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Food and Agriculture  
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Продовольственная и  
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# FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

## Thirty-third Session

Putrajaya, Malaysia, 7–11 March 2016

### Agenda item 11

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

### Executive summary

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 are explicitly integrated into national policies on agriculture and food systems. The Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), co-hosted by FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO) was held in November 2014. A high-level political event, ICN2 was the first global intergovernmental forum devoted to addressing the world's nutrition problems in the 21st century. The adoption of the ICN2 Rome Declaration and the Framework for Action lay down commitments to actions for addressing malnutrition including at policy level. This paper discusses 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. It also discusses potential policy and strategic responses for adjusting and aligning national sectoral and cross-sectoral policies and investments for achieving sustainable nutrition improvements.

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### **Guidance sought by the Regional Conference**

The Regional Conference is invited to:

- provide guidance for action on integrating nutrition in food and agriculture policies, programmes and investments,
- advise on actions in improving multisectoral collaboration in food and agriculture, and
- provide advice on strengthening capacity development to mainstream nutrition in food and agriculture.

## **I. Introduction**

1. The Asia and the Pacific region as a whole has achieved the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 1C hunger target. Between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of hungry was reduced by 12 percentage points from the initial 24 percent. The region also made substantial progress in reducing the number of people suffering from chronic hunger. From 1990-92 to 2014-16, it achieved the largest reduction in the number of undernourished people from 726.2 million to 490 million. However, despite this remarkable achievement, the region still accounts for 62 percent of the world's undernourished people.

2. Stunting of children remains a serious problem; in Southern Asia, the prevalence ranges from 20 to 40 percent, and some countries in Southeast Asia have a prevalence rate of over 60 percent. Despite the scant information available for the Southwest Pacific Island Countries, high rates of stunting have been recorded among children in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

3. Micronutrient deficiency is still a major problem in many countries. At the same time, childhood obesity is increasing in the region, where there are about 18 million overweight children under five years of age. The incidence of food-borne diseases and new and emerging food-borne hazards are also on the rise.

4. The subject of improving nutrition has been of concern for more than three decades; however, it has received renewed focus over the last couple of years. Globally, it is acknowledged that investments in nutrition are needed to enable developing countries to transition from underdeveloped to developed status. This topic requires priority and concerted action because the short- and long-term social, physical and economic consequences of food insecurity and malnutrition are too significant to be ignored.

5. In November 2014, during the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), co-organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), with over 170 states represented, the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and its companion Framework for Action were adopted. The Conference reaffirmed countries' commitment to reducing all forms of malnutrition. The ICN2 framed the post-2015 development agenda as an unprecedented opportunity to steer action and increase accountability in addressing both the direct and underlying causes of malnutrition. Recommendation 8 of the Framework for Action specifically covers the review of national policies and investments and integration of nutrition objectives into food and agriculture policy, programme design and implementation to enhance nutrition-sensitive agriculture, ensure food security and enable healthy diets. Furthermore, the recently

adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) point to a vision and need for a fairer, more prosperous, peaceful and sustainable world where no one is left behind. FAO recognizes that without rapid progress to reduce and eliminate hunger and malnutrition by 2030, the full range of SDGs cannot be achieved. At the same time, reaching the other SDGs will pave the way for ending hunger and extreme poverty.

6. The 69th session of the United Nations General Assembly formally welcomed the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action, outcome documents of the ICN2, inviting governments, the UN system and other relevant stakeholders to implement the Framework for Action. A discussion of the Decade of Action on Nutrition, proposed in the Rome Declaration, was called for in the 70th session of the General Assembly. To this end, a resolution on ICN2 follow-up is expected to be introduced for consideration by the General Assembly.

7. The 32nd FAO Asia and the Pacific Regional Conference (APRC), which took place in March 2014 in Mongolia, organized round-table discussions on the double burden of malnutrition. Important recommendations to address this situation were identified, including promoting national nutrition policies and investments and integrating nutrition objectives into food and agriculture policy, programme design and implementation.

8. Other initiatives, such as the global Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement since 2010, have also been instrumental in stimulating and sustaining political commitment to addressing malnutrition at country level. The Lancet series, published in 2013, emphasizes nutrition-sensitive interventions which span a variety of sectors and address underlying as well as basic determinants of nutritional status.

9. All of the above-mentioned actions and initiatives have refocused the global agenda on nutrition and to achieve national socio-economic development. It is imperative that nutrition considerations be explicitly integrated into national agricultural and food system policies and interventions and translated into nutrition-friendly programmes/projects. Moreover, nutrition-sensitive investment planning becomes imperative. Good governance characterized by political leadership and a shared vision of food and nutrition security for all is also needed. Many countries in the region achieved the MDG Hunger Goal, but many are making little or no progress on child malnutrition. Lessons learned from the MDG framework specific to nutrition include the realization that the focus on undernutrition was too narrow and that synergies between nutrition and other sectors were underexploited. The SDG related to zero hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition recognizes the importance of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in providing nutrition for all; however, to accomplish this, there must be a profound change in the architecture of food and agricultural systems to make nutrition security and poverty reduction central to the food and agriculture sector.

10. Given that nutrition is a cross-cutting concern, it has long been recognized that holistic, integrated actions are required to address the multifactorial nature of malnutrition. In particular, nutrition-sensitive agricultural interventions should be complemented by nutrition-specific interventions, particularly those that address food safety concerns along the food and nutrition system. Specifically, improvements in nutrition cannot be achieved without addressing food safety. Food-borne pathogens are one of the leading causes of illnesses and death in developing economies. Food-borne illness resulting in chronic diarrhoea can negatively impact nutritional status by reducing nutrient absorption and exacerbating nutrient deficiencies. Also, exposure to chemical hazards continues to be a widespread concern, especially to the smallholder farmers and consumers in developing countries. There is now an international focus on aflatoxin contamination given the mounting evidence of linkages between dietary exposure to aflatoxin and stunting. Moreover, pro-poor, gender-sensitive and economically, socially and environmentally sustainable interventions should be in place to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty and malnutrition.

11. To facilitate the translation of these recommendations into concrete actions, it was considered important to further discuss this topic during the 33rd APRC – particularly to understand why, despite

the long years of advocating for the integration of nutrition, limited progress has been made in this area and to identify specific interventions required. In this context, there is a strong need for consumer awareness and education.

12. Therefore, this paper examines the challenges and constraints in promoting nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food-based interventions. It also explores which actions, requirements and mechanisms need to be pursued at national and regional levels to translate the recommendation into concrete actions. The proposed mechanisms entail adjusting and realigning national sectoral and cross-sectoral policies and investments in order to achieve sustainable nutrition improvement, including capacity building needs. The paper also reviews initiatives and actions taken by FAO to improve nutrition through agriculture and food system approaches in line with the Framework of Action of the ICN2. Recommendations for further action by governments and FAO are proposed.

## **II. Challenges and constraints**

13. Poor diets are widespread among all wealth categories, meaning that higher income does not necessarily ensure access to nutritious diets. The contributing factors to the current nutrition situation include poor diets, cultural norms, food taboos and unhealthy lifestyles. Developing knowledge about nutritious diets through nutrition education and awareness programmes and having access to diverse diets throughout all seasons are important for better nutrition outcomes. However, in many countries, these approaches are still largely viewed as being within the realm of health and nutrition rather than being a cross-cutting concern in which all sectors engage and collaborate.

14. Food safety and nutrition are inextricably linked, yet the importance of food safety in this matter is often overlooked. Improving and implementing food safety regulations are essential to safeguard the health and nutrition of the population. It is crucial to have adequate food safety regulations (including good practices along the value chain) and institutions responsible for implementing official controls and extension services to ensure safe production, processing, storage, transportation and retailing of food products.

15. Existing national policies, strategies and investment plans often do not have explicitly stated goals, targets and relevant indicators for nutrition at household, community, provincial and national levels. In addition, often they have not been translated into operational plans and programmes with specified roles, responsibilities, capacity needs, technical competencies and adequate national budgets.

16. National food security and agriculture policies and strategies do not comprehensively address malnutrition in all its forms. In many countries, the food security and agriculture strategies do not include any nutrition objectives or actions to address relevant nutrition issues, and further, they see nutrition as the primary responsibility of the health sector. Likewise, the health sector does not see or understand the role of the agriculture sector in improving nutrition. Many food and agriculture programmes and investments are not designed to contribute to positive nutritional outcomes. Evidence of multisectoral actions is generally limited in the region, with agriculture strategies usually failing to consider nutrition needs. There is a need to change the architecture of food and agriculture systems to enhance their impact on nutrition.

17. Similarly, the national nutrition policies that have been developed since the 1992 International Conference on Nutrition (ICN) do not adequately respond to the emerging challenges that countries and the region are facing, in particular the double burden of malnutrition and evolving food systems and food safety risks. Moreover, these policies often do not include science-based and evidence-informed interventions in a comprehensive manner. The underlying and basic causes of malnutrition (e.g. inadequate access to sufficient quantities of diversified diets and safe food, among others) are not well reflected, considered or addressed in existing national nutrition policies.

18. Knowledge gaps persist about the linkages between food and nutrition and about how to turn this knowledge into guidance for strategies, policies, programmes and investments that can positively contribute to nutritional improvements. These knowledge gaps lead to limited awareness of the problem, its impact and potential solutions.

19. Limited technical capacity in designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating nutrition-sensitive food and agriculture policies and programmes impedes the integration of nutrition in food and agriculture. The capacity of agriculture stakeholders is still inadequate in that agriculture training does not usually establish the connection between agriculture and nutrition. Lack of experience and lack of adequate and trained human resources block the translation of national policies into implementable actions and effective delivery of nutrition-sensitive technical knowledge.

20. Many countries have inadequate or ineffective intersectoral coordination mechanisms to address the multifactorial nature of nutrition challenges. Governments often find it difficult to align and coordinate policies, programmes and investments to deal with nutrition effectively among agriculture, health and other sectors. It is also critical to address the broad barriers that block intersectoral collaboration for nutrition (e.g. low political commitment, sector-based organizational structures and low credibility to facilitate, mobilize and generate resources). With increased awareness of the link between food safety and achieving food and nutrition security goals, policy coherence among the related sectors may also improve.

21. Lack of coordinated actions among development partners results in duplication of efforts, low attention to certain priority areas and inefficient use of limited resources. There is a need to improve coordination among development partners to work together, strengthen their commitment, consensus and funding for nutrition and food safety and make a collective effort to support developing countries in scaling up programmes. But even more importantly, development partners must recognize and accept that priorities must be defined and set by the countries and local communities.

### **III. Addressing the challenges**

#### **A. Integrating nutrition in food and agriculture**

22. Improving nutrition requires a supportive multisectoral policy environment, guided by an overarching independent coordinating authority, where nutrition objectives, targets and activities are mainstreamed in all the main sectoral policies, plans and programmes. Achieving political and policy coherence and coordination across all sectors, including in agriculture and food systems, is part of this inclusive process. Having explicit nutrition objectives with measurable outcomes and targets at different levels in food and agriculture policies and programmes will facilitate production diversification, increased production of nutrient-dense crops and promotion of small-scale livestock and fisheries, including support of non-timber forest products, all of which are essential in improving diets. Improved food production systems should integrate appropriate control measures and food safety management systems along the food chain continuum. This requires action not only at the level of food producers but also at the level of control authorities.

23. Assessing the context at the local level will help to design appropriate programmes that address the types and causes of malnutrition, including chronic or acute undernutrition, vitamin and mineral deficiencies and obesity and chronic degenerative diseases. Context assessment can consider: potential food resources that also conserve biodiversity; sustainable agro-ecology; seasonality of production and income; gender dynamics including different access of men and women to productive resources (e.g. land of food insecure and nutritionally vulnerable groups); knowledge of food safety risks; capacity of food chain operators to assure food safety; market opportunities and infrastructure; opportunities for collaboration with other sectors or programmes; and local priorities.

24. Establishing a good baseline and a monitoring, evaluation and surveillance system should serve as an institutional mechanism to strengthen evidence-based planning and results-oriented management, particularly by providing reliable information for tracking progress in achieving national targets, for timely corrective measurements and for empirical feedback to learn lessons from the implementation process. Thus, a monitoring and evaluation system with relevant nutrition indicators should serve and facilitate well-informed, proactive management of nutrition-sensitive food and agriculture investments, programmes and projects to realize their policy objectives and strategic outcomes.

## **B. Improving multisectoral collaboration**

25. In order to accelerate progress in nutrition, it is crucial to collaborate and coordinate among sectors (e.g. agriculture, health, food safety, environment, social protection, labour, water and sanitation, education, energy) and programmes, through joint strategies with common goals, to concurrently address the multiple immediate, underlying and basic causes of malnutrition. It is essential to establish and strengthen effective bodies to coordinate nutrition and related actions across government ministries to ensure a multisectoral and convergent response to malnutrition. These bodies, with strong political and funding support, can facilitate effective funding allocation, monitor progress and facilitate decision-making among stakeholders.

26. Governments, with the support of development partners, need to convene stakeholders around a common agenda in order to accelerate progress in nutrition. The actors should agree to support this agenda through a coordinated and focused set of priorities for actions and learning-by-doing which mainstreams nutrition in the development agenda, strengthens and fine-tunes delivery mechanisms and strengthens the evidence base for investing in nutrition.

27. It is important to share knowledge and good practices, including exchange of information and experiences on a nutrition-sensitive food and agriculture approach to nutrition, among all nations and stakeholders through wider partnerships (e.g. South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation).

### **Box 1: Developing capacity towards improved nutrition security: from policy to action**

There are several examples of field interventions which demonstrate the impact that multisectoral coordination and capacity development can have on food security and nutrition. One such case is in Lao PDR, where FAO and other UN agencies provided sustained support through two phases from 2009-2015 to promote multisectoral and multistakeholder engagement through a programme approach. FAO's assistance was set in a capacity development roadmap that targeted relevant staff of the Ministries of Health, Agriculture/Forestry, Education and Planning/Investment, as well as non-state actors such as civil society organizations (CSOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), from national to district levels. The capacity development strategy was based on a carefully conducted needs assessment.

In 2013, the Government formally adopted an integrated multisectoral approach by creating a National Nutrition Committee (NNC) chaired by a Deputy Prime Minister. The NNC had clear policy processes, conducted advocacy to raise awareness and promoted practical local-level action which contributed to improving the process of convergence and prioritized actions. There is now a high level of political will and commitment, underpinned by an understanding of the importance of making nutrition central to development in the context of the criteria for graduation from LDC

status. FAO supported the formulation and approval of a National Nutrition Policy (NNP) in 2010, two National Nutrition Strategies in 2010 and 2015 and National Plans of Action for Nutrition (NNS/NPAN). Nutrition objectives were integrated into the seventh and eighth five-year National Socio Economic Development Plans (NSEDP) and into the relevant ministerial plans.

A key success factor was a consultative planning and participatory approach – involving communities, policy-makers, programme implementers, private sector and civil society – which significantly contributed to a broadened understanding of malnutrition in the wider context of food security. The Government created a strong sense of national ownership and also strengthened intersectoral cooperation in identifying and prioritizing problems and finding solutions. The policy and planning documents provided frameworks for multisectoral convergent action comprising a core set of nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific interventions across three sectors, as well as for a major behavioural change campaign. The NNS-NPAN addressed many of the ICN2 recommendations.

Key factors for these successful efforts include: creation of an enabling policy/macro environment and commitment; broad participation and partnership with state and non-state actors; capacity development of the NNC Secretariat and of stakeholders across several sectors; facilitation of community leadership; and a stepwise approach to expanding initiatives for the long term, while aiming to achieve short-term results to gain momentum.

### **C. Strengthening capacity development in nutrition**

28. Institutional capacities that contribute to an inter- and intrasectoral approach for nutrition (at regional, national and subnational levels) should be prioritized and strengthened. In particular, capacity is needed to monitor indicators of diverse and nutritious food access and to adequately design, implement and monitor nutrition-sensitive food and agriculture policies and programmes that respond to the food and nutrition situation, including the capacity to coordinate between agriculture and food sector actors along the value chain. Moreover, capacity for different key sectors should be developed to create nutrition-sensitive policy briefs for advocacy and behaviour change communication strategies to improve dietary habits.

29. It is necessary to enhance nutritional knowledge at the policy level by incorporating nutrition training into agriculture policy decision-making and engaging nutrition experts to ensure that nutrition objectives are effectively mainstreamed. Further, to ensure the sustainability of nutrition-sensitive interventions, it is important to develop technical capacities and human resources in food and agriculture sectors on nutrition through participating in nutrition training courses and pre- and in-service trainings, developing/updating relevant agriculture curricula and generating nutrition cadres/champions at agriculture services at various levels.

30. There is an urgent need to integrate nutrition into pre- and in-service training for agricultural extension staff to learn how to promote food and dietary diversification. Including nutrition into the agriculture extension curriculum involves marginal cost with great potential benefits to raise nutritional awareness and effect behaviour change among farmers and rural households. Community study programmes, such as Farmer Field Schools and Junior Farmer Field Schools, which can provide good hands-on opportunities for integrated learning on nutrition and food safety, should also be strengthened. Given the impact of food safety on nutrition outcomes, building capacity for food safety to include both infrastructure and human resources should also be considered.

31. There is also a need to actively engage academia and the private sector, which have not been adequately tapped, in food security and nutrition initiatives. Food industries have a significant impact on public health, yet they have not been engaged in dialogues to promote public-private partnerships. Academia, on the other hand, has always served as a technology and information hub which can provide support through research and capacity-building initiatives.

#### IV. Current regional initiatives and actions

32. FAO, in cooperation with Member Governments and with the support of donor agencies, is actively engaged in improving nutrition and food safety through agriculture and food systems across the region. FAO promotes food-based approaches to improve nutrition and assist governments in mainstreaming nutrition in agriculture policies, strategies and investment plans (including livestock, forestry and fisheries). FAO also works with the Governments to support and strengthen food control systems, including standards and their implementation. FAO has closely worked with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to integrate nutrition objectives with measurable outcomes and targets in the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and the Strategic Plan of Action for Food Security 2015-2020 (SPA-FS), including strengthening the capacity of ASEAN agriculture stakeholders to implement, monitor and evaluate AIFS and SPA-FS. In addition, FAO supported the development of a vision, objectives and goals of the ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry sector towards 2020, which has incorporated nutrition and food safety. Similarly, many countries in Asia and the Pacific have mainstreamed nutrition objectives into their national food and agriculture policies and strategies. Food security programmes with explicit nutrition outcomes have been implemented in different countries.

33. FAO also collaborates with a number of countries to promote the Regional Initiative on Zero Hunger Challenge, which is gaining support in a number of countries in the region. The regional initiative focuses on: creating a policy environment that promotes food-based strategies; reducing stunting through the promotion of integrated home food production; and using school gardens as a platform for learning and acquiring lifelong proper nutrition knowledge and skills. Lastly, the regional initiative also highlights the importance of information systems.

34. FAO works closely with other UN agencies to support government and regional organizations in designing and implementing multisectoral nutrition strategies. Through UN joint efforts, the food security and nutrition country profiles were designed to provide comprehensive information comprising different indicators such as GDP growth, agriculture, trade, health, water and sanitation and nutrition information.

#### **Box 2: FAO's current work in nutrition**

FAO's current work in nutrition in the region focuses on these thematic areas:

- strengthening the capacity of Member States to integrate nutrition into food and agriculture policies and strategies, including the design and implementation of nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food security programmes and projects;
- providing technical support to select a set of nutrition indicators as part of the national early warning system on improving food security;
- promoting local traditional foods with higher nutritional value by analysing their composition and based on which, food composition tables would be further strengthened;
- strengthening the national multisectoral coordination mechanisms for improving nutrition;

- supporting education and awareness raising on nutrition for food and agriculture policy-makers, programme planners and implementers;
- assisting in integrating nutrition into the pre-service and in-service training of agricultural extension staff to enable them to understand how to promote food and dietary diversification; and
- supporting governments and value chain actors in strengthening food safety at policy, institutional and implementation levels, which also has a significant impact on nutritional status.

## **V. Conclusions and recommendations**

### **A. Conclusions**

35. Malnutrition with its multifactorial causation must be addressed through an integrated and multisectoral approach. The food and agriculture sector needs to join forces with other sectors to address nutrition challenges at both country and regional levels. This calls for better engagement and closer collaboration among different stakeholders involving government institutions, NGOs, CSOs, the private sector, academia and training institutions, including multilateral and bilateral development partners and UN agencies. This also calls for better policy and programme coherence and enhanced investments for nutrition. South-South cooperation will also be useful. Improved coordination among development partners is also essential to accelerate progress in improving nutrition.

36. Food safety, nutrition and food security are inextricably linked. It is therefore important to recognize the crucial role that food safety plays in implementing measures to strengthen and achieve nutritional outcomes. Improved food safety will contribute to improving nutritional status and reducing and preventing non-communicable diseases. Thus, an enabling policy and regulatory environment should be provided, and effective food safety systems need to be further reinforced along the food value chain to ensure availability of safe and nutritious foods to consumers.

### **B. Recommendations**

37. The Conference may wish to recommend the following actions for governments, in alignment with the outcomes and recommendations of the ICN2:

#### *Integrating nutrition in food and agriculture*

- Incorporate explicit nutrition goals, objectives, components, targets and measurable indicators into the design of agricultural, trade and food security policies, programmes and investments. This should include measuring and tracking progress towards a commonly agreed set of nutrition targets, goals and objectives through a monitoring and evaluation system (including nutrition surveillance) with a relevant set of nutrition indicators such as dietary diversity scores and stunting.
- Improve policy coherence to create an enabling macro environment supportive of nutrition. Sectoral policies related to food and agriculture need to cover aspects of nutrition to ensure food and nutrition security. These may include food safety policies, food price policies, subsidies, environmental and trade policies, social protection policies and those on gender equality/women's empowerment that directly or indirectly impact nutrition and pro-poor agriculture policies (such as for land reform, improved market access and post-harvest and storage facilities).

#### *Improving multisectoral collaboration*

- Promote and support a food and agriculture system of responsible governance for nutrition at all levels. A national nutrition strategy and action plan which recognizes the multifactorial causes of malnutrition and which requires multisectoral action needs to be put in place. Country road maps for capacity-building (e.g. in areas like mainstreaming nutrition in sectoral policies related to food and agriculture) should be an integral component of the overall nutrition strategy.
- Ensure that national safety net programmes are nutrition-sensitive and deliver improved nutrition outcomes, and mobilize domestic and international finance to support national efforts to improve nutrition and support food and nutrition security in the post-2015 SDGs agenda.
- Pursue an integrated approach where food safety and nutrition are systematically introduced into mainstream agriculture and food system policies and interventions in order to achieve health and development goals.

*Strengthening capacity development to mainstream nutrition*

- In developing capacity for integrating nutrition in food and agriculture, focus on institutional approaches, technical skills of individuals, awareness and understanding among all stakeholders of the food and nutrition system and adoption of nutrition-sensitive practices.
- Strengthen food safety across the food chain for better nutrition outcomes including policies, legislation, standards (including their implementation, enforcement and surveillance), test capabilities and human resource capacities.
- Engage academia and the private sector in supporting capacity-building initiatives through their extension activities or outreach programmes.
- Implement nutrition awareness and education for farmers, traders and food and agriculture policy-makers, programme planners and implementers. Also integrate nutrition education (including how to implement behaviour change communications to improve dietary habits) in agriculture extension services.

38. The Conference may request FAO to further assist member countries in the following areas:

- Provide technical support to incorporate explicit nutrition objectives in food and agriculture through review, revision and formulation of relevant policies, strategies and programmes (including the capacity to design, implement, monitor and evaluate these), develop national food-based dietary guidelines and promote healthy diets.
- Provide support to governments to strengthen food safety policy, legislation, standards, institutional infrastructure and human capacity across ministries and departments and other stakeholders based on science and following a risk-based approach. Strengthen capacity to establish and implement appropriate food safety standards in line with the Codex Alimentarius Commission, including using labelling guidelines for food safety and nutritional outcomes.
- Provide regional and national platforms for sharing good practices, experiences and lessons learned in implementing nutrition-sensitive food and agriculture interventions, particularly sharing experience from the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework about explicit nutrition objectives with the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Pacific Island Forum (PIF).
- The Conference may wish to call on resource partners to make voluntary contributions to support FAO's work in the Region to advance governments' nutrition actions and initiatives.

