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Organización de las
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منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
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FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

Thirtieth Session

Khartoum, the Sudan, 19-23 February 2018

Summary Report of Recommendations of FAO Regional Bodies

Executive Summary

FAO's regional programme has conducted numerous thematic statutory committees and commissions. These events are key in providing a platform for countries across the Africa region to engage in dialogue and deliberate on the collective direction of the committees'/commissions' thematic area of work. The events synthesize a series of suggested priorities and provide recommendations aimed at driving national and/or regional policies.

This document highlights the topics discussed and the recommendations made throughout the 2016-2017 biennium, by the various committees/commissions. Participants in the Regional Conference for Africa may wish to keep these issues in mind when considering the common course of drafting recommendations and suggesting actions to FAO's Conference and Council.

Matters to be brought to the attention of the Regional Conference

The Regional Conference may wish to consider:

- 1) Including, in its future sessions, at least one discussion item dealing with sustainable food and agriculture, and natural resources management issues;
- 2) Including two cross-cutting issues of regional importance, namely, fuel wood for rural energy and water resources management, in the agenda of its 31st Session;
- 3) Strengthening collaboration at country level between agriculture, forestry and water for enhanced achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and for climate change adaptation and mitigation;
- 4) Noting the outcomes of the regional fisheries bodies in relation to the high exploitation rate of the fisheries resources and the need to further develop and manage the fish culture sector.

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ARC30

I. The 25th Session of the African Commission on Agricultural Statistics (AFCAS)

1. The 25th Session of the African Commission on Agricultural Statistics (AFCAS) took place in Entebbe, Uganda, from 13 to 17 November 2017. Delegates from 27 AFCAS member countries as well as 10 national, regional and international institutions participated. In all, 112 participants attended the Session. The new bureau composed of Uganda as Chair, Gabon as Vice-Chair, Burkina Faso and Kenya as Rapporteurs was elected.

2. The theme of the 25th Session of AFCAS was “Agricultural Statistics in the SDG era: Challenges and opportunities”. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with their overall objective to leave no one behind, consist of 17 goals, 169 targets and 232 SDG Indicators. FAO is custodian agency for 21 indicators across 7 SDGs. As custodian agency, and respecting national ownership of statistics and the SDG indicators, the 25th Session of AFCAS focused on these 21 indicators, and the methodology and data required to compile them.

3. The 25th Session of AFCAS aimed to help senior officials of National Statistics Offices (NSOs) and Ministries of Agriculture (MoA) understand their role in improving data collection, quality, comparability and use of their country’s indicators.

4. The 25th Session:

- a) **Recommended** FAO to prepare guidelines, to accelerate the provision of technical assistance and training to countries given the challenges of monitoring the SDG agenda and stressed that the assistance must be focused on the development of technical capacities in countries and the application of a model that makes the most efficient use of the resources available.
- b) **Called upon** FAO to adopt a training of trainers approach to enlarge the pool of eligible experts who are able to give technical assistance on SDG monitoring and other topics in agricultural statistics.
- c) **Recognized** that the SDG monitoring requires countries to strengthen their coordination role of the National Statistical Systems to ensure a systematic, consistent and timely process of compilation and monitoring of SDG process.
- d) **Recommended** FAO to continue assisting countries in the implementation and development of the CountrySTAT system, and to organize training workshops to enable countries to better integrate with the new CountrySTAT platform.
- e) **Recommended** FAO and the regional and subregional organizations to organize regularly a forum of collaboration to exchange on the various initiatives relative to the normative work on methodological design, collection, processing and dissemination of statistical data on food and agriculture, and reduce the burden on countries and data inconsistencies.
- f) **Recommended** that in countries where the design process of Strategic Plans for Agricultural Statistics (SPARS) has been initiated but not yet completed, the Global Strategy’s implementing partners, in particular the African Development Bank (AfDB), accelerate the delivery of support necessary to finalize these important strategic documents.
- g) **Welcomed** the efforts of FAO and the Global Strategy in developing the Agricultural and Rural Integrated Survey (AGRIS) methodology and acknowledges that this methodology can assist countries in building a sustainable, comprehensive and cost-effective agricultural survey system, which will inform a significant number of SDGs indicators and minimum set of core data.
- h) **Urged** countries to adopt cost-effective tools such as Computer-Assisted-Personal Interviewing (CAPI) to lower the cost of their data production and improve data quality.
- i) **Recommended** that countries request capacity building on the use of ADePT-Food Security Module (FSM) software to generate food security and nutrition relevant

indicators from food consumption data collected through household expenditure survey data.

- j) **Recommended** FAO to work closely with member countries in supporting the assessment and review of national fisheries statistical systems, and to incorporate forest-related questions into agricultural surveys to minimize costs while strengthening the environment statistics in National Statistics Offices.
- k) **Called upon** FAO to spearhead stronger collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), other UN agencies and programmes, member countries and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in areas of capacity building and human resources development; and to invite partner organizations to prepare and present on the relevant subjects to the Commission during the subsequent AFCAS sessions.
- l) **Noted** the request of Portuguese speaking countries to translate guidelines, manual, and written documents, for generation of quality statistics to monitor SDGs, in this language.
- m) **Requested** to forward the recommendation on the Creation of the Global Agricultural Statistics Commission to the 30th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa in Khartoum, the Sudan, 19-23 February 2018.

5. The documents of the Session are available at: <http://www.fao.org/economic/ess/ess-events/afcas/afcas25/en/>

II. The 17th Committee for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Africa (CIFAA)

6. The 17th Session of the Committee was successfully conducted in Banjul, the Gambia, from 9 to 11 May 2017 despite the low participation of members. With attendance not reaching a quorum, the secretariat advised that items requiring decision from the Committee could not be completed, notwithstanding the fact that presentations were made and discussed.

7. The Session aimed mainly to discuss: (i) Follow-up action of intersessional activities and way forward; (ii) Outcomes of the sixth annual meeting of the Aquaculture Network for Africa (ANAF); and (iii) the Status of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa, Way forward for a strategy for its development.

8. The 17th Session:

- a) Deplored the long intersessional period but appreciated the efforts of the secretariat to revitalize the Committee.
- b) noted the strong need to assume ownership of the Committee by its members.
- c) noted that an innovative approach is required for reenergizing CIFAA.
- d) agreed that CIFAA is to remain as an Article VI body under the FAO Constitution. It was echoed that CIFAA acts as a means to voice African inland fisheries and aquaculture matters to the global stage in large events such as the Committee on Fisheries (COFI).
- e) recommended that CIFAA secretariat conduct an attendance review of all CIFAA sessions. This review should highlight the regularly attending CIFAA member countries, the low attending member countries, the never attending member countries and their levels of representation.
- f) recommended that the working group on the CIFAA multidonor trust fund created during the Dakar extraordinary session operationalize itself under CIFAA Secretariat leadership.
- g) endorsed the proposal to integrate ANAF within the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR).
- h) acknowledged the need for regular and updated inland fisheries and aquaculture statistics;
- i) noted the readiness of the African Development Bank to assist countries in carrying out their Blue Economy programmes with an emphasis on inland fisheries and aquaculture.