



FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Thirty-third Session

Putrajaya, Malaysia, 7–11 March 2016

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

SENIOR OFFICERS MEETING

7–9 March 2016

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1. Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Appointment of Rapporteur
2. Adoption of Agenda and Timetable

(Please see Plenary Session items from 3 to 8 on page 5)

II. REGIONAL AND GLOBAL POLICY AND REGULATORY ISSUES

9. **State of food and agriculture in Asia and the Pacific region, including future prospects and emerging issues in the framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

The Asia and the Pacific (AP) region as a whole has achieved the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 1C hunger target as the proportion of hungry has fallen from 24 percent of the population in 1990-92 to 12 percent in 2013-15. However, 490 million people still suffer from chronic hunger in this region, almost 62 percent of such people in the world, and the SDGs challenge us to eradicate this remaining hunger. Moreover, much of this progress is concentrated in the East and Southeast Asia subregions, while the South Asia subregion has lagged. This reflects country and subregional differences in terms of economic growth, income and gender inequalities, natural resources for food

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production, infrastructure, the macroeconomic and sector policy environments, the internal peace and security situation, and institutional stability. The challenge for the region, in achieving the main goals of the SDGs, is to ensure that people of all ages and genders enjoy their right to food through increased food production from a limited natural resource base and more equitable access to food, while coping with trends such as urbanization and challenges such as climate change and a lack of quality statistics and data on which to base sound evidence-based policies. The Regional Conference will discuss how to address key issues which pose potential challenges to the achievement of the SDGs in the Asia and the Pacific region.

10. Revitalizing the rural economy through enhanced linkages between small-scale agricultural production and value chains

Across Asia and the Pacific region, there is an emerging scenario wherein traditional food systems that include large numbers of small, poor and disorganized, rural stakeholders, operate in parallel with organized, market oriented, modern food value chains. These traditional food systems contribute significantly to rural economic development through the employment of local labour, through the use of locally produced technologies and by adding value to indigenous and locally produced raw materials that are highly demanded by consumers in mass markets. In the process, they create jobs, and improve livelihoods and business activity in rural areas. This paper discusses how the modernization of traditional food systems through value chain development can contribute to revitalizing rural economies. Examples of models in the region for capacitating rural stakeholders to integrate into value chains will also be discussed.

11. Promote national nutrition policies and investments, and integrate nutrition objectives into food and agriculture policy, programme design and implementation

Given the multi-sectoral nature of nutrition, there are a range of policies on food, agriculture, trade, prices and incomes, health, and food safety that have an impact on nutrition. Greater progress can be expected if food safety and nutrition objectives, concerns and considerations were to be explicitly integrated into national agricultural and food system policies. This paper will discuss the development trends and emerging challenges related to nutrition and food safety, and the need to invest and pursue an integrated approach through national cross-government, inter-sector and multi-stakeholder mechanisms that systematically mainstream food safety and nutrition into agricultural and food system policies and interventions. It will discuss potential policy and strategic responses for adjusting and aligning national sectoral and cross-sectoral policies and investments for achieving sustainable nutrition improvements.

12. Blue Growth

Aquatic resources are critical to food and nutrition security in Asia and the Pacific, which contributes over 90 percent of world aquaculture production and 55 percent of world capture fisheries production. The Pacific Island Countries alone are custodians to about 40 million km² of seascape containing some of the world's largest fish stocks. However, climate change, overfishing, aquaculture with poor planning and governance in coastal and inland areas, along with other destructive human activities, are contributing to irreversible damage to habitats, ecological systems and biodiversity. The FAO Blue Growth Initiative (BGI) provides an holistic approach for the sustainable management and efficient utilization of these natural resources for food security and economic growth and farmers' adaptability to climate change impact and resilience to natural disasters and socioeconomic risks. Its principles are consistent with the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) and in line with agreed regional priorities (e.g. the Vava'u Declaration on Pacific Fisheries Resources, the SAMOAPathway

and the Regional Strategy for Sustainable Intensification of Aquaculture in Asia-Pacific). This paper highlights the areas within the FAO strategic framework that require further emphasis or de-emphasis, and invites the country delegates to discuss the issues, constraints and actions needed to promote blue growth in the region.

III. PROGRAMME AND BUDGET MATTERS

13. Report on the meeting of the South West Pacific Agriculture Ministers in Papua New Guinea in May 2015, including the Ministerial Communiqué

The 11th Meeting of the FAO South West Pacific Ministers for Agriculture was convened in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea from 11–14 May 2015. Decisions on three issues are drawn to the attention of APRC members: Firstly, the mid-term review of the Pacific Country Programming Framework (CPF) found that it continues to be highly relevant and that delivery is acceptable. However, it noted that it is a delicate balancing exercise to meet the relatively high demands of the Pacific with the resources available to FAO and further decentralization was encouraged. Secondly, the meeting endorsed priorities for the work and FAO in the Pacific; however, FAO was encouraged to further focus efforts on a subset of the approved priorities. The meeting stressed the importance of partnerships with regional organizations in addressing serious challenges associated with managing coastal and inshore fisheries and further acknowledged the links between non-communicable diseases, food quality and agriculture. Thirdly, the Meeting endorsed the concept of a biennial Pacific Week of Agriculture which would bring together ministerial meetings for FAO and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) into one week and provide for a range of other technical interactions with institutions and the private and social sectors of the Pacific.

14. Results and priorities for FAO in Asia and the Pacific region

The Regional Conference will consider the results of FAO's work in the region, including how FAO activities have addressed previously agreed regional priorities during 2014-15, and will provide guidance on areas of regional priority for 2016-17 and 2018-21. The discussion will be informed by results of FAO's work at the Outcome level (extract from Programme Implementation Report 2014-15), the Medium Term Plan 2014-17 (Reviewed) and Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17 approved by the FAO Conference in June 2015, and a Regional Strategic Review encompassing the major regional trends, challenges and development objectives for food and agriculture, also taking account of recommendations of the Regional Technical Commissions, a synthesis of Country Programming Frameworks, and the plans and priorities of partners such as the Regional Economic Organizations, CSOs and the private sector.

15. Decentralized Offices Network

Ongoing efforts to improve and strengthen the work of FAO's country offices network in the region will be reviewed and recommendations formulated to enhance the Organization's effectiveness and efficiency at the country level.

IV. OTHER MATTERS

16. **Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2016–19 for the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific**

Development of a Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2016–19 for the Asia and Pacific Regional Conference is recommended, in accordance with the Assessment of FAO Governance Reforms (C 2015/26 Rev.1), to enable continuity and longer-term planning and accountability.

17. **Date and place of the 34th Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific**

18. **Any other matters**

INFORMATION NOTES*

a) **Second International Conference on Nutrition Follow-up**

The Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), successfully held in Rome on 19-21 November 2014, adopted by acclamation the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and its companion Framework for Action. This note provides Members with information on the proceedings and outcomes of ICN2. It also outlines follow-up action taken since ICN2, both within and outside FAO, seeking guidance on further follow-up activities from a regional perspective.

b) **Update on the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)**

This information note will present the outcomes of the CFS, as well as initiatives related to Responsible Agricultural Investment and the Agenda for Action in countries in protracted crises.

c) **Outcomes of the Multi-stakeholder Consultation on Agroecology for Asia and the Pacific**

FAO organized the International Symposium on Agroecology for Food Security and Nutrition in September 2014 in Rome, Italy. Following the recommendations of the Symposium, a Multi-stakeholder Consultation on Agroecology for Asia and the Pacific was held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 24-26 November 2015, with over 150 participants including government officials, UN agencies, civil society organizations, INGOs, NGOs, academia, research and development institutes, universities, private sector and farmer's organizations. The Regional Conference is invited to take into account the recommendations put forth by the participants, and to consider priorities for FAO to further support agroecology in the region, in support of the Regional Initiatives and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

* If they so wish, delegates may comment on the information notes under "Any other matters".

PLENARY SESSION

10–11 March 2016

3. **Statement by the Director-General**

4. **Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council**

5. **Statement by the Chairperson of the 32nd Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific**

The statement of the Chairperson of the 32nd APRC will provide a brief on the outcome of the deliberations of the 39th Session of the FAO Conference (Rome, 6-13 June 2015) and the 149th Council (Rome, 16-20 June 2014) on matters related to the Asia and Pacific Region.

6. **Statement by the Chairperson of the CFS**

The CFS Chairperson will provide an overview of the main outcomes of the 41st and 42nd Plenary Sessions, reporting on the activities undertaken in 2014-2015.

7. **Statement by the Spokesperson of the Civil Society Consultation**

The spokesperson of the Civil Society consultation will present the statement/declaration of the outcome of the consultation.

8. **Prioritization of country and regional needs**

Asia and the Pacific region face various challenges in the food and agricultural sectors, such as food security, climate change, degradation and depletion of natural resources and natural disasters. This session allows the head of country delegations to deliver their statements. Delegates are invited to outline their views on the priorities for addressing national and regional needs in 3 to 4 minutes each.

Review and endorsement of the Report of the Conference

The draft report of the Regional Conference, prepared, discussed and approved by the Senior Officers Meeting, will be reviewed and endorsed. The discussion will cover:

- i. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Issues;
- ii. Programme and Budget Matters;
- iii. Other Matters.

The Report will be introduced by the Rapporteur.

Round table on youth in future agriculture: Towards a productive and sustainable Asia-Pacific

Agriculture and rural economies in many parts of Asia and the Pacific are changing rapidly in response to various challenges and new opportunities. Nonetheless, in the future, the region's farmers will have to produce more food than ever before. As the region's agricultural workforce is ageing rapidly, there are concerns about who the region's future farmers will be, what skills they will need, what incentives may be required to motivate them to work in agriculture, and what support they may require. How will countries of the region attract skilled and competent young people to the agriculture sector? What roles will various institutions play to ensure a sound agricultural work force? What will be the respective roles of young men and women in the region's future agriculture? How can we engage the urban population (especially urban youth) to better understand and support sustainable agriculture in the future? This roundtable session will provide delegates an opportunity to exchange views on these challenges and share suggestions for ensuring a vibrant and sustainable future for agriculture in the region.