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منظمة
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Agenda item 14

Results and Priorities for FAO in Asia and the Pacific Region

Executive Summary

- As supported by the Regional Conference in its 32nd Session, during 2014-15 FAO focused its work on four Regional Initiatives to achieve country-level impact through: i) Zero Hunger Challenge; ii) Regional Rice Initiative Phase II; iii) Blue Growth; and iv) developing local value chains for food security and nutrition in the Pacific Islands countries. Results were demonstrated in the region while leaving flexibility to respond to country priorities and emerging needs, all contributing to FAO's Strategic Objectives.
- The Regional Initiatives experiences have placed sharp focus on the critical role of policy, governance and institutional dimensions in successful programme implementation and have highlighted the need for improved data and statistics and the importance of addressing cross-cutting issues such as gender, climate change, nutrition and resilience.
- The Organization's Medium-Term Plan (MTP) 2014-17 was reviewed during 2014, taking into account trends and developments and their impacts on food systems, food security and nutrition. The review also covered policy thrusts for the second biennium of the planning period (2016-17) and the updated FAO results-based monitoring framework for measuring and reporting results, which was approved by the FAO Conference (June 2015) in the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17.
- The FAO governing bodies have expressed strong and consistent support during 2015 for continuity in the strategic direction of the Organization in order to realize the full impact of

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the Strategic Framework. One of the key priorities in the 2016-17 biennium will be to help countries pursue the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Better nutrition, improved food safety, attention to gender issues and climate change adaptation will be of particular importance. Work will be focused through the four Regional Initiatives at the country level, guided more strongly by country programming frameworks.

Guidance sought

- Recognize the work completed and the results achieved by FAO under the four Regional Initiatives and other main areas of work in responding to the main priorities identified by the 32nd Session of the Regional Conference.
- Provide guidance on areas of regional priority for FAO's work in 2016-17 and 2018-21 based on the major trends and challenges in the region, experience with the Regional Initiatives in 2014-15 and alignment of FAO's Strategic Objectives with the Sustainable Development Goals.

I. Introduction

1. As foreseen in the programming, budgeting and result-based monitoring system put in place by the FAO Conference in 2009, the Organization's Medium-Term Plan (MTP) 2014-17 was reviewed during 2014, taking into account trends and developments in the external environment and the guidance provided by the Regional Conferences,¹ Technical Committees,² Programme and Finance Committees and the Council.³

2. The MTP 2014-17 (reviewed) was approved by the FAO Conference in June 2015. The review of the MTP, carried out at the end of the first year of work under its four-year timeframe, covered recent trends and developments and their impacts on food systems, food security and nutrition: the Post-2015 development agenda, climate change, control and response to transboundary plant and animal pests and diseases, nutrition, urbanization and migration. The review also covered policy thrusts for the 2016-17 biennium of the planning period and the updated FAO results-based monitoring framework for measuring and reporting results.

3. The results framework guides the planning and monitoring of the Organization's work. At the core of the framework are the indicators that measure progress at each level of the results chain: Outputs, Outcomes and Strategic Objectives. This provides the basis for assessing and reporting how FAO's actions contribute to changes at national, regional and global levels.

4. The FAO governing bodies expressed strong and consistent support during 2015 for continuity in the strategic direction of the Organization in order to realize the full impact of the Strategic Framework. Therefore, the overall results framework for 2014-17 remains in place (see Figure 1), with three main policy adjustments, elaborated in the MTP 2014-17 (reviewed) and the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17⁴. These adjustments include: i) the title of Strategic

¹ As reported in C 2015/14, C 2015/15, C 2015/16, C 2015/17, C 2015/18, C 2015/LIM/1

² As reported in C 2015/21 COAG, C 2015/22 CCP, C 2015/23 COFI, C 2015/24 COFO

³ PC 117/5 – FC 157/7 and CL 150/REP paragraph 43c)

⁴ C 2015/3 and CL 153/3 at www.fao.org/pwb

Objective 4 has been shortened to read “Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems”; ii) nutrition and climate change have been designated as a cross-cutting themes under Objective 6; and iii) measures have been introduced to strengthen programme delivery and results, particularly at the country level.

5. The FAO governing bodies underlined the importance of articulating areas of programmatic emphasis and de-emphasis, taking into account priorities arising from the Regional Conferences and Technical Committees,⁵ as well as the achievements and lessons learned from Regional Initiatives implemented in 2014-15 and FAO’s Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs) reflecting country priorities. The priority areas of work for FAO in the Asia and the Pacific Region for the 2016-17 biennium have been informed by these developments.

6. In addition, two important global developments in 2015 will frame FAO's work in the future: i) the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted at the United Nations in Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, and ii) the Paris Agreement adopted as an outcome of the UN Global Climate Change Conference (COP21), which aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty. In its 153rd session in December 2015, the FAO Council welcomed the alignment of FAO’s Strategic Framework with the SDGs, noting that there would be opportunity for bringing further coherence while preparing the MTP 2018-21.

7. The quadrennial review of the FAO Strategic Framework and preparation of a new MTP 2018-21 will take place during 2016, through the Regional Conferences and Technical Committees, for approval by the Council and Conference in the first half of 2017. In the context of continuity of the overall strategic direction, and taking account of results in the region and global developments, this offers the opportunity to further focus FAO’s work aiming for more concrete results, particularly at the country level.

8. The document is divided in three sections:

- Section II outlines how priorities and issues requiring follow-up emanating from the previous Regional Conference have been addressed, bringing to Members' attention major achievements and results.
- Section III sets out the priorities for FAO’s work in the region during 2016-17, with a focus on Regional Initiatives.
- Section IV presents the outcome of a regional strategic review, which examined regional expression of global trends and significant regional trends that will have a bearing on FAO’s work in the region going forward, to be taken into consideration in preparing the FAO MTP 2018-21.

II. Follow-up to the 2014 Regional Conference: Achievements and lessons learned

9. The Regional Conference in 2014 supported four Regional Initiatives as a means to further focus FAO’s work for country-level impact and for resource mobilization: i) Zero Hunger Challenge; ii) Regional Rice Initiative Phase II; iii) Blue Growth; and iv) developing local value chains for food security and nutrition in the Pacific Islands countries. The Regional Conference also called attention to work on coconut sector development, restoration of grasslands and forests, control and prevention of transboundary animal diseases and a Save Food campaign. The main achievements and lessons learned are summarized below. The regional contributions to FAO’s Strategic Objectives are set out in

⁵ CL 150/LIM

Annex 1, and Web Annex 3 quantifies the contribution of regional results at outcome and output levels.

A. Regional initiatives and country programmes

10. **Asia and the Pacific's Zero Hunger Challenge (ZHC):** The ZHC gives emphasis to three specific and complementary areas of work identified on the basis of their critical importance for eradicating hunger and malnutrition, as well as FAO's comparative advantage and experience in the region. The three areas are: i) formulating and operationalizing national food security and nutrition policies and investment plans by drawing lessons from the successful model of the National Food Policy Capacity Strengthening Programme in Bangladesh; ii) improving capacity for measurement and calculation of undernourishment; and iii) improving child nutrition and reducing stunting. In 2014-2015, FAO provided support to formulation of National Action Plans for Food and Nutrition Security/Achieving Zero Hunger, including helping some focus countries to set up National Steering Committees and Technical Committees. FAO also built statistical capacity in support of better informed policies in five countries and mainstreamed nutrition into farmer field schools by strengthening home and school gardens.

11. Following the Asia-Pacific launch of the ZHC in April 2013 and the development of a "Regional Guiding Framework for Achieving Zero Hunger in Asia and the Pacific" in December 2013, several countries in Asia and the Pacific (i.e. Myanmar, Nepal, Viet Nam and Timor-Leste) launched their National Zero Hunger Challenges and officially declared their commitment to the eradication of chronic hunger and malnutrition by 2025.

12. **Regional Rice Initiative:** Following the guidance provided by the Regional Rice Strategy, FAO's Regional Rice Initiative focused on the development of National Rice Strategic Action Plans, Farmer Field School programmes based on Save and Grow, and demonstration of an integrated approach involving aquaculture and forest management with rice production in rice-fish and Trees-Outside-Forests (TOF) models. Pilot case studies were promoted in the field and the effectiveness of various management practices and integration of aquatic animals and rice-based production systems was assessed, as well as the environmental and socio-economic benefits from TOF in rice production landscapes. The impact of climate change on rice, corn yields and hydrological resources was assessed, and the Rice Economy Climate Change (RECC) Model developed by the Initiative was included in the "OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2014-2023". Finally, a survey on current practices in rice harvest and post-harvest systems was completed for further development of a value chain model to engage more with small farmers.

13. FAO also supported countries to strengthen national governance frameworks for the adoption of sustainable agricultural sector practices through a Regional Consultancy Expert Meeting on Hybrid Rice in Asia to share knowledge and analyse the limitations and potential of hybrid rice in contributing to food security. It helped assessment of the rice sector in Lao PDR, Myanmar and the Philippines and thereby contributed to the development of national rice strategies and action plans.

14. **Regional initiative on sustainable intensification of aquaculture for blue growth in Asia-Pacific:** The Regional Blue Growth Initiative is a direct response to the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) Sub-Committee on aquaculture which requested a Regional Technical Consultation on aquaculture development and intensification. In 2014-2015, at the country level, FAO supported six countries in the region in promoting sustainable growth of aquaculture and responsible fisheries through policy advice, introduction of new technology and innovative aquaculture production and management practices. These measures improved the access of small aquaculture farmers to quality production inputs, markets and technology, enhanced production efficiency and environmental and socio-economic benefits as well as built resilience and disaster preparedness of aquaculture farmers and fishers. At the regional level, the Initiative focused on developing a regional strategy and action

plan for sustainable intensification of aquaculture, identifying and documenting 12 successful practices and developing a set of aquaculture planning and management tools.

15. **Value chains for food security and nutrition in the Pacific Islands:** This Regional Initiative aims at developing efficient and inclusive agrifood systems in the Pacific region by supporting sustainable subsistence farming systems and their linkages to inclusive value chains including local markets, public procurement, tourism and niche trade opportunities. In 2014-2015, the Initiative focused on three countries. Cook Islands continued to be a standout success with TCP projects and extra-budgetary resources from the Netherlands, which led to improved data collection and analysis, a clearer focus on serving domestic and tourist markets, improved public-sector capacity to support commercial and small-scale growers and greater involvement of private-sector bodies in agricultural development. In Fiji and Samoa, good progress has been made. A particular feature in Samoa has been the alignment of FAO activities to a World Bank agricultural competitiveness project, which has increased the profile and usefulness of FAO products, such as an analysis of food losses in fresh food chains.

16. **Implementation of the Country Programming Frameworks:** Work at the country level was guided by priorities identified with governments in the Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs), contributing to FAO's output targets, and implemented through direct support including the Regional Initiatives, other areas of work described in this section, the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme, and resources mobilized from partners in projects as set out in Annex 2.

B. Other priority areas of work

Coconut sector development

17. FAO conducted, in collaboration with the Asia and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC), a “High level expert consultation on coconut sector development in Asia and the Pacific” that brought together 13 coconut-growing countries in the region, with participation from nine Ministers. The major achievement was the development of a Regional Strategy for the development of the coconut sector in Asia and the Pacific, which has guided government programmes in the region. Upon request from the Government of Timor-Leste, FAO assisted the Government to prepare a comprehensive document on “Status and Potential of the Coconut Sector in Timor-Leste”. FAO also assisted the Department of Agriculture in Thailand to organize an International Conference on Coconut Oil (ICCO), in which 18 countries participated and produced concrete recommendations to expand coconut oil production in a sustainable manner.

Restoration of grasslands and forests

18. FAO co-organized Regional Consultations on Sustainable Grassland Management that recommended the establishment of an Asia-Pacific Sustainable Grassland Management Network and a Web platform with updated scientific information facilitating the development of appropriate means and methods for sharing and enhancing the monitoring of ecosystem services, particularly for carbon sequestration. FAO has continued to strongly promote forest restoration in the region through the Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) Mechanism implemented in Cambodia and the Philippines.

Control and prevention of transboundary animal diseases

19. In alignment with the Global Framework for Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TAD), FAO facilitated the formal development of regional coordination mechanisms for various regional economic organizations including ASEAN, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). These mechanisms supported capacity building and networking in key technical areas (e.g. epidemiology) that are required for animal disease prevention and control. In light of regional economic growth and increasing demands for food of

animal origins, FAO, through the Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD), supported countries to improve their policies and capacities to assess potential risks that may derive from livestock movement, thus facilitating safe international trade.

Save food campaign

20. FAO supported the development of evidence-based food loss and waste reduction programmes at national and regional levels by assisting the preparation of study reports on the causes and extent of food losses and food waste in Asian countries. The campaign catalysed public-private partnerships to develop networks, programmes, projects and policy recommendations for post-harvest loss reduction.

Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS)

21. FAO promoted regional implementation of GIAHS by supporting countries to progressively designate new GIAHS sites and implement pilot testing of dynamic conservation principles. These efforts helped to preserve globally/locally significant agricultural biodiversity, ecosystem services and cultural heritage harboured in the region.

C. Lessons learned

22. The implementation of the Regional Initiatives in 2014-15 highlighted their valuable contribution to focusing FAO programmes in the region and in countries, while leaving flexibility to respond to country priorities and emerging needs. The Regional Initiatives experiences have placed sharp focus on the critical role of policy, governance and institutional dimensions for successful programme implementation, as well as on the need for improved data and statistics. Experience has also highlighted the importance of addressing cross-cutting issues – such as gender, climate change, nutrition and resilience – as an integral part of the Initiatives. In follow-up to the experience gained to date, FAO will:

- improve countries' ownership of the Regional Initiatives by applying a more demand-driven approach, focusing more strongly on regional priorities and engaging more stakeholders and partners;
- continue to work with countries to sharpen the focus of the CPFs on country needs so that CPFs provide strategic guidance for cooperation between FAO and the countries;
- facilitate regional and bilateral cooperation between countries on South-South Cooperation by helping to identify areas of need and expertise within key programmatic aspects as a basis for expanding collaboration across countries in the region;
- further strengthen partnership programmes to reverse the declining resource mobilization to meet the needs of countries in the region;
- strengthen the focus on nutrition and the root causes of hunger and malnutrition, including through fostering regional partnerships and collaboration with state and non-state actors for the implementation of the Rome Declaration and the Framework for Action endorsed by ICN2; and
- help to transfer knowledge and develop capacity for sustainable management of natural resources, adaptation and resilience required for the implementation of the SDGs and for addressing climate change in the region.

III. Main areas of work in 2016-17

23. Based on the CPFs, the main targets for the 2016-17 biennium linked to the Strategic Objective outputs⁶ have been identified by the country offices. This target-setting exercise was the main pillar in identifying regional and country priorities, along with achievements and lessons learned from the Regional Initiatives.

24. One of the key priorities for FAO in the region will be to help countries pursue the SDGs. Better nutrition, improved food safety, attention to gender issues and climate change adaptation will be of particular importance. Work will be focussed through the four Regional Initiatives at the country level, guided by CPFs, as highlighted below.

Zero Hunger Challenge

25. Eradication of hunger is embodied in SDG2 and its root causes are embodied in SDG1. Poverty and hunger are multidimensional phenomena requiring inter-sectoral and pro-poor rural development solutions. FAO will focus its work on several key areas that will contribute to achieving these goals. First, it will support developing umbrella national food security policies where required, and help countries strengthen interministerial coordination and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for better implementation of these policies. Second, it will strengthen capacity for data collection and analysis for better SDG monitoring and decision-making, since it is much easier to improve nutritional outcomes when they are measured. Third, it will support nutrition-sensitive intervention and promote nutrition-friendly enabling environments.

26. For example, further work in Bangladesh under the MUCH project (Meeting the Undernutrition Challenge) and in other countries will continue to stress the importance of a multisectoral approach in bringing together diverse stakeholders, both within and outside government, to make sure that policies are harmonized and nutrition-sensitive. Livestock products are also a key part of improved nutrition – FAO and India will provide assistance to Afghanistan to establish a National Dairy Board. FAO will also look at trends in feed supply and demand balances and their implications for food security and nutrition, as the region is becoming a large importer.

27. FAO's work on nutrition will stress the importance of food-based approaches, but in concert with the work of other organizations and approaches as well. Successful experiences of applying an integrated pro-poor rural development approach to food security and nutrition include a twin-track approach involving investing in social protection transfers and targeting pro-poor investment in productive activities. FAO's work will also be sensitive to country and local contexts, as different countries have different nutrition problems – stunting is above 30 percent in many countries while obesity is low (especially in low- and middle-income countries in South and Southeast Asia), but in others obesity is high and the incidence of stunting is low (especially in the Pacific).

Regional Rice Initiative

28. The Regional Rice Initiative will continue to focus on the importance of goods and services produced by and available from rice ecosystems, and to identify, promote and upscale sustainable rice production practices in order to enhance resilience and increase efficiencies in rice production to improve food security. An array of options is available to meet these objectives, including the overarching Save and Grow approach, whereby rice is produced with higher quality but fewer inputs to realize sustainable intensification of rice production (SIRP); maximizing the benefits of Trees Outside Forest (TOF); Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS); and Mapping System and Services for Canal Operation Techniques (MASSCOTE). At the regional level, FAO will: i) support the exchange of knowledge and experiences in mechanization to alleviate labour shortages; and ii) enhance small-scale rice producers' access to value chains and improved post-harvest

⁶ CL 153/3 Web Annex 6

technologies. FAO will explore opportunities for collaborating and broadening partnerships with other organizations, including the International Center for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF), the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) (Sustainable Rice Platform).

Sustainable Intensification of Aquaculture for Blue Growth

29. The Regional Blue Growth Initiative will be strengthened in the following areas: (1) Support development of national and regional strategy to address priority issues related to blue growth; (2) Promote innovative production and management systems and practices for more efficient production and sustainable use of resources (e.g. fisheries, water, land, forests) and restoration of ecosystem services and functions; (3) Increase the resilience of farmers and fishers in adapting to climate change impacts and coping with natural and socioeconomic risks; and (4) support development of inclusive aquaculture and fisheries value chain with special focus on improved access of farmers to quality production inputs, technologies and markets.

Developing local value chains for food security and nutrition in Pacific Island Countries

30. For 2016-17, at the national level, the Initiative will continue to focus on: i) the Cook Islands, Fiji and Samoa, aiming to improve evidence-based policy monitoring and development in Fiji and Samoa; and ii) improve the capacity of farmers and agroprocessors to market a consistent supply of safe, quality food in the Cook Islands and Samoa. Greater emphasis will be placed on the analysis of food and nutritional security and consumption patterns. FAO will continue to work on building the evidence base and the enabling regional environment centres on Codex, International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA).

Key cross-cutting issues

31. FAO will continue to mainstream **gender equality** in all its areas of work and support rural women's economic empowerment through promotion of better access to productive resources, services and technologies. Work on knowledge generation, capacity building and implementation of programmes will promote socially inclusive and gender-equitable rural development.

32. FAO's work on **climate change** will be focused on two interrelated priorities. Firstly, FAO will continue to provide technical support to FAO countries in Asia and the Pacific to develop and implement projects and programmes to strengthen the resilience of the agriculture and rural sectors to climate change while increasing productivity and, where appropriate, lowering emissions. Secondly, FAO will be supporting countries to review and make preparations to implement priority actions for the agriculture sector under the UNFCCC Paris Agreement, as the agriculture and land-use sectors are featured prominently in the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs). More specifically, FAO assistance to countries will concentrate on: i) rolling out integrated 'climate-smart' agriculture initiatives that can assist countries to address their INDC priorities for adaptation and mitigation in the agriculture sectors; ii) strengthening countries' capacity to integrate the agriculture sectors into their National Adaptation Plans; and iii) developing INDC action plans for the agriculture sectors, including appropriate progress indicators, baseline measurements and timelines.

33. **Safe food** is important in protecting consumers' health by preventing both acute and chronic food-borne diseases. With globalization and greater movement of food across borders, food safety is no longer just a domestic issue, but also a regional issue requiring cooperation among countries. FAO's food safety programme will support countries in the following areas: i) development of strategic action plans for strengthening food controls; ii) increased cross-ministerial coordination; iii) strengthened participation in international standards; iv) improved capacity for risk analysis (assessment, management and communication); and v) greater capacity for good practices in primary production through development of schemes and certification systems in line with international accreditation criteria.

34. Partnerships with regional organizations will remain a high priority. For example, FAO will implement a project on Strengthening the Capacity of SAARC in the Development, Co-ordination and Monitoring of a Regional Food Security and Nutrition Framework, Strategies and Programmes. FAO will also provide support to the development of a Strategic Plan of Action in ASEAN for fisheries. Existing cooperation with ASEAN on Highly Pathogenic and Emerging Diseases (HPED), food safety and nutrition will continue. Within the framework of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, emphasis is placed on partnering with regional organizations. A long-term Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Fishery statistics is being developed in partnership with SPC to build the capacity of Small Island Developing States (SIDs) in a sustainable manner. Similar initiatives for SAARC and ASEAN countries are being explored to build the capacity of countries to monitor the SDGs.

IV. Priorities for the Future Work of the Organization

35. In the interest of effectively incorporating regional specificities in the review of the Strategic Framework and preparation of the MTP 2018-21, a regional strategic review was carried out in each region to identify the special problems of the region and priority areas of work for FAO in the future. Each Regional Office undertook a thorough internal strategic reflection exercise with the participation of high-level experts and FAO staff in the region. The result is a Regional Strategic Review Paper,⁷ which provides an overview of major regional challenges and regional manifestations of global challenges that are expected to influence the work of the Organization in the region within a time horizon of 10-15 years. The main trends and challenges are summarized below.

A. Main trends emerging from the regional strategic review

36. The regional strategic review demonstrated that the SDG framework, the COP21 and the Zero Hunger Challenge offer a historic opportunity for FAO to work with countries and global partners to eradicate the scourge of hunger and malnutrition in the region, while also contributing to environmental sustainability. The challenges are immense – not only are there estimated to be 490 million people in the region who are undernourished, there are billions who suffer from micronutrient deficiencies and large numbers of children whose development has been stunted. In addition to the prevailing undernourishment, obesity and the burden of non-communicable diseases are becoming important issues, especially in the Pacific. Further, the review identified that the trajectory of food security, hunger reduction and agricultural sustainability in the region in the next 15-20 years will be influenced by five key elements:

- economic growth and transformation, coupled with widening inequality;
- demographic change;
- climate change;
- agricultural innovations and technologies; and
- policies and institutions.

37. Between 1990 and 2014, real gross domestic product in the region grew at an annual rate of 7.3 percent in purchasing power parity international dollars, enabling the region to lift millions of people out of hunger and malnutrition. In some areas, agriculture is mechanizing in the face of labour shortages. But economic growth has also increased demand for many foods high in fats and sugar, contributing to an increased disease burden. More fundamentally, with economic growth has come widening income gaps, marginalization and social exclusion that threaten FAO's core mission and countries' ability to meet the SDGs.

⁷ Provided as a web annex

38. Population in the Asia and Pacific Region has risen from 2.6 billion in 1980 to 4.2 billion in 2010; it is projected to rise to 4.9 billion by 2030, reach a peak of 5.3 billion by 2060 and decline thereafter. However, overall population growth and the share of children aged 0-14 are declining; the share of adults over 65 is rising; and the share of the population that is of working age is declining. Increased rural-urban migration suggests that the locus of poverty and food insecurity will shift towards the cities, with transport and logistics infrastructure and food safety becoming more prominent issues.

39. Global mean temperature is rising, rainfall patterns are changing and extreme weather events such as floods, heat waves and droughts, have increased in number and intensity. Some regions and groups of countries – such as the low-lying deltas and the small island developing countries – are extremely vulnerable to these changes, but they often have the least capacity to cope. Agriculture is also an important contributor to climate change.

40. Agricultural innovation and technologies (AITs) have contributed immensely to increase agricultural production and productivity, and publicly funded national agricultural research systems (NARS) have been the main source of AITs. Although research and development (R&D) expenditures have been rising in recent years, the Asia and Pacific Region has the lowest share of public R&D expenditures in agricultural gross domestic product. Private-sector investment in R&D has not significantly increased, but efforts have been made to improve networking arrangements, attract non-conventional funding and establish better institutional arrangements.

41. Food policy and institutional building efforts are marred by difficulties such as: breaking silos and coordinating across institutions; integrating the agriculture sector with the industrial and services sectors; linking smallholders and disadvantaged communities into growing markets; eliminating social exclusion; and harmonizing policies and institutional goals.

B. Priority areas of FAO action for the future

42. Sustainably managing the way food is grown, transported, processed, traded, stored and marketed while ensuring that all people, especially the poor and marginalized, enjoy access to food is fundamental to realizing the SDGs, the Paris Agreement climate targets and the Zero Hunger Challenge. FAO, in collaboration with partners, must help to establish institutional and governance mechanisms that can manage growth processes to realize socially inclusive and sustainable economic development.

43. While poverty and food insecurity are still largely rural phenomena, an urban dimension to food insecurity is becoming a reality in the region. The review identified that FAO and other development partners can: i) facilitate analytical work and dialogues among countries to overcome challenges related to maintaining agricultural productivity amidst a declining agricultural labour force; and ii) identify mechanisms for linking rural-urban sectors to enhance livelihoods and efficiency.

44. To face the challenges posed by climate change, FAO and various private and public sector partners will support countries to: i) meet the obligations countries have made under the Paris Agreement in relation to agriculture; ii) identify and promote agro-ecological and climate-smart agricultural and consumption practices and policies; and iii) help countries adopt climate adaptation and mitigation measures in agriculture.

45. Innovations and technologies are at the centre of FAO's efforts towards realizing the goal of eradicating poverty and hunger. FAO's priority actions towards this end will include supporting countries to: i) identify constraints that limit adoption of agricultural innovations and technologies; ii) facilitate the adoption of better methods to economize on the use of water, nitrogen and other inputs through the promotion of precision-farming and other agricultural practices; and iii) identify and implement methods to reduce pre- and post-harvest losses and improve food safety.

46. Policies and institutions provide the foundation for realizing the global and regional goals of FAO's Members. The Organization will utilize its expertise to assist countries to: i) conduct analytical work on emerging trends to inform policy dialogue; ii) build consensus on food policy by organizing cross-ministerial, intergovernmental and regional policy forums to share knowledge widely; iii) strengthen institutional arrangements to enable countries to implement food security strategies efficiently; and iv) liaise with international and national partners to implement a process to improve education on nutrition and food safety.

Figure 1: Main components of FAO's results framework

FAO's vision

A world free of hunger and malnutrition where food and agriculture contribute to improving the living standards of all, especially the poorest, in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner.

Three Global Goals of Members:

- 1) eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, progressively ensuring a world in which people at all times have sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life;
- 2) elimination of poverty and the driving forward of economic and social progress for all, with increased food production, enhanced rural development and sustainable livelihoods; and
- 3) sustainable management and utilization of natural resources, including land, water, air, climate and genetic resources, for the benefit of present and future generations.

Strategic Objectives

1. Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.
2. Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner.
3. Reduce rural poverty.
4. Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems.
5. Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises.

Additional Objective

6. Technical quality, knowledge and services

Cross-cutting themes

Gender

Governance

Nutrition

Climate Change

Core Functions

1. Facilitate and support countries in the development and implementation of normative and standard-setting instruments, such as international agreements, codes of conduct, technical standards and others
2. Assemble, analyse, monitor and improve access to data and information, in areas related to

FAO's mandate

3. Facilitate, promote and support policy dialogue at global, regional and country levels
4. Advise and support capacity development at country and regional levels to prepare, implement, monitor and evaluate evidence-based policies, investments and programmes
5. Advise and support activities that assemble, disseminate and improve the uptake of knowledge, technologies and good practices in the areas of FAO's mandate
6. Facilitate partnerships for food security and nutrition, agriculture and rural development, between governments, development partners, civil society and the private sector
7. Advocate and communicate at national, regional and global levels, in areas of FAO's mandate

Functional Objectives

Outreach

Information technology

FAO governance, oversight and direction

Efficient and effective administration

Annex 1: Regional contributions to FAO's Strategic Objective outcomes and outputs

Key regional achievements contributing to FAO's Strategic Objectives are highlighted below. Web Annex 3 quantifies the contribution of regional results at outcome and output levels.

Strategic Objective 1: Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition

(SO1): At the country level, FAO improved capacities of governments and stakeholders for developing national food security and nutrition policy and investment plans, and to monitor, analyze and communicate food security and nutrition information for improved governance. At the regional level, FAO provided support to ASEAN for strategic planning in two main areas: i) incorporating nutrition-enhancing agricultural development into the second phase (2015-2020) of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework and Strategic Plan of Action (AIFS and SPA-FS); and ii) developing a Vision and Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (2016-2025), both of which have been endorsed by the ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry. The second phase of the SPA-FS incorporates a monitoring and results framework for tracking progress and evaluating implementation of SPA-FS, which was also developed with help from FAO. Further to this work, FAO also provided technical support to ASEAN to develop ASEAN's Vision and a Strategic Action Plan for the Livestock Sector, which aims to promote more sustainable livestock sector development in the region. The Global Strategy is assisting countries to improve the quality and availability of essential statistics and promoting use of relevant statistics in evidence-based policy formulation.

Strategic Objective 2: Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner ***(SO2):*** FAO supported forest landscape restoration, advanced the work on increasing resilience to climate change and conducted capacity building related to the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA). It contributed to the regional policy dialogue on water-energy-food nexus governance issues and supported the mainstreaming of biodiversity, environmental conservation and climate change adaptation in water resources management. FAO supported: i) the development of a regional consensus on a key programme of action on water and

food security to support transitions linked to economic development and towards sustainability; ii) a field programme portfolio to improve management and capacity in the irrigation sector; and iii) the introduction of methodologies for water accounting. FAO reviewed illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the region and developed guidelines for responsible tropical trawling. FAO implemented farmer education programmes through Farmer Field Schools on Save and Grow to support ecological approaches at the field level including integrated pest and pesticide risk reductions. FAO has supported regional work on the dairy sector called “Dairy Asia—Towards Sustainability” in view of the potential of the dairy sector to promote food security, nutrition and empowerment of women. FAO also provided technical support to ASEAN to develop ASEAN’s Vision and a Strategic Action Plan for the Livestock Sector, which aims to promote more sustainable livestock sector development in the region.

Strategic Objective 3: Reduce rural poverty (SO3): FAO largely focused on assisting countries through support to develop pro-poor and gender-sensitive policies and create income-generating opportunities for the rural poor through access to value chains, services and inputs. Renewed attention was also given to rural women’s economic empowerment, indigenous people and social protection. FAO contributed to the formulation of the Plan of Action for the implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection and collaborates with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to promote ASEAN-SAARC sharing of experience in the development of social protection strategies and plans of action, and the dissemination of best practices linking social protection, rural employment, food security and nutrition.

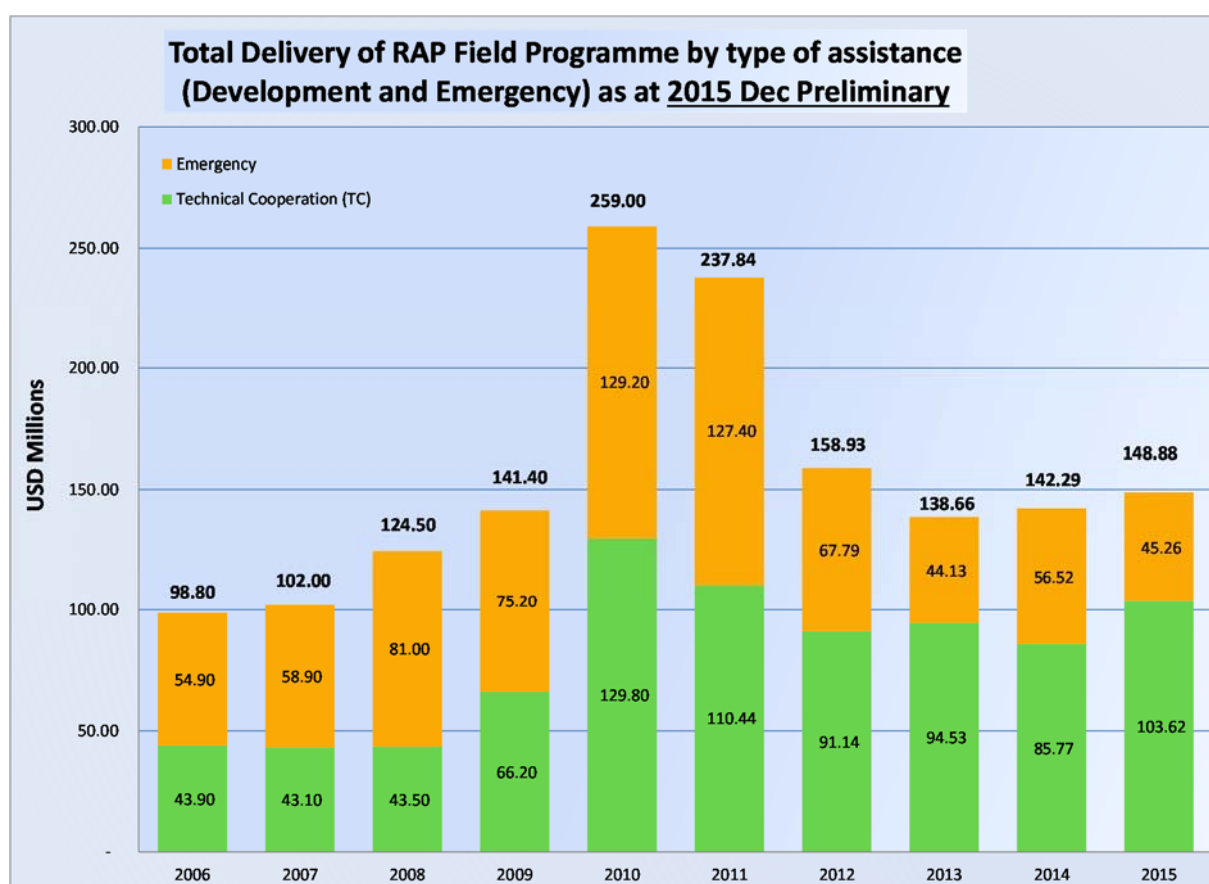
Strategic Objective 4: Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems at local, national and international levels (SO4): FAO provided active support to several countries in formulating new and revised legislation for food safety and quality and for plant and animal health, and in engaging effectively in the formulation and implementation of international trade agreements, regulations, mechanisms and frameworks to promote transparent markets and enhanced global and regional market opportunities. It also supported public sector institutions through analysis and capacity development, to strengthen inclusive and efficient food systems, including the linking of agriculture to tourism and domestic markets and the reduction of post-harvest losses, and in the design and implementation of improved policies and regulatory frameworks. In improving the access of value chain actors to finance, FAO facilitated the provision of agricultural credit products.

Strategic Objective 5: Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises (SO5): FAO contributed significantly to the Country Support Process for the focus countries, namely, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Philippines. The results included post-disaster strategic plans, policy and programme technical support related to disaster risk reduction, technical assistance and coordination on Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC). Continued efforts were made in capacity-building on disaster risk reduction/management planning, weather/climate information products, livelihoods and assets protection and climate change adaptation advocacy. In addition, significant direct country capacity support was provided in response to major emergency events in Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines and Vanuatu. There has also been extensive regional and country-level support to emerging pandemic threats and high impact diseases, as well as provision of capacity development to ASEAN and SARRC.

Annex 2: Resource Mobilization, Field Programme Delivery and Partnerships

FAO intensified resource mobilization efforts to secure resources for country-level capacity development in the domain of food security and nutrition policy and governance in the region. In particular, FAO Representations at the country level were supported to prepare follow-up phase CPFs and related resource requirements, to mobilize resources, including through South-South Cooperation, and to pursue partnerships with civil society organizations and the private sector.

FAO's field programme delivery in Asia and the Pacific had grown very rapidly prior to 2012, while the annual delivery tripled in the past decade. It largely reflected delivery from European Union-funded food facility projects that supported FAO's interventions after the food-price crisis in 2007-08. After the completion of the European Union food facility projects, there had been a natural decline of delivery which has plateaued over the last four years.



The **Global Environment Fund**, in supporting multisectoral work across the region, has become increasingly important in supporting the work of FAO, and increasingly works alongside the many technical areas and programmes related to the regional priorities including the **animal health programme**. In addition, the **Global Strategy to improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics** embarked on work in 15 countries during the 2014 -2015 biennium and will expand to a total of 20 countries in the next biennium.

