disease management and control through FFS in five districts in Uganda. A Technical workshop on the "Potential and prevention of spread of Ug99 wheat stem rust strain" was organized in March 2007. FAO has engaged in a cooperation with ICARDA and CIMMYT on project proposals for funding to cover regions already affected by Ug99 or at risk, as well as in the coconut lethal yellowing, the fruit fly problem and for Striga control.

25. As part of FAO's programme to build Member States' capacity to establish and strengthen phytosanitary systems, workshops were hosted in Nairobi on biosecurity, pest risk analysis and reviewing the draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs). A special programme was held in Nairobi to build a cadre of professionals to support the programme in the field. Within the biosecurity framework, the national regulatory system of Tanzania was strengthened.

26. Two workshops were held involving 12 countries to promote the ratification and implementation of the Rotterdam Convention. Collaboration with the nine member countries of the Sahelian Pesticides Committee (CSP) was further strengthened through two meetings with the Designated National Authorities (DNAs) in view to share experience and seek solutions to common challenges in the implementation of the Convention.

¹⁰ Algeria, Angola, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe

¹¹ Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal

27. In support of the Africa Stockpiles Programme for the elimination and prevention of obsolete pesticides which became operational in September 2005, FAO assisted 9 countries¹² to initiate projects, especially for repacking and removal of high risk obsolete pesticides. Cooperation with the Sahelian Pesticides Committee (CSP) continued with two meetings convened along with follow-up visits to 4 member countries.

d. Animal Production and Health

28. The appearance for the first time of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) on the continent of Africa in February 2006 in Nigeria considerably shifted the focus of FAO's efforts to the fight of TADs in Africa, as well as in other regions. The threat of Avian Influenza (AI) to human health, which could take pandemic proportions, necessitates effective control/elimination of HPAI at source, "*in the animal*". FAO, singly and in collaboration with sister UN Agencies and other development partners has had to move quickly to provide assistance to member countries. To date, the disease has been recorded in nine African countries. The socio-economic losses to farmers and national governments are tremendous. Human life has also been lost. Response and co-operation of the international community have been substantial.

29. FAO has been at the forefront of international efforts and mobilization to fight the HPAI H5N1 virus. The December 2006 ministerial conference in Bamako, Mali, resulted in the pledging of US\$ 476 million, in addition to US\$ 1.9 billion already pledged at the first donor conference in Beijing, China in January 2006. Through their own efforts and/or with support from the global donor community, most countries with HPAI H5N1 outbreaks have been able to stop the epidemic in its tracks, with a combination of culling, cleaning and disinfection, together with controls on the movement of animals and products, and vaccination where appropriate. In spite of these major successes, HPAI H5N1 poses a continuing threat to animal and human health, and international mobilization to fight it should continue, quite likely for years. This would require sustained political commitment, adequate funding, and strong international partnerships.

30. FAO continues to support control of other major TADs in the Region such as Rift Valley Fever (RVF) which, in 2006, severely disrupted livestock trade in the horn of Africa, and animal trypanosomiasis, in partnership with PATTEC/AU-IBAR and the AfDB. In order to strengthen its emergency management capacity, FAO has established a Crisis Management Centre, an Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases, based in Rome and is, in collaboration with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the African Union's Inter-African Bureau on Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), establishing several Regional Animal Health Centres (RAHC).

e. Rural Infrastructure and Agro-industries

31. FAO provided support to national capacity building, policy and strategy formulation to foster competitive agro-industries, enhance farmer income and livelihoods, and develop rural infrastructure. The achievements during 2006-2007 included:

¹² Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mali Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia

- Country appraisals of enabling environments for agro-industry and agribusiness development in 5 countries¹³; a regional workshop for comparative appraisal was held in Accra, October 2007;
- As part of the Comprehensive Assessment of the Agricultural Sector in Liberia, specified the role and potential of agro-processing in the commodity value chains, leading to income generation, employment and food security for smallholders;
- Completion of the project "Industrial Development of Sorghum Malt and its Utilization in the Food Industries in Nigeria and Ghana".
- Preparation of the module of a technical assistance project to strengthen the new Department for Agribusiness, Market Development and Agricultural Information of the Ministry of Agriculture of Kenya;
- Formulation of the Agro-processing and Post-harvest Components of the National Special Programmes for Food Security in Ghana and Nigeria;
- Formulation of projects for capacity building and direct sector support in agro-industries in Sao Tome & Principe.
- Regional workshop organized in Zambia to support networking and learning on enterprise and value chain development approaches;
- Formulation of national policies, strategies and project profiles on agro-processing, marketing, and agrifood chain approach in Namibia and Botswana;
- Sub regional workshop to support to the establishment of a network of Horticulture produce exporters in eastern and southern Africa;
- With the University of Pretoria, South Africa, development of a training programme on horticultural chain management tailored to eastern and southern African countries;
- Technical support in agro-processing, post-harvest management and equipment/implement provision in 4 countries¹⁴.
- Jointly with UNIDO an Expert Group Meeting organized on agricultural mechanization in Africa.

f. Nutrition and Consumer Protection

32. The main activities implemented during the period were:

- Preparation of harmonized regulations covering food safety, animal and plant health for UEMOA member countries; including two workshops organized in Dakar and Lomé in 2006 and one training course in July 2007, in Ouagadougou.
- Development of an African Regional Nutrition Strategy under the leadership of the AUC, in collaboration with the NEPAD Secretariat and its subsequent translation into practical action plans in the Region.
- Formulation and technical backstopping of projects in Nutrition Education and Communication in 9 countries¹⁵.
- Quality and safety improvement for food safety in sectors (fisheries, crops, rationalization of laboratories) and operations in Ghana.

¹³ Gambia, Ghana, , Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania

¹⁴ Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Sudan and Togo

¹⁵ Ethiopia, Gambia, Lesotho, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, and Zambia

- Training and technical assistance for the adaptation, use, analysis and interpretation of simple household food and nutrition security monitoring tools (Dietary Diversity Questionnaire and Household Food Insecurity Access Scale) to 5 countries¹⁶, with EU support.
- Capacity building and awareness raising in East Africa and Burkina Faso for integrated natural resource governance and management support to food quality and safety and Codex related work and guidelines, advice and instruments related to small-scale/artisanal fisheries.
- With support from the Codex Trust Fund, regional training in Rabat, Morocco in January 2007.
- Sub-regional training of trainers' course on the application of good hygiene practices throughout the coffee chain in Zambia, in July 2006, with participants from 4 countries¹⁷.
- Presentation on the Right to Food and Nutrition in Johannesburg, on World Food Day 2006 and a joint AGN/ESA/MRC workshop in Cape town, on the development of a human-rights based textbook for community nutritionists and dieticians.
- Workshop on the Application of HACCP in Small and Less Developed Food Businesses in Gaborone, Botswana with participants from 6 countries¹⁸.
- In collaboration with the University of Pretoria, a sub-regional workshop on Capacity Development to Improve Safety and Quality in Fresh Fruits and Vegetables in Pretoria, in February 2007.
- Regional training workshop on integrated approach to food safety, animal health and plant health (biosecurity) in Accra, Ghana in May/June 2007.
- Support to ECOWAS for the 10th Nutrition Forum, Mindelo, Cape Verde, in September 2006 and to the ECOWAS/Bioversity International workshop on Agriculture/health partnerships for the promotion of local foods, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in September 2007.

g. Economic and Social Development

33. FAO continued to support member countries' efforts to develop and strengthen capacities in agricultural and rural statistics, standardize agricultural statistics.

34. FAO prepared and published a consolidated Statistical Yearbook (2 Volumes). A similar African Year Book is planned for 2008. FAO has completed a comprehensive review and modernisation of its World Database on Agriculture, FAOSTAT, and developed a country specific version CountrySTAT. Furthermore, the Organisation has developed the new World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2010 with a new integrated and modular approach.

35. During 2006-2007, several meetings and training workshops, including the round table meeting on the "World Program for the Census of Agriculture 2010", training

¹⁶ Burkina Faso, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique and Somalia

¹⁷ Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe

¹⁸ Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe

workshops on CountrySTAT for the benefit of pilot countries¹⁹ and regions (e.g. UEMOA), etc. were organized.

36. Continued assistance was offered for strengthening of early warning and food security information systems in member countries and sub-regional institutions in the context of building national FIVIMS. Within this framework, FAO in collaboration with the AUC and the EU conducted an evaluation of current Early Warning Systems (EWS) on food security in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2006. The evaluation examined strengths and weaknesses of EWS and issued recommendations on measures required to reinforce these systems so as to improve decision making at national and regional levels.

37. In relation to trade and markets, the major activities carried out include the following:

- a. Technical support to member countries within the context of WTO and EPA negotiations:
 - Two capacity building workshops in multilateral and bilateral trade negotiations, in Nairobi for Eastern and Southern African countries, and in Accra for West and Central African countries;
 - Training of selected African countries to identify “special and sensitive products” within the context of WTO and EPA negotiations;
 - Cases studies on “Import Surges” and technical capacity building in member countries to identify “Import Surges”;
 - Training workshop on Market Access for Eastern and Southern Africa within the context for Aid for Trade in Nairobi, in collaboration with the Japanese External Trade Organization.
- b. Project implementation in collaboration with the AUC: Common Market for Africa
 - Assistance to Africa Union for the establishment of a common market for basic food products – Phase II

h. Gender, Equity and Rural Employment

38. FAO’s continued support to Member Countries²⁰ to enhance the availability sex-disaggregated agricultural data has clearly started to bear fruits with the publication of the first thematic census reports entitled “Gender profile of the agricultural sector”²¹ and the numerous requests for technical assistance to increase the collection of such data in the 2010 round of the World Census of Agriculture (2006 – 2015). Statistical tools have been prepared facilitating the collection sex-disaggregated data and the analysis of intra-household gender relations based on lessons learned from technical assistance provided during the previous decade of agricultural censuses.

¹⁹ Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Tanzania, Togo, etc.

²⁰ Cape Verde, Mozambique, Niger, Tanzania, Uganda, Swaziland and Zambia.

²¹ Cape Verde, Niger, Tanzania

39. The impact of HIV/AIDS is clearly felt in the most African countries with high HIV prevalence. Their agricultural labour force is being reduced because of HIV/AIDS related morbidity and mortality and agricultural production and productivity are declining as resources are being shifted from productive investments to medical care and funerals. For most rural folk with limited access to anti-retroviral drugs, good nutrition is the only possibility for fending-off opportunistic diseases. FAO continues to be a key stakeholder in the multi-sectoral response to HIV/AIDS both at country and internal level.

40. FAO facilitated the establishment of the Sustainable Agriculture Rural Development (SARD) Initiative launched as a new partnership initiative at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002) and developed a “SARD Initiative Good Practices Database” (2006) containing 32 examples from Africa. To document, replicate and upscale good practices, a “Guide for identifying, assessing, and sharing and up-scaling SARD good practices” was prepared, tested, and translated (2006). The linkages between Good Agricultural Practice codes and standards for food safety and quality and improved conditions of employment and other social standards in agriculture are being analyzed in Kenya and Uganda.

i. Knowledge Exchange and Communication

41. In collaboration with the AUC and European Commission, FAO conducted an assessment of national and regional EWS in selected countries of CILSS²², IGAD²³ and SADC²⁴ and provided a list of recommended actions to the AUC for strengthening these systems for improved decision-making at national and regional levels. The Organization also collaborated with regional and sub-regional organizations to support the development of national institutional networks for the exchange of scientific and technical information, including FARA, ASARECA, CORAF, and SADC, taking up membership of steering groups, providing technical advice, and organizing joint training events. Support was also provided directly to institutions involved in national networking activities in 5 countries²⁵. Furthermore, FAO supported several regional and national training activities associated with the AGORA (Access to Global Online Research in Africa) initiative.

j. Fisheries and Aquaculture

42. During the period under review, the main fisheries and aquaculture-related activities undertaken in the Region were as follows:

- Assistance to artisanal fisheries in 25 countries in West and Central Africa through the Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme;
- Assistance to improve national fishery statistical systems through Fishcode-STF led regional workshop for countries of Gulf of Guinea;

²²CILSS: Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Niger

²³IGAD: Eritrea, Ethiopia and Kenya

²⁴SADC: Angola, Namibia and Zambia

²⁵ Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Uganda

- Development of a project on the management and development of fisheries for African coastal member countries of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF);
- Organisation of statutory meetings of 18th Session of the CECAF; 5th session of the Scientific Sub-Committee of CECAF and its three working groups; and the 14th session of the Committee for the Inland Fisheries of Africa (CIFA); the 2nd and 3rd Session of the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC), the 1st and 2nd Session of its Scientific Committee, and its working group on fisheries statistics;
- Endorsement by 27th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) of SPADA: the Special Programme for Aquaculture Development in Africa;
- Assisted six countries in the central area of the Gulf of Guinea to set up a fisheries management committee with its headquarters in Accra, Ghana; assistance also to seven countries in the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC) based in Dakar;
- Assisted the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization to establish a Regional Plan of Action to reduce fishing capacity on Lake Victoria and through the Technical Co-operation Programme to expand its aquaculture programme;
- Assisted countries set up National Plans of Action against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and related regional monitoring, control and surveillance initiatives;
- Supported the strengthening of INFOPECHE and INFOSA to enable them to assist the fish industry in fish utilization, marketing and trade;
- Supported the active participation of African fish safety experts to the FAO/UNIDO/IAFI World Seafood Congress held in Dublin, Ireland;
- Undertook approval and pre-implementation arrangements for support to the six countries sharing the Volta Basin in the development of a programme to supply and monitor improved culture organisms;
- Organized aquaculture technical meetings in the Region, including the workshop on setting up the African Aquaculture Network and fish culture techniques; on safety at sea for artisanal and small-scale fishers; on ecosystem approaches to fisheries management, and reduction of fishing impact on vulnerable species.
- Responded to requests from member nations on elaboration of aquaculture development strategies, fisheries sector assessment, policies and action plans; and assistance in activities on the adoption of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries;
- Collaborated with the AUC on a strategic partnership for a sustainable fisheries investment fund in Sub-Saharan Africa and a regional workshop on fisheries access agreements;

k. Forestry

43. The main forestry-related activities undertaken in the Region were as follows during the period under review:

- a. The 15th Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC) and the 16th Session of the Working Party on the Management of Wildlife and Protected Areas were held in Maputo, Mozambique, in 2006, together with a regional workshop and several side events.

- b. Two inter-sessional meetings of the Bureau of the AFWC were held in Accra (November 2006), and in Rabat, Morocco (July 2007) jointly with the Bureau meeting of the Near East Forestry Commission (NEFC).
- c. The above statutory meetings led to the identification of the following broad priorities for the FAO forestry programme in the Region:
- Food insecurity and poverty (enhancing the role of forests in food security and the mitigation of poverty impacts);
 - Deforestation and Degradation of Natural Resources (Promote effective policies and strategies to decrease deforestation and promote sound rehabilitation programmes);
 - Capacity building (support decentralization and devolution processes, promote multi-stakeholders partnerships, improve awareness and knowledge and capitalizing on traditional knowledge);
 - Regional Cooperation and integration (Enhance capacities of sub-regional and regional organizations, networks and initiatives).
- d. The National Forest Programme (NFP) Facility, hosted by FAO, has increased its support to new partners in Africa. Benin, Burkina Faso, Sao Tome & Principe and Sierra Leone, are few of the new partners just added.
- e. Human-Wildlife Conflict studies have been undertaken and a flagship FAO manual on the issue is being prepared.
- f. A regional action plan was drafted to harmonize strategies for addressing the bushmeat crisis; a website was developed to facilitate the dissemination of information on the subject; and FAO continued its support to ICRAF for the production of a bulletin on agro-forestry and rural development in the Sahel.

I. Policy Assistance

44. Policy assistance provided during the period included the following: Preparation of a Comprehensive Assessment of the Agriculture sector and a Food and Agriculture Policy (Liberia); Project document for preparing a Post-crisis agricultural development strategy (Cote d'Ivoire); National validation and draft policy framework for the Agricultural and Natural Resources Sector (Gambia); Formulation of an Agricultural Development Policy-Vision 2015 (Guinea); Formulation of a Monitoring and Evaluation System for the Agricultural Sector (Botswana and Burundi); Studies of agricultural pricing and marketing policy options (Zimbabwe); Preparation of a Country Policy Note, a Country Assistance Framework, and value chain analysis for several food crops (DR Congo).
45. In the context of the National Medium-Term Priority Framework (NMTPF), support was provided to some 18 African countries, including 6 countries with draft documents at the final endorsement stage and 12 countries engaged at various stages of the process.
46. Assistance to RECs covered the following: preparation of a programme document for the formulation of the SADC Common Agricultural Policy; promoting trade and

investment synergies between South Africa and other SADC countries; support to the finalisation of CEMAC Common Agricultural Development Strategy in Central Africa; and to the Implementation of the UEMOA Regional Programme for Food Security (RPFS).

47. At the continental level, FAO prepared the 24th ARC held in Mali in 2006, in parallel with an African Union Conference of Ministers of Agriculture. The FAO/AUC collaboration continued through the joint preparation of the Libreville November 2006 Ministerial Meeting on intra-African trade and the December 2006 Abuja Food Security Summit.

m. Investment Centre

48. FAO's Investment Centre Division continued its strong support to Africa where about 38 percent of its work is dedicated to helping Sub-Saharan countries meet the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In 2006-07, it helped to develop the Africa Livestock Partnership Programme (ALive) and is helping to establish the TerrAfrica Platform.

49. During 2006 to October 2007 in Sub-Saharan Africa, FAO carried out 359 investment-related missions and contributed to 41 investment projects that were approved for a total of over US\$1.8 billion for agricultural and rural development. External financing for these projects represented 88 percent (US\$1.6 billion) in cooperation with the World Bank included preparation work on rural development, irrigation and natural resources management projects and economic and sector reviews. FAO played a crucial investment facilitation role in assisting the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to formulate its Agricultural Sector Development Programme approved by the Bank in 2006. It also helped to formulate Environmental and Forestry Sector Programmes for four Central African countries under the revised World Bank Forest Strategy that focuses on forest conservation and sustainable management.

50. In 2006, FAO investment support contributed to the development of the Framework for African Agricultural Productivity (FAAP), endorsed by the Seventh AU Summit in July 2006. FAO is assisting in the formulation of investment activities at subregional level for co-financing by the World Bank and other development partners (ASARECA²⁶, CORAF/WECARD²⁷ and SADC²⁸).

51. FAO collaboration with IFAD on investment operations included carrying out a Poverty and Targeting Study for East and Southern Africa, and an Assessment of Rural Poverty in the Near East and North Africa Region. FAO is also facilitating the IFAD Field Presence Pilot Programme in Mozambique and Tanzania.

52. FAO also helped AfDB to formulate two major regional investment projects approved in 2006 for Multinational Support to the Cotton Textile Sector, and Promotion of Science and Technology for Agricultural Development in Africa. FAO is also giving substantial investment preparation support to AfDB on its Regional Programme on Agricultural Water Management for Food Security, which is foreseen to help some 10 SADC countries.

²⁶ Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa

²⁷ West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development

²⁸ Southern African Development Community

n. Special, National and Regional Programmes for Food Security

53. Between 1995 and 2005, FAO implemented pilot demonstration projects in 43 African countries (105 countries worldwide). However, in the last four years, the focus of FAO's attention has shifted to National and Regional Programmes for Food Security (NPFS and RPFS). Based on experience with the SPFS Phase I and the recommendations of an independent external evaluation carried out in 2001-2002, NPFS were introduced by FAO as an instrument to help countries act at a scale sufficient to achieve WFS and MDG targets by 2015. By the end of 2007, 15 NPFS were operational and another 35 were at various stages of formulation and review. The NPFS are under implementation in 9 African countries²⁹, advanced formulation and review process in 9 other countries³⁰, and initial formulation in 13 countries³¹. At the regional level, one RPFS is under implementation in West Africa (UEMOA).

54. At its second meeting in May 2007, FAO's High-Level External Committee on MDGs concluded that the SPFS should become the principal means of achieving MDG-1 and urged greater collaboration with NGOs, the Gates Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation and other organizations such as WFP and UNICEF. Specific action was subsequently taken to develop collaborative relationships with the CGIAR and the new Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) with operational NPFS.

55. The transition from pilot demonstration projects to NPFS has seen a decline in the number of South-South Cooperation (SSC) specialists in the field in Africa in 2006-2007. However, the number is expected to increase significantly in support to NPFS implementation. In this context, within the framework of a new Strategic Alliance with China, over 250 cooperation experts are expected to be fielded in Nigeria alone, during the period 2008-2011.

o. TeleFood 2006-2007

56. TeleFood is celebrating its 10th year Anniversary in 2007, having raised over \$20 million since its inception, and implemented more than 2500 projects in 130 countries, a large majority of which in Africa (over 1100 projects in 40 countries).

57. In 2006, some 238 projects were received for Africa for a total of US \$1 631 000, of which 181 were approved and implemented during the biennium. An important development in the Programme was recently approved by the FAO Council (in June 2007), in response to the 2006 TeleFood Evaluation. The programme is advancing towards a revision of its guidelines and procedures which will be implemented immediately.

IV. FUTURE PROGRAMME ORIENTATION TO FACE PRIORITY ISSUES IN THE REGION

²⁹Algeria, Chad, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Tanzania

³⁰Cameroon, Cape Verde, Congo, Ghana, Lesotho, Malawi, Senegal, Sudan and Swaziland.

³¹Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Togo, and Zambia.

58. Within a more decentralized and user-focused framework, FAO's main thematic cross-cutting priorities for the Region include support to the strategies for investing in agricultural water development, promoting agriculture modernization, and enhancing intra-Africa agricultural trade, in close coordination with AUC.

59. Requirements to achieve the above will include follow-up actions to address the recommendations of the FAO regional conferences and the Abuja Food Security Summit, and especially the challenges for Sustainable Water and Land Management, to provide adequate quantities of nutritious and affordable food for more people with less water, land and labour, and to promote sustainable broad-based agricultural and rural development.

60. FAO has already initiated support actions for the implementation of: (i) the African Seed and Biotechnology Programme in close collaboration with the AUC; (ii) the Harmonized Seed Regulatory Framework for West Africa and the initiation of the harmonization process in Central Africa; (iii) national seed laws and regulations along with the strengthening of national seed systems. FAO, in collaborating with the AUC, is currently conducting an analysis of constraints to intra-African trade in basic food products and in evaluating the process of harmonizing trade policy in basic food products for the RECs. Direct technical and staffing support will continue to be provided to the NEPAD Secretariat for coordinating the CAADP action plan implementation.

61. In the context of the implementation of FAO's Reform process, Sub-regional Offices are now operational in Libreville for Central Africa, Accra for Western Africa, and Addis Ababa for Eastern Africa, in addition to the Harare-based Sub-Regional Office for Southern Africa but also the Tunis-based Sub-Regional Office for North Africa. These additions to the Regional Office will enhance FAO's multidisciplinary technical support to member countries, sub-regional organizations and the AUC.

62. FAO activities will focus on four-pronged strategic approach to the challenge of better assisting countries to achieve the MDGs: (i) advocating for recognition of the critical role of the rural and agricultural sectors in meeting the goals; (ii) focusing on policy and capacity-building support to countries that incorporate the MDGs in their national strategies; (iii) working with all stakeholders in partnership so as to apply the sum of their capacities to the achievement of the MDGs; and (iv) harmonizing work with UN partners and developing flexible national medium-term priority frameworks with individual governments.

ANNEX

List of Acronyms:

| | |
|---------|---|
| AfDB | : African Development Bank |
| AFWC | : African Forestry and Wildlife Commission |
| AGORA | : Access to Global Online Research in Africa |
| AGRA | : Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa |
| AI | : Avian Influenza |
| AIDs | : Acquired immune deficiency syndrome |
| ARC | : Regional Conference for Africa |
| ASARECA | : Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa |
| AUC | : African Union Commission |
| ASBP | : African Seed and Biotechnology Programme |
| CAADP | : Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme |
| CECAF | : Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic |
| CEMAC | : Communauté Economique et Monétaire de l'Afrique Centrale |
| CEN-SAD | : Community of Sahelo-Saharan States |
| CGIAR | : Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research |
| CIFA | : Committee for the Inland Fisheries of Africa |
| CFC | : Common Fund for Commodities |
| CILSS | : Comité Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse au Sahel |
| CIMMYT | : Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maiz y Trigo |
| CMC | : Crisis Management Centre |
| COFI | : Committee on Fisheries |
| COFO | : Committee on Forestry |
| COMESA | : Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa |
| CORAF | : Conseil Ouest et Centre Africain pour la recherche et le développement agricoles |
| CSO | : Civil Society Organization |
| CSP | : Cooperation with the Sahelian Pesticides Committee |
| DNAs | : Designated National Authorities |
| ECCAS | : Economic Community of Central African States |
| ECOWAS | : Economic Community of West African States |
| ECTAD | : Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases |
| EPA | : Economic Partnership Agreement |
| EU | : European Union |
| EWS | : Early Warning Systems |
| FAAP | : Framework for African Agricultural Productivity |
| FAO | : Food and Agriculture Organization |
| FAOSTAT | : FAO Statistical Database |
| FARA | : Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa |
| FFS | : Farmer Field School |
| FIVIMS | : Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems |
| GAPs | : Good Agricultural Practices |
| HIV | : Human immunodeficiency virus |
| HPAI | : High Pathogenic Avian Influenza |
| IAFI | : International Association of Fish Inspectors |
| ICARDA | : International Centre for Agriculture Research in Dry Areas |

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| ICID | : International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage |
| ICRAF | : Internal Centre for Research in Agro-forestry |
| IFAD | : International Fund for Agricultural Development |
| IGAD | : Inter-governmental Authority on Development |
| INFOPECHE | : Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Cooperation Services for Fishery Products in Africa |
| INFOSA | : SADC regional office of INFOPECHE, the Intergovernmental Organisation for Marketing Information and Technical Advisory Services for Fish and Fishery Products in Southern Africa |
| ISPMs | : International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures |
| IWMI | : International Water Management Institute |
| MDGs | : Millennium Development Goals |
| NARES | : National Agricultural Research and Extension Systems |
| NEFC | : Near East Forestry Commission |
| NEPAD | : New Partnership for Africa's Development |
| NFP | : National Forest Programme |
| NGO | : Non-Governmental Organization |
| NMTPF | : National Medium-Term Priority Framework |
| NPFS | : National Programme for Food Security |
| PLWHA | : People Living with HIV/AIDS |
| PRODS/PAIA | : Integrated Production Systems-Priority Area for Multidisciplinary Action |
| QUEST | : Quality and Environment Survey of Treatments |
| RAHC | : Regional Animal Health Centres |
| RAID | : Regional Association for Irrigation and Drainage |
| RECs | : Regional Economic Communities |
| RPFS | : Regional Programme for Food Security |
| RVF | : Rift Valley Fever |
| SADC | : Southern African Development Community |
| SARD | : Sustainable Agriculture Rural Development |
| SPADA | : Special Programme for Aquaculture Development in Africa |
| SPFS | : Special Programme for Food Security |
| SRFC | : Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission |
| SSC | : South-South Cooperation |
| SWIOFC | : South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission |
| TADs | : Trans-boundary Animal Diseases |
| TCP | : Technical Cooperation Project |
| UEMOA | : Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine |
| UNCTAD | : United Nations Conference on Trade and Development |
| UNDP | : United Nations Development Programme |
| UNICEF | : United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund |
| UNIDO | : United Nations Industrial Development |
| UPA | : Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture |
| WFP | : World Food Programme |
| WFS | : World Food Summit |
| WHO | : World Health Organization |
| WTO | : World Trade Organization |