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Report of the first session of the

# COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

to the fifty-ninth session of the Council of FAO



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Rome, 17-22 April 1972

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>
OPENING OF THE SESSION	1 - 3
ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN	3 - 4
ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA	5 - 6
ADOPTION OF RULES OF PROCEDURE	7
FAO MEDIUM-TERM PLAN 1974-79 RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE AGRICULTURE AND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEPARTMENTS	8 - 34
SEED INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT	35 - 48
FOOD AND NUTRITION POLICIES	49 - 57
IMPROVING PRODUCTIVITY IN LESS FAVOURABLE ENVIRONMENTS	58 - 74
MATTERS ARISING FROM THE SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE FAO CONFERENCE	
(a) <u>Agrarian Reform - Implementation of Conference Resolution 3/71</u>	75 - 78
(b) <u>PSWAD/Agricultural Adjustment - Review of Progress</u>	79 - 85
(c) <u>Agricultural Research - Needs and Priorities</u>	86 - 102
OTHER BUSINESS	
(a) <u>Functions of the Committee on Agriculture</u>	103 - 108
DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION	109 - 110
Appendix A	LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
Appendix B	ADDRESS BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL
Appendix C	AGENDA
Appendix D	LIST OF DOCUMENTS
Appendix E	RULES OF PROCEDURE

## OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Committee on Agriculture (COAG) held its First Session from 17-22 April 1972 at FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy. The Session was attended by the representatives of 66 nations, members of the Committee, by observers from 8 other nations and by representatives from 10 international organizations. A list of participants is given in Appendix A to this report.
2. The Committee was welcomed, on behalf of the Director-General of FAO, in an opening address by Mr. Roy I. Jackson, Deputy Director-General of FAO. This address is reproduced in Appendix B to this report.
3. A Nominations Committee was appointed, consisting of the representatives of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Indonesia, Kenya and the Libyan Arab Republic.

## ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN

4. According to Rule I of its Rules of Procedure, on the recommendation of the Nominations Committee, Dr. Bukar Shaib (Nigeria) was unanimously elected as Chairman of the Committee, Mr. G. Weill (France) as First Vice-Chairman and Dr. C. Pérez del Castillo (Uruguay) as Second Vice-Chairman.

## ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION)

5. In adopting the Provisional Agenda the Committee agreed to the inclusion of two new items, Adoption of the Rules of Procedure and Functions of the Committee on Agriculture. The Agenda, as adopted by the Committee, is given in Appendix C to this report. The documents which were before the Committee are listed in Appendix D to this report.
6. A Drafting Committee was appointed, consisting of the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Federal Republic of Germany, Pakistan, Philippines, Senegal, United Kingdom and the United States of America. Mr. A.R. Melville (U.K.) was elected as Chairman of the Committee.

## ADOPTION OF RULES OF PROCEDURE

7. The Committee considered the draft rules of procedure set out in Document COAG/72/4 and, after making certain amendments thereto, adopted its rules of procedure in accordance with paragraph 9 of Rule XXXII of the General Rules of the Organization. The text of the Committee's rules of procedure as adopted are reproduced in Appendix E to this Report.

## FAO MEDIUM-TERM PLAN 1974-79 RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE AGRICULTURE AND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEPARTMENTS

### Introduction

8. The first session of the Committee on Agriculture had, as a major item of its agenda, the FAO Medium Term Plan 1974-79, relating to the work of the Agriculture Department and the Economic and Social Department.
9. At the last session of the Conference in November 1971, and in response to Conference Resolution 9/69, "The Medium-Term Plan 1972-77" was submitted. The Plan was seen as a major advance in the medium-term planning for the Organization, and as a valuable instrument for determining the global role, policies and planning of the future activities of FAO, in line with the objectives of the Second Development Decade, and the competence and capacity of the Organization.
10. Resolution 6/71 provided for a revised Medium-Term Plan for 1974-79.
11. The tasks for the Committee on Agriculture were indicated by document COAG/72/5, as follows:
  - (i) to re-examine the trend indicators for the programme and sub-programme relating to the work of the AG and ES Departments and the flexibility of the various modes of action;

(ii) to make recommendations (including the elimination of low-priority activities) on the priorities to be accorded to the sub-programmes coming within its term of reference for consideration in preparation of the 1974/75 Programme of Work and Budget;

(iii) to advise on the preparation of a revised Medium-Term Plan for the period 1974-79 for submission to the 60th Session of the Council and the 17th Session of the Conference.

12. COAG/72/5 retains the basic structure of the Medium-Term Plan (C 71/15) as regards programmes and sub-programmes, but it lists only the 62 sub-programmes relating to the work of the Agriculture Department and the Economic and Social Department (including one sub-programme of PAB but excluding the six sub-programmes for which the Commodities and Trade Division is responsible, as these will be reviewed by CCP). The document presents in summary form for each sub-programme the objective to be attained, the main lines of activity being undertaken or to be undertaken, and the trends and priorities envisaged within the sub-programme.

13. The sub-programme gradings for 1974/75 and 1976/77 are the same as those contained in C 71/15. These gradings reflect the views of the Secretariat on the Regular Programme Trends and priorities by sub-programmes, if adequate funds would become available.

14. The views and comments of the Regional Conferences, to be held prior to the Council Session in November 1972, as well as those of the Committee on Agriculture, will be taken into account by the Director-General in his presentation to the Council of programme priorities. These priorities will serve as the basis for the preparation of the Programme of Work for 1974/75.

15. The Committee on Agriculture considered that the Medium-Term Plan 1974/79 should first be reviewed in general terms and should subsequently be examined in detail.

#### General Considerations

16. From the presentation of the Deputy Director-General and the Director of the Programme Formulation Unit it was evident that the financial situation facing the Organization was an important constraint on its future activity and reinforced the necessity for careful choosing of priorities. The Committee had to recommend priorities and eliminate low priority activities. The views of this Committee would be presented to the 1972 Regional Conferences.

17. The projections of the Plan are to be considered as trends rather than financial targets. The necessity for a strong Regular Programme was emphasized, but the growing seriousness of the changing monetary situation was recognized. Savings could be achieved through delayed recruitment, cuts in travel, cables and telephone calls and in common services. Such cuts have an effect on sub-programmes but the basic framework of the Medium Term Plan is not affected.

18. Many delegations considered that the document COAG/72/5 was deficient in that the gradings allocated to the various sub-programmes had remained unchanged since the presentation of the Medium-Term Plan to the Conference in November 1971. It was decided that guidance was necessary in regard to the possible elimination of low priority items, and it was emphasized that there was a requirement for more far-reaching proposals. In addition, the Committee stressed that information on the progress so far achieved in implementing the sub-programmes would be necessary for its full consideration of the structure, content and operation of the Plan.

19. It was agreed that a prudent approach to expansion was necessary and that the budget crisis resulting from inflation and monetary changes sharpened the need for a close examination of priorities. The Committee was of the opinion that improved output could result from adjustments, coordination and certain reductions. In this connexion it was generally agreed that especially during this period of financial stringency, programme increases should be balanced by readjustments within the Regular Programme which would result in reductions in other areas. The need for flexibility in all operations was stressed and the Committee

generally agreed in principle with the greater use of consultants, short-term appointments, more sub-contracting, reduction in the number of statutory bodies, effective restructuring of staff and better communication between the Governing Bodies and the staff. The view was expressed that, while three-year appointments were to be advocated in many instances, it was essential in the interest of continuity that a substantial proportion of the staff must be appointed on a permanent basis. The deployment of staff between Headquarters and the field was considered to be highly important. The Committee noted that the whole question of flexibility would shortly be examined by the Programme Committee.

20. The Committee agreed that there was a need to reduce and to amalgamate programmes, and to achieve concentration of efforts and resources. It was indicated that there was some overlapping in sub-programmes and that fragmentation was apparent in some areas. It was desirable to place more emphasis on integration and the interdisciplinary approach. The amalgamation of several sub-programmes under one heading might not necessarily entail savings or guarantee the reduction of low-priority items and that in some cases certain difficulties could arise in management. However, the Committee recommended that sub-programmes should be combined whenever possible in the interest of providing clear and concise priorities and also of achieving concentration, nationalization and savings. Several delegates pointed out that elements within a sub-programme also had differing priorities and there was considerable scope for eliminating low priority elements from within sub-programmes.

21. The Committee indicated that the narrative text did not always relate convincingly to the gradings which had been allocated and agreed that a revision of gradings was necessary following the improvement of sub-programme texts and the elimination of low-priority items. It suggested that the narratives should be improved as to the statement of their objectives and the intended methods of obtaining these. The presentation of sub-programmes should be more uniform and systematic to facilitate the assessment of their relative merits.

22. The Committee agreed that there was a tendency to make programmes too comprehensive. It was neither necessary nor desirable that all scientific disciplines should be represented in the Medium-Term Plan, and some doubt was expressed on the possibility of recruiting the technical personnel required for a programme of such magnitude. Doubts were also expressed regarding the feasibility of separate priorities for advanced and for developing countries, although their requirements must often be at variance. The considerable divergence of views on priorities was recognized and the fact that what is top priority for one country or region is not necessarily of the same importance for other countries. The difficulty of correlation was recognized and it was suggested that the level of economic development of each country should be assessed and priorities listed accordingly. Elimination and clearer priorities were essential but it was agreed that sub-programmes could not aim at meeting the needs and ideals of all Member Countries, particularly in view of the present financial stringency. It was, however, realized that country needs as reflected in the Country Programme should be one of the indicators used by FAO in the development of priorities for the Regular Programme.

23. Serious reservations were expressed about the "Areas of Concentration" as a framework for the Programme of Work and Budget and the Medium-Term Plan and the view was expressed that their importance in budgeting and medium-term planning was no longer valid and that they caused confusion when programmes were being formulated on a subject-matter basis and did not facilitate integration and concentration of activities. It was agreed that the Director-General should be requested to re-examine the "Areas of Concentration" and to consider if a better and more efficient basis for the approach to Medium-Term planning and the Programme of Work could be devised.

24. The association of Environment with the "War on Waste" was not considered to be appropriate. It was appreciated that the Organization had been concerned with environmental matters since its inception. The Committee urged that new work in the environmental field should await the outcome of the UN Conference on the Human Environment to be held in Stockholm in June 1972. At this stage, planning should not allocate a high priority to environment questions.

25. It was suggested that a special sub-programme should be formulated for the rehabilitation of war-ravaged countries. The Committee felt, however, that this should be regarded as an Organization-wide concern, rather than one for a sub-programme, and that the Director-General should consider appropriate action in the matter.

26. The Committee referred to the discussion on item 6 at which consideration had been given to improving productivity in less favourable environments, and suggested that training and increasing production in areas of low rainfall should be given priority in appropriate sub-programmes. This, however, should not detract from the importance of the high production potential of the humid tropics. Other priorities were advocated in general terms for plant and animal protein, land and water development, crop diversification, agrarian reform, rural employment, education and technical literacy programmes. It was recommended that education should not be divorced from research, but that they should be considered in association.

27. The Committee considered the special case of horticulture in the framework of the Plan, and agreed that sub-programmes in this field should be located under "Increasing Yields" (Programme Objective 2.2) rather than under the heading "Earning and Saving of Foreign Exchange", (Programme Objective 2.5) as at present, and the degree of priority accorded to them should be re-examined.

28. The Committee agreed that FAO had specific roles as a catalyst and clearing house in facilitating the exchange of scientific information, of the results of practical experience, and of biological material; seed industry development and dairy development were quoted as examples of fields in which such exchanges had been of value. It was recommended that there should be a closer association between the Organization and research institutes in the developing countries, and that the Organization should develop means of ensuring a wider dissemination of the results of research conducted both in the developed and the developing countries.

29. It was agreed that the inter-relationships of the Regular Programme and extra-budgetary financing were highly complex and far reaching and that this subject should be considered by the Committee in the future.

30. The Committee noted that, in view of the fact that the Medium-Term Plan would be discussed by various bodies, including the Regional Conferences, the preparation of a revised document which might change the format, would eliminate low-priority items and allocate new gradings, in time for the November meeting of Council, was not feasible. The Committee requested the Director-General to submit to the Autumn Session of the Council a clear and concrete document on the priorities indicated by the four Council Committees and the Regional Conferences together with his views on them.

31. Differing opinions were expressed by Delegates concerning the work of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Atomic Energy in Food and Agriculture. Some delegates expressed the opinion that there might be duplication with the activities of national institutes, while others thought that much of the work for which the Division had been established had now been completed and that the programme should therefore receive low priority. Delegates of several developing countries, however, maintained that atomic energy applications had been of benefit to agricultural development in their countries and that the specialized techniques involved held notable potential for development in a variety of agricultural fields. The Committee decided that, in view of the division of opinion on priorities relating to atomic energy projects, no specific recommendation would be made at this stage, since the Programme Committee would shortly review the work of the Joint Division and its potential for the future.

#### Priorities

32. Although the Committee gave a great deal of attention to priorities, it found that because of the complex nature of the problem and in the limited time available, harmonization of the many differing points of view was not possible, and sub-programmes mentioned in paragraphs 33 and 34 are therefore to be regarded only as examples. Thus the Committee found that at this stage it was unable to carry out adequately the Conference mandate of

proposing the order of priorities and of considering a marked elimination of low-priority activities. In these circumstances, the Committee recommended that the Director-General should give careful attention to the whole question of priorities and, in particular, to the identification of low-priority activities, giving due weight to the many suggestions made in the debate.

33. There was substantial endorsement of certain areas of work and the Committee recommended that eliminations should be left to the Director-General. Individual Programmes and Sub-Programmes which were particularly stressed by delegates included most of the programme elements covered by 2.1.2.2 (Cooperatives and other farmers' organizations); 2.1.2.3 (Agricultural banking and credit); 2.1.2.4 (Agricultural marketing and farm supply); 2.1.3 (Education, training, extension and research); 2.2.2.4 (Improvement of pastures, range-lands and fodders); 2.2.3 (Genetic improvement, production and distribution of bio-resources); 2.2.4.1 (Soil management, fertility and fertilizer use); 2.2.4.2 (Water application, management and use) and 2.2.4.3 (Production of rice, wheat, other cereals, grain legumes and tubers); 2.3.1.6 (Food and nutrition in agricultural development); 2.3.2.1 (Animal nutrition and feed efficiency); 2.3.2.2 (Animal husbandry and management); 2.4.1.1 (Soil conservation); 2.4.1.2 (Exploration, evaluation and conservation of plant genetic resources); 2.4.2 (Control of diseases and pests); 2.6.2.1 (Project appraisal and evaluation) and 2.6.2.2 Basic Statistics).

34. Programmes and Sub-Programmes which were considered of high priority to some countries and of low priority to others included 2.1.1.1 (Land Reform); 2.1.2.1 (Organization of agricultural and rural ministries, departments and related institutions); 2.1.4.3 (Feeding programmes); 2.2.2.3 (Crop ecology); 2.2.5.1 (Joint FAO/IAEA Programme); 2.4.3.6 (Management of family food resources and consumer education) and 2.6.1.2 (Economic intelligence, outlook and analytical studies).

#### SEED INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

35. The Committee discussed at length considerations arising from the Working Paper COAG/72/6.

36. The Committee reaffirmed the key role of seed in the improvement of agricultural production and productivity. It recognized that many developing countries lack adequate schemes and particularly organizations for production, quality control and distribution of quality seed of appropriate varieties, and that seed regulations are inadequate and trained staff usually scarce. It considered that countries require assistance in improving current seed activities through the promulgation of national seed programmes and specific projects which may be financed through external assistance and obtaining international credit for this industry.

37. It noted that a vigorous seed improvement programme which provides a continuous supply of quality seed of suitable varieties is essential to improved productivity. Where economically feasible, quality seed should be complemented by other inputs and good production techniques in order to achieve the overall objectives; sometimes it may be necessary to change the farming system.

38. The Committee saw FAO's role as a promoter and catalyst in the field of seed development. In this role FAO should provide an international framework for multilateral and bilateral assistance efforts, following, as far as possible, the methods used by the International Scheme for the Coordination of Dairy Development. Through this pooling of efforts and mobilization of domestic resources help could be provided to speed up effective development of variety trials, seed production, seed quality control and seed distribution and thus contribute to increased crop production.

39. The Committee recommended that priority be given to seed activities in FAO's medium term programme and recognized that strengthening of work on seed industry development would require reallocation of resources.

40. The advisability of establishing a special Trust Fund for seed industry development to which interested countries could contribute was considered. While it was recognized that such a Fund could facilitate FAO's action in certain areas of seed industry development, its establishment was not considered appropriate at this time. It was agreed, however, that donor countries and agencies would be prepared to consider financing of specific seed projects or project components.



41. The Committee noted that seed industry development will depend mostly upon the initiative of individual countries. It considered that a seed programme must be an integral element of the country's agricultural policy as expressed in the national development plans. The Committee drew attention to the desirability of harnessing the resources and expertise of national and international private enterprise. The basic decision as to whether the industry should be developed either as a joint enterprise of the public and private sectors or exclusively by one sector would depend much on political, social and economic circumstances. The Committee felt that, at least for the initial phase, the Government would generally have to take an active role in seed production and marketing. As the national programme developed, an independent (private) seed industry might be encouraged to take over the production and marketing of seeds. Government could then limit its activities to maintaining quality standards, through the implementation of adequate seed legislation to ensure the distribution of good quality seed of suitable varieties to farmers, and by the creation of appropriate institutions.

42. The Committee considered that processing, storage and transport were of great importance for a successful seed scheme. It further stressed the need for effective plant quarantine measures to avoid the dissemination of harmful seed-borne diseases and pests and to stimulate international seed movement and exchange. Extension and education programmes were essential for convincing farmers, policy makers and others concerned of the importance of using quality seeds. Other incentives to encourage use of better seeds by farmers might be necessary. The need for more attention on conservation and use of local genetic resources was widely recognized by delegates.

43. In planning national seed programmes and projects the Committee emphasized the need to study and apply experience already gained in developing countries. For effective planning, the Committee also stressed the importance of realistic assessments of existing conditions relating to seed use, benefits to be obtained from development, introduction and use of improved varieties, environmental conditions, the stage of technological development at the farm level and prevailing socio-economic conditions including local customs and traditions. The assessments should also include information on such subjects as: availability of land, equipment, facilities, trained manpower, experience and expertise in seed activities, level of technology, agricultural supply and marketing systems, governmental pricing policies covering inputs and commodities, financial resources, existing public and/or private organizations and institutions.

44. The need to develop competent technical and managerial staff was widely appreciated. Many members of the Committee therefore recommended the initiation of a comprehensive seed training programme, through the establishment of regional training centres in Latin America, Africa and Asia which should be complemented by courses and workshops in both developed and developing countries with a strong private participation. In this connection, the Committee noted with appreciation the offer of a number of countries with well developed seed industries to provide training.

45. The Committee welcomed the invitation of the Austrian Government to assist in the organization of an International Seed Symposium to further develop the technical and organizational base for the proposed activities. Consideration should be given to ensure widest possible participation of representatives from developing countries. Several delegates proposed that the suggested panel of experts should meet at regular intervals and that the International Seed Symposium should be followed up with other training sessions in developing countries.

46. The Committee discussed the importance and feasibility of national seed programmes and recognized the urgency that many developing countries placed in them and the need for sustained regional efforts. These might include the establishment of institutions and activities on variety testing, basic seed production and harmonisation on a regional or international basis, of national seed legislation and certification procedures.

47. The Committee recommended that FAO should strengthen its activities on seed industry development along the lines proposed in the working paper COAG/72/6.

It further recommended that:

(i) FAO Member Countries be invited by the Director-General to indicate their interest in participating in this effort;

(ii) An ad hoc panel of seed specialists, including adequate representation from developing countries, be established to develop priorities and programme guidelines, propose the magnitude of FAO's future activities on seed industry development and consider procedural arrangements;

(iii) On the basis of requests for assistance, FAO prepares technical and organizational guidelines for national and, where feasible, regional seed programmes based on the presentations and discussions of the International Seed Symposium which will be organized in cooperation with the Government of Austria.

48. Many delegates underlined their government's intention to cooperate in this programme and several suggested specific ways in which they hope to participate.

#### FOOD AND NUTRITION POLICIES

49. The Committee recognized the importance to Governments of including food and nutrition policies in their plans for economic and social development and welcomed the inclusion of the item on the agenda. It agreed in general with the main elements of a food policy and the requirements for its formulation as set out in document COAG/72/7, which indicated the integrated approach to the subject now being taken by FAO.

50. The formulation of a food and nutrition policy was recognized to be a complex process involving educational, economic, technical and legislative measures designed to reconcile, at a level judged feasible by the planner, projected food demand, forecasted food supply and nutritional requirements.

51. The Committee recognized the need for food consumption and household budgetary surveys to provide the data upon which food and nutrition policies must be based but considered that, in view of the cost involved, not all countries could carry out at the present time such full-scale national surveys. It was proposed that FAO try to develop simpler methodologies which might be directed toward those ecological zones and population groups known to have particular nutritional problems in order to obtain quicker results. The objective of such simplified approaches should be to achieve the greatest benefit from the funds available. The surveys should be carried out with a view to the possibility of developing and implementing sound food and nutrition policies.

52. The Committee recognized that food policies must be based upon food consumption and purchasing power at household and individual level, especially in subsistence economies and that they cannot be developed centrally without this knowledge. Food production depends upon demand which is influenced by employment and income. Some form of encouragement should be provided by governments to farmers to produce food crops at a remunerative price for local processing and marketing and to reduce the amount of food imported, in those countries where this would be beneficial. One such incentive proposed was the pricing of commodities on the basis of nutritive value. It was stressed that the food chain from producer to consumer (production, storage and processing, marketing and distribution) must be given adequate consideration and should be included in the development of food policies. Consumer choice should be respected in the formulation of those policies and producers should be involved in the process as far as possible.

53. To be successful the implementation of a food and nutrition policy was considered to require an institutional framework including units in ministries of agriculture and health which must be integrated at the planning board level. The Committee recognized the lack of trained personnel to perform this work and welcomed FAO's proposal to hold training courses for food and nutrition policy planning in Rome and at regional level. The need to intensify consumer education in order to make the best use of locally available and potential resources

at household level was stressed, making use of non-governmental organizations when possible, particularly for women's education. The setting up of education centres for pre-school children and their mothers through community activities with help from international agencies was considered a good approach.

54. The Committee was informed that food consumption surveys are essential in order to determine the actual intakes of food additives, pesticides and other toxic substances in relation to the 'acceptable daily intakes' determined by the FAO/WHO Committee on Food Additives for the protection of consumers. It was noted that the 16th Session of that Committee recommended a programme of national food consumption surveys to collect this data.

55. The increasing awareness on the part of governments of the importance of developing food and nutrition policies was recognized by the Committee which urged that priority be given to this subject both at national level and within the activities of FAO. The Committee recalled the UN General Assembly resolutions on the 'Protein Problem', and the report of the UN Panel of Experts on that subject. It further recalled and endorsed the Resolution 7/71 of the 16th Session of the FAO Conference in which recommendations are made to governments and to FAO for increasing protein food supplies through the development of food and nutrition policies. Policies should also be developed by FAO at regional and inter-regional level in the context of agricultural adjustments.

56. In view of this increasing interest the committee suggested that FAO should assist governments upon their request in the following ways:

- (a) collection and analysis of food consumption survey data at both national and household levels;
- (b) training of national planners in food and nutrition policies through regional and national seminars;
- (c) the formulation of food and nutrition policies at national level;
- (d) development of programmes and projects identified within the framework of national Plans.

57. The Committee recognized that FAO resources, particularly those of the Nutrition Division, require redeployment for this purpose. It recommended that governments make full use of the funds which can be requested from UNDP, IBRD, UNICEF and FAO Government Cooperative programmes. It was emphasized that UNFPA, in view of the close association between food supplies and population, is willing to provide funds for these activities. The Committee considered that a UN Protein Fund, if it materialises, should be used for the development of food and nutrition policies, programmes and projects.

#### IMPROVING PRODUCTIVITY IN LESS FAVOURABLE ENVIRONMENTS

58. The 16th FAO Conference, when considering the implications of widespread introduction of high yielding cereal varieties, devoted considerable attention to the problems of improving productivity in less favourable environments.

59. Accordingly, the Secretariat prepared document COAG 72/8 to assist the Committee on Agriculture in discussing the problem of these less favourable environments and made some proposals with respect to possible lines of action.

60. For purposes of the discussion, a less favourable environment was defined as 'a significant region wherein the locally restrictive factors, when combined with the generally less favourable overall conditions of the eco-geophysical zone, have limited or thwarted efforts of agricultural development'. The paper sought to illustrate the problematic nature of less favourable environments, e.g. water in low rainfall areas, soils in the humid tropics; adverse rainfall distribution in the savannah areas, and the low agricultural value of mountainous regions.

61. The challenge outlined in the document was to build up an information system and framework for analysis which could be useful both nationally and internationally in each of these environments. However, given the very scarce resources of the Organization, the Committee was asked to recommend one or two priority zones on which FAO might begin work and report back at its next session.
62. Delegations agreed generally that there were significant regions of the world where low agricultural productivity persisted primarily because of their less favourable and less responsive environments, and that these areas warranted attention and study. Some delegations noted that a great deal of research had already been done in these areas by national, bilateral and multilateral agencies and that an important part of any study would be to compile, analyse and utilize all of the information available.
63. The Committee agreed with the general approach outlined in COAG/72/8 for the need systematically to bring together the information available on the four less favourable environments and to point out gaps in knowledge, and that it was a welcomed first step in the direction of a strategy paper dealing with these areas.
64. Some delegates noted that the document did not give sufficient attention to the "human factor", and with particular reference to the humid tropics, it was stressed that the technological problems of soils could be overcome and that the improvement of productivity depends primarily on the solution of sociological problems.
65. Many delegates agreed that first priority should be given to low rainfall areas, although it was recognized that the other less favourable environments must also receive attention. Some delegates stated that the humid tropics probably have the greatest potential for increasing productivity and that the savannah areas have not been sufficiently exploited. It was generally agreed that the study, in the first instance, should develop a methodology for continuing work and should provide maximum information and criteria for policy decisions. As an example of progress on the problems of semi-arid agriculture, the Committee was informed of the establishment of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-arid Tropics (ICRISAT) in Hyderabad, India. This was a decision of the recently established Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research. In this connection, the Director-General was asked to bear in mind the importance of introducing hybrid vigour into increasing number of crops and of finding ways of lowering the cost of production of pure seeds.
66. Some delegations suggested that it would be useful to determine what information is available on natural resource inventories in respect of these areas, and to maintain a current list of projects throughout the world on this subject. These would be of great value to all development agencies and an invaluable contribution from FAO toward action on the ground.
67. Studies on water resources and use were considered to be necessary in low rainfall areas, while soil resource appraisals were recognized as a pre-requisite for land use planning under all ecological conditions. In this respect, the Committee stressed that attention needs to be given to soil management studies and to the reclamation of degraded soils, for more effective use of land and water resources.
68. It was recognized that each of the individual parts of the information gathered should be the basis for the development of new and effective farming systems. With respect to low rainfall areas, particular attention was given to dryland farming.
69. In recognizing the importance of the development of livestock husbandry, early experience in introducing European livestock into sub-tropical and tropical areas was cited, and the use of indigenous cattle as a basis for improvement was stressed.
70. In the development of the livestock industry, with particular reference to the savannah and the low rainfall areas, emphasis was given to preventing the misuse of the land resource, with particular reference to limiting the number of livestock to the carrying capacity of the land and ensuring that water point development is coordinated with grazing management.

71. With respect to mountain areas, the Committee felt that, in general terms, these zones had the lowest potential for agriculture, but recognized that in particular countries and particular regions they can be very important, especially with respect to the management and conservation of land and water resources in adjacent areas.

72. The Committee recommend that as further work is developed on one particular type of less favourable environment, this might be achieved by grouping together the parts of the sub-programmes of the Organizations that were relevant to the project, as a problem-oriented concentration of effort.

73. The Secretariat was further asked to concentrate its limited resources and to design its study so as to yield tangible and practical results which could have a significant impact on the development of less favourable environments, and to yield information that could lead to development efforts that are economically sound and thus contribute to the overall development objectives and goals of Governments.

74. While some delegations pointed out that the greatest potential for increased productivity is in the humid tropics, followed by the savannah areas, many delegations recommended that FAO begin with a study on low rainfall regions and report back to the Committee at its next session especially with respect to regions where research or studies have already been undertaken.

#### MATTERS ARISING FROM THE SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE FAO CONFERENCE

##### (a) Agrarian Reform - Implementation of Conference Resolution 3/71

75. The Committee noted the suggestions made in document COAG/72/9 submitted by the Director-General, that since the report of the FAO Special Committee on Agrarian Reform was discussed at great length at the Sixteenth Session of the FAO Conference, and would be further discussed at the Regional Conferences in 1972, there would be no need for the Committee to go into a substantial discussion of the subject at this stage. It therefore agreed to limit its considerations to the problem of how the Committee should respond to the recommendations in paragraph 5 of the Conference Resolution 3/71 in which the Committee on Agriculture was asked to 'give adequate attention to rural development and particularly to those bearing on the reform of agrarian structures, and that it should consider establishing a sub-committee for that purpose'.

76. The following four options were presented to the Committee for its consideration along with any other proposal that members would wish to put forward:

- (a) The establishment of a sub-committee on Agrarian Reform as an essential tool for rural development;
- (b) the holding of a special session of the Committee on Agriculture exclusively devoted to agrarian reform in relation to rural development;
- (c) the inclusion of Agrarian Reform as a substantive policy item on the Agenda of a future session of the Committee;
- (d) the linking up of the Committee's (and/or sub-committee's) work with the further role of the Special Committee on Agrarian Reform which the Director-General expects to convene again late in 1973 or in 1974.

77. The Committee generally agreed on the fundamental importance of Agrarian Reform as an essential tool for rural development and noted that the FAO policy in this field had been defined by the Conference's broad acceptance of the content of the report of the FAO Special Committee on Agrarian Reform; it recognized, however, the need for keeping the subject under review by continued and wider discussion of the Special Committee's Report, e.g. at international and national meetings, by national governments, politicians and public groups; and on the continuing need for more positive action at national level, with assistance from FAO and other international agencies involved (UN, ILO), when requested, in the implementation of the recommended programmes. In discussing FAO's role, the Committee placed special stress on the need to adapt the general strategy to local conditions, requirements and priorities.

78. In discussing the options for handling the subject in the future, a proposal was made by several delegates that a sub-committee be created, but this suggestion was not accepted. Instead a consensus was reached for the inclusion of agrarian reform as a substantive policy item on the agenda of the next session of the Committee on Agriculture. The Committee took note of the fact that the FAO Special Committee on Agrarian Reform will be a convened again late in 1973 or in 1974.

(b) PSWAD/Agricultural Adjustment - Review of Progress

79. The Committee considered that for its first session this item was an information item rather than one calling for action or decision on its part.

80. In taking note of the progress reported in the Secretariat paper, COAG/72/10, the Committee agreed with the provisional timetable for work over the period 1972-75. The main report for the 1973 Conference would need to be completed towards the middle of that year. The Committee noted that the principal supporting study - the 'Geneva' study on adjustment in developed countries - had already been drafted and would be submitted to the FAO Regional Conference for Europe later this year.

81. The Committee considered that the Secretariat paper gave a useful account of the nature of the future to be undertaken and indicated that progress was being made toward the clearer definition of the concept of adjustment and the scope of the project itself which had been asked for by Conference at its 16th Session.

82. In its work on this important subject, the Secretariat must give adequate weight to social and technological aspects of adjustment. At the same time, the limitation of resources available to FAO meant that while the report to Conference must be comprehensive in scope, it would be desirable to concentrate particularly on aspects which could be the subject of practical action. This must be of benefit to developing countries and the appropriate context of the PSWAD/adjustment work was therefore the targets and strategies of the Second Development Decade. The study should support forthcoming negotiations envisaged in the GATT concerning agricultural trade.

83. The discussion of the Committee emphasized that agricultural adjustment took place at various levels, i.e., the individual commodity, the national level, that of regional groups and finally at the global level. The different forms of and requirements for satisfactory adjustment at each of the first three levels must be taken into account in any conclusions or proposals concerning world agricultural adjustment and it was essential to realize that no single, blanket approach could cater to the diversity of national conditions and policies; measures to be taken in each country must therefore be somewhat different. The role of regional groupings in facilitating adjustment toward more specialization in agriculture and to increased trade within the region was referred to. Attention was also drawn to how protection in developed countries impeded progress toward a fuller use of resources in developing countries for the production of commodities in which they could be competitive.

84. The Committee agreed that because of the bearing of trade on international agricultural adjustment, the CCP rather than the Committee on Agriculture should play the leading role in preparing the report for 1973. Nevertheless, because changes in the structure of production were a fundamental part of the process of development and adjustment, the Committee expected that it would concentrate on this aspect. It would therefore need to give increased attention to the substance of the PSWAD and to progress of the Secretariat work in future sessions.

85. The Committee welcomed the assurance given in COAG/72/10 that it was the intention of the Director-General to seek the fullest cooperation of other international organizations, particularly GATT, UNCTAD, OECD and the CMEA, in the furtherance of the FAO work on international agricultural adjustment.

(c) Agricultural Research - Needs and Priorities

86. Both the 16th Session of the FAO Conference and the preceding regional conferences had indicated an enhanced interest in research as an instrument for development; the establishment in 1971 of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and its Technical Advisory Committee to channel additional finance and technical support into priority aspects of international agricultural research on behalf of the developing countries was a further reflection of increased awareness of the contribution which well planned and supported research could make to economic growth.

87. The Conference further requested, in Resolution 9/71, the inclusion in the Agendas of the competent Council Committees of an item regarding research needs and priorities. An item was accordingly included on the Agenda of this Committee and Document COAG/72/11 was prepared in support of this item. The document examined approaches to determining priorities; reported on some of the priorities currently being given attention by the Consultative Group, as well as on important problems where ongoing research appeared to be in need of reinforcement, and finally looked at how FAO, in cooperation with other agencies, might assist in solving these problems, including the improvement of scientific intelligence and other research support activities.

88. The Committee strongly endorsed the Conference Resolution 9/71 which requested FAO to place greater emphasis on encouraging agricultural research and stimulating coordination and cooperation in research activities at the national, regional and international levels.

89. In considering FAO's future activities in relation to research, the Committee interpreted research in its broadest sense, which included research per se, information, training of research workers and linkages to the application of research results.

90. The Committee devoted considerable attention to the determination of priorities and considered that an inventory of research needs was a basic step towards the more specific definition of such priorities.

91. Some delegates suggested that document COAG/72/11 might have been more specific in this respect. However, the difficulties of identifying problems and defining priorities at the international level were recognized. It was suggested that an agreed procedure was necessary for the establishment of priorities; and in order to narrow down the field, it was suggested that priorities might be defined more meaningfully at the regional or ecological zone levels, and that the regional conferences of FAO would be a suitable forum for this.

92. It was also felt that improved research intelligence and information was essential for the better identification of needs and priorities as well as for the avoidance of duplication. The need to utilise existing resources as fully and as efficiently as possible was strongly emphasized. This should be a first consideration for FAO and donor organizations in planning future support of agricultural research on behalf of the developing countries. Several delegates expressed their support for FAO's CARIS project in the light of these needs.

93. In discussing more specific research needs the Committee saw no grounds for complacency in respect of research on food production and utilization; several delegates expressed the view that greater emphasis should be given to plant breeding with particular references to pest and disease resistance since this would contribute both to increasing production and toward the solution of problems of environmental pollution related to the use of agricultural chemicals.

94. It was pointed out that the technological gap between developed and developing countries was widening because of the inadequacy of research effort in and on behalf of the latter. The need was stressed however for the evolution of an agricultural technology appropriate to the socio-economic needs of the developing countries and in particular for government action in support of the application of a scale neutral technology which would take into account the needs of development and the most effective utilization of human resources. The potential for multiple cropping and integrated crop/livestock systems were highlighted in this respect.

95. The Committee stressed the need to avoid a dogmatic approach and any attempt at generalization in assessing the relative priorities of technical, social and economic research; the optimum balance could only be decided in the light of specific circumstances and national or regional needs.

96. The Committee noted a general need to pay greater attention to the effects of new technology on the quality of the environment, in planning research programmes, as well as for specific research on bio-physical relationships leading to the better use of natural resources. It was recognized that such research was demanding and it was suggested that this was a field in which some division of labour between developed and developing countries in both the planning and implementation of research might be beneficial.

97. Welcoming the increased emphasis now being placed on international support for agricultural research through the establishment of the Consultative Group, the Committee nevertheless emphasized that such support should be oriented toward achieving complementarity with national research efforts. International effort should be used for attacking critical problems where a real break-through appeared likely, or which could only be tackled by a strong inter-disciplinary effort. It should not become a substitute for national research.

98. The Committee therefore recommended that increasing support should be given to national research, including its methodology, organizational and managerial aspects in order to improve national research capabilities. It attached great importance to training, both of research workers and of national research planners and managers. This was essential to increase the national capacity to profit from the results of research done elsewhere as well as an adequate infrastructure for the development of national research programmes.

99. In considering the role of the Organization, and the mandate given to it by the Conference in Resolution 9/71, the Committee noted that a good many activities related to research were covered in the several sub-programmes of the Medium-Term Plan. It felt that, while FAO could do much in support of research, it should not undertake research per se in its Regular Programme. Although an obvious exception to this would be in the fields of socio-economic research and development planning, several delegates believed that the whole question of FAO's involvement in actual research activity should be subject to future review. In general its role should be to stimulate and encourage research activities both at the national and international levels, more specifically through its activities in relation to policy formulation and the identification of priorities; information and dissemination of knowledge; and the coordination of ecological zone and group country programmes.

100. FAO could also act as a catalyst, in particular through its activities in providing the Secretariat to the Technical Advisory Committee to the Consultative Group and its advice to that Group. In this context it could play a valuable part in the preliminary screening of projects submitted for international support, and regarding the adequacy of FAO's resources for this task the Committee noted that an Inter-Departmental Research Committee had been established with the tasks, inter-alia, of screening proposals submitted for international financing and the formulation of FAO's own policies on research.

101. In its activities related to research FAO should give high priority to support for national research programmes along the lines indicated in the Medium-Term Plan and referred to above (paras. 28 and 33). It should also encourage the further establishment on a pilot basis of regional and group-country research networks (of the WARDA programme) in order to evaluate as soon as possible the potential of this type of activity.

102. The Committee also stressed the need for the more rapid application of research results as an essential contribution to the acceleration of the development process. High priority should therefore be given by FAO to the adaptation of available results to local needs and to bridging the information gap between knowledge and its application. Support was given to the increased use of field projects such as the Fertilizer Programme for development and research. This would help to indicate the constraints (often socio-economic) to the successful application of research results, as well as increasing the rate of transfer of technology to the farmer, and would also help to achieve the evaluation of the reasons for success or failure in research, a need for which was indicated by several delegates.



OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Functions of the Committee on Agriculture

103. The Committee reviewed its functions in the light of the experience of its first session. The Committee recognized the difficulties and limitations of its first session but was satisfied that a useful beginning had been made with its work. Emphasis was placed on the need for the Committee to make a scientific and technical contribution to the content of the Organization's work in relevant fields, and to avoid any appearance of duplication with the role of the Council and Conference.

104. The consensus of opinion was that the terms of reference given to the Committee by the Conference resolution were adequate at present and that it was too early to review them. The experience gained during the first session should be noted and assessed by Delegations and the Secretariat for the benefit of future sessions. There was a general feeling that more time should be allowed for the Committee's sessions.

105. As regards timing, suggestions were made that the Committee should meet more than once in the biennium, or at least later in the biennium, perhaps after the series of Regional Conferences. The general consensus was that no change in the existing rules on this point should be proposed until after further experience.

106. The Committee emphasized that, in compliance with the Conference resolution, its agenda should be limited to a few broad subjects of an interdisciplinary nature, which were important in the development of agriculture and in the work of FAO.

107. The Committee recognized that it faced a dilemma as regards its work on the Medium-Term Plan. There was general agreement that this subject was so important that the Committee would have to retain it on the agenda of its next session. However, the method of dealing with it would have to be reviewed. A thorough technical discussion of all relevant sub-programmes of the Agriculture and Economic and Social Departments, based on adequate information on existing and projected activities with a view to defining priorities, would be an enormous task for any one session of the Committee. An alternative approach might be to examine the substance of the relevant Medium-Term Programmes broadly, including implementation, allowing scope for all delegations to express their views on any aspects of the work, but without debating every sub-programme. The Committee requested the Director-General to consider the handling of this subject at its next session in the light of the views expressed.

108. The following specific suggestions were made by various delegates with regard to the preparation and conduct of the next session, and the Committee invited the Director-General to take them into account:

- (a) Information might be presented to keep the Committee abreast of major scientific and technological advances, having implications for the development of world agriculture and for the work of FAO;
- (b) problems in selected aspects of agricultural development might be analysed with the assistance of outstanding world authorities as consultants;
- (c) working documents on selected development problems should be precise, include reference to the activities of FAO, and specify what action is expected of the Committee;
- (d) during sessions of the Committee it was important to facilitate technical dialogue on the substantive work of FAO and the use of sessional sub-groups or working committees might serve this purpose.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION

109. Some delegates proposed that consideration should be given to hold the sessions of the Committee on Agriculture after the Regional Conferences in each biennium. Other delegates pointed out that this would necessitate far-going changes in the timing of the other Committees of the Council. The Committee, therefore, agreed to hold its next meeting in Rome early in 1974, the date to be established by the Director-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee. The question of the timing of future sessions of the Committee would be reviewed at its next session.

110. The Provisional Agenda of the next session would, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Committee, be prepared by the Director-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee.

Appendix A  
Appendice A  
Apéndice A

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
COMITE DE L'AGRICULTURE  
COMITE DE AGRICULTURA

(Rome, 17-22 April 1972  
Rome, 17-22 avril 1972  
Roma, 17-22 abril 1972)

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS  
LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS  
LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES

Chairman/Président/Presidente:	Bukar SHAIB (Nigeria)
First Vice-Chairman/Premier Vice Président/ Primero Vicepresidente:	Gérard WEILL (France)
Second Vice-Chairman/Deuxième Vice Président/ Segundo Vicepresidente:	Carlos PEREZ DEL CASTILLO (Uruguay)

A. MEMBER NATIONS  
ETATS MEMBRES  
ESTADOS MIEMBROS

Argentina/Argentine

Representative	VALLEGA, José
Représentant	Consejero Agrícola
Representante	Embajada de la República Argentina Rome
Alternate	VIGNAUD, Juan Carlos
Suppléant	Representante Permanente Suplente ante la FAO
Suplente	Embajada de la República Argentina Rome

Australia/Australie

Representative SWIFT, R.S.  
Représentant Deputy Secretary  
Representante Department of Primary Industry  
Canberra

Alternate STAFFORD, J.A.  
Suppléant Agricultural Attaché  
Suplente Embassy of Australia, Rome

Austria/Autriche

Representative SEUES, Rudolf  
Représentant Chairman of the Austrian FAO Committee  
Representante Bundesministerium für Land-und-Forstwirtschaft  
Vienna

Alternate LIMBERGER, Othmar  
Suppléant Agricultural Section of the Federal Ministry  
Suplente of Agriculture and Forestry  
Bundesministerium für Land-und-Forstwirtschaft  
Vienna

Belgium/Belgique/Bélgica

Representative VAN HAUWERMEIREN, R.  
Représentant Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté le Roi des Belges auprès de la FAO  
Representante Représentation permanente auprès de la FAO  
Rome

Alternate REGNIER, A.  
Suppléant Représentant Permanent Adjoint  
Suplente de la Belgique auprès de la FAO  
Représentation permanente auprès de la FAO  
Rome

Advisers GERMAIN, René G.A.Gh.  
Experts Professeur à l'Université Catholique de Louvain  
Técnicos Heverlée

STUYCK, M.V.J.  
Directeur général, Services économiques  
Ministère de l'Agriculture, Bruxelles

Brazil/Brésil/Brasil

Representative BATH, Sergio F.G.  
Représentant Permanent Representative of Brazil to FAO  
Representante Embassy of Brazil  
Rome

Cameroon/Cameroun/Camerún

Representative ASSOUMOU MBA, Daniel  
Représentant Directeur Adjoint de l'Agriculture  
Representante Direction de l'Agriculture  
Yaoundé

Canada/Canadá

Representative SKOLKO, A.J.  
Représentant Research Coordinator  
Representante Plant Pathology  
Canada Department of Agriculture  
Ottawa

Alternates DION, George  
Suppléants Agricultural Adviser  
Suplentes CIDA, Ottawa

CORMACK, J.M.  
Deputy Minister of Agriculture  
Department of Agriculture  
Winnipeg, Province of Manitoba

Associates LOHOAR, J.S.  
Adjoints Secretary, Canadian Interdepartmental FAO Committee  
Adjuntos International Liaison Service  
Department of Agriculture  
Ottawa

RYAN, H.E.  
Permanent Representative of Canada to FAO  
Canadian Embassy  
Rome

Central African Republic/République Centrafricaine/República Centroafricana

Representative BASSAMOUNGOU, Ferdinand  
Représentant Chargé d'Affaires a.i.  
Representante Ambassade de la République Centrafricaine  
Rome

Colombia/Colombie

Representative BULA HOYOS, G.  
Représentant Ministro Consejero y Asesor Especial para FAO  
Representante Consulado General de Colombia  
Amsterdam

Alternates RUIZ VARELA, Humberto  
Suppléants Representante Permanente  
Suplentes Embajada de Colombia  
Rome

GOENAGA, José Manuel  
Segundo Secretario  
Embajada de Colombia  
Rome

Costa Rica

Representative DI MOTTOLA, Carlos  
Représentant Embajador, Representante Permanente de Costa Rica  
Representante ante la FAO, Misión Permanente de Costa Rica ante la FAO  
Rome

Cuba

Representative LOPEZ MUÑO, Fernando  
Représentant Embajador, Representante Permanente  
Representante Misión Permanente de Cuba ante la FAO

Alternates CAYADO MARTINEZ, Guillermo  
Suppléants Sub-Director de Planificación de la  
Suplentes Dirección Nacional del INRA  
Habana

GONZALEZ ROJAS, José  
Primer Secretario de la Misión Permanente de  
Cuba ante la FAO  
Rome

Denmark/Danemark/Dinamarca

Representative THOMSEN, Carl  
Représentant Professor, Royal Veterinary and Agricultural College  
Representante Copenhagen

Alternates JUL, Mogens  
Suppléants Director, Royal Veterinary and Agricultural College  
Suplentes Copenhagen

HANSEN, C. Valentin  
Agricultural Counsellor  
Royal Danish Embassy, Rome

Egypt, Arab Republic of/Egypte, République arabe d'/Egipto, República Árabe de

Representative KESSEBA, Abbas  
Représentant Counsellor to the Minister of Agriculture  
Representante Ministry of Agriculture  
Cairo

Alternates DESSOUKI, Mohamed  
Suppléants Director, International Organizations Sections  
Suplentes Ministry of Agriculture  
Cairo

ELGAMAL, Ahmed Yehia  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Cairo

Finland/Finlande/Finlandia

Representative NIKKOLA, Antti  
Représentant Chief, Bureau of International Affairs  
Representante Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
Helsinki

Alternate VUORINEN, Jouko  
Suppléant Professor, Director of the Agricultural  
Suplente Research Centre  
Helsinki

Finland/Finlande/Finlandia (cont'd)

Alternate  
Suppléant  
Suplente

LASSILA, Antti  
Permanent Representative to FAO  
Embassy of Finland  
Rome

France/Francia

Representative  
Représentant  
Representante

WEILL, Gérard  
Secrétaire général du Comité Interministériel de  
l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation  
Ministère de l'Agriculture  
Paris

Alternates  
Suppléants  
Suplentes

de SCHOENEN, Albert  
Ministre Plénipotentiaire, Représentant Permanent  
de la France auprès de la FAO  
Représentation permanente de la France auprès de la FAO  
Rome

LANFRANCHI, Jacques  
Conseiller scientifique, GERDAT  
Paris

Associates  
Adjoints  
Adjuntos

BUSTARRET, Jean  
Directeur Général Honoraire de l'Institut National  
de la Recherche Agronomique  
Versailles

BONNEFOND, Robert  
Chargé de Mission au Secrétariat d'Etat  
aux Affaires Etrangères  
Paris

HALIMI, Paul  
Administrateur civil au Ministère de l'Agriculture  
Paris

Adviser  
Expert  
Técnico

FAUCK, Roger Constant  
Inspecteur général de Recherches de l'ORSTOM  
Paris

Gabon/Gabón

Representative  
Représentant  
Representante

TEALE, Edouard  
Premier Conseiller, Chargé des relations avec la FAO  
Ambassade de la République Gabonaise  
Rome

Alternate  
Suppléant  
Suplente

BEKALE, Georges  
Directeur des services agricoles  
Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Elevage et  
de l'Economie rurale  
Libreville

Germany, Federal Republic of/Allemagne, République fédérale d'/  
Alemania, República Federal de

Representative	GRABISCH, Wolfgang
Représentant	Ministerialrat
Representante	Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry Bonn
Alternates	GEBBERS, Karl-Heinrich
Suppléants	Ministerialrat
Suplentes	Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry Bonn
	KÖTTER, Herbert
	Direktor, Institut für Agrarpolitik, Marktforschung und Wirtschaftssoziologie Bonn
	JAHNEN, Rudolf
	Regierungs-Landwirtschaftsrat Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry Bonn
	LUHE, Eberhard
	Counsellor Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany Rome

Ghana

Representative	LARYEA, Albert Amarku
Représentant	Chief, Agricultural Officer
Representante	Ministry of Agriculture Accra

Greece/Grèce/Grecia

Representative	CONSTANTIN, Tsibouris
Représentant	Attaché Agricole
Representante	Ambassade de Grèce Rome

Hungary/Hongrie/Hungria

Representative	KOVÁCS, István
Représentant	Deputy Department Chief
Representante	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Budapest
Alternates	VEKONY, L.
Suppléants	Permanent Representative to FAO
Suplentes	Hungarian Academy Rome
	LEHEL, András
	Division Chief Ministry of Agriculture and Food Budapest



Hungary/Hongrie/Hungria (cont'd)

MAGY, László  
Division Chief  
Ministry of Agriculture and Food  
Budapest

HIDVÉGI, Gábor  
Counsellor, Hungarian National FAO Committee  
Budapest

India/Inde

Representative  
Représentant  
Representante  
SWAMINATHAN, Monkombu S.  
Director-General and Secretary  
to the Government of India  
Indian Council of Agricultural Research  
New Delhi

Alternate  
Suppléant  
Suplente  
BURNEY, S.M.H  
Joint Secretary  
Department of Agriculture  
Ministry of Food and Agriculture

Indonesia/Indonésie

Representative  
Représentant  
Representante  
HUTASOIT, J.H.  
Director-General of Animal Production and Health  
Department of Agriculture  
Djakarta

Alternate  
Suppléant  
Suplente  
AMAT, Soengeng  
Permanent Representative of Indonesia to FAO  
Embassy of Indonesia  
Rome

Associate  
Adjoint  
Adjunto  
HAKIM, A. Ismet  
Alternate Permanent Representative of Indonesia to FAO  
Embassy of Indonesia  
Rome

Iran/Irán

Representative  
Représentant  
Representante  
SEPEHRI, Hussein  
Undersecretary, Ministry of Agriculture  
Teheran

Alternate  
Suppléant  
Suplente  
SHEIBANI, Hossein Ali  
Head Plant, Ministry of Agriculture  
Teheran

Associate  
Adjoint  
Adjunto  
TAMADON, Abdallah  
Plan Organization  
Teheran

Iraq/Irak

Representative                   HAMID, Abdul Mamdoh  
Représentant                   Minister Plenipotentiary to the Embassy of Iraq  
Representante                   Rome

Ireland/Irlande/Irlanda

Representative                   ATTWOOD, Edwin A.  
Représentant                   Chief Economist  
Representante                   Department of Agriculture and Fisheries  
Dublin

Alternate                        GRIFFIN, P.  
Suppléant                       Principal Officer  
Suplente                         Department of Agriculture and Fisheries  
Dublin

Israel/Israël

Representative                   MAAS, F.D.  
Représentant                   Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture  
Representante                   Ministry of Agriculture  
Jerusalem

Alternate                        YAZIV, B.  
Suppléant                       Director, Hazera Seed Growing Co. Ltd.  
Suplente                         Derech Bar Yehuda, Haifa

Italy/Italie/Italia

Representative                   PAPI, G. Ugo  
Représentant                   Secrétaire général du Comité National Italien FAO  
Representante                   Ministère de l'Agriculture  
Rome

Alternates                       FERONE, Antonio  
Suppléants                       Ministère de l'Agriculture  
Suplentes                       Rome

TOZZI, Lamberto  
Ministère de l'Agriculture  
Cabinet URI  
Rome

GRAZIANI, Orazio  
Comité National Italien de la FAO  
Ministère de l'Agriculture  
Rome

Japan/Japon/Japón

Representative  
Représentant  
Representante

ANDO, Kyo  
Minister and Permanent Representative  
of Japan to FAO  
Embassy of Japan  
Rome

Alternates  
Suppléants  
Suplentes

YANO, Haruo  
Head, Extension and Education Division  
Extension Department, Agricultural Administration Bureau  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
Tokyo

MINURA, Koya  
First Secretary  
Embassy of Japan  
Rome

Associate  
Adjoint  
Adjunto

FUKUSHIMA, Kiichi  
International Cooperation Division  
International Affairs Department  
Agricultural and Forestry Economic Bureau  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
Tokyo

Kenya/Kenia

Representative  
Représentant  
Representante

MBURU, James Samuel  
Director of Agriculture  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Nairobi

Alternate  
Suppléant  
Suplente

NJOROGE, Josepaat James  
Chief Research Officer  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Nairobi

Korea/Corée/Corea

Representative  
Représentant  
Representante

IN-HEE KANG  
Agricultural Attaché and Permanent Representative  
of Korea to FAO  
Korean Embassy  
Rome

Kuwait/Koweït

Representative  
Représentant  
Representante

MATOUQ EL BEKHEET, Mohamed  
Superintendent, Agricultural Wealth  
Ministry of Public Works  
Kuwait City

Libyan Arab Republic/ République arabe libienne/República Arabe Libia

Representative KHALIL, Abdulbari  
Représentant Counsellor for FAO Affairs  
Representante Libyan Embassy  
Rome

Madagascar

Representative BOTRALAHY, Alfred  
Représentant Ambassadeur, Représentant Permanent de  
Representante Madagascar auprès de la FAO  
Ambassade de la République Malgache  
Rome

Alternates RAJOELISOLO, Roger  
Suppléants Directeur de la Production Agricole  
Supplentes Ministère de l'Agriculture  
Tananarive

ANDRIANARISOA, Ralaialitiana  
Administrateur Civil chargé de liaison  
avec Organisations Internationales  
Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Expansion Rurale  
Tananarive

Malaysia/Malaisie/Malasia

Representative YUSOF, Ismail bin  
Représentant First Secretary  
Representante Embassy of Malaysia  
Rome

Malta/Malte

Representative MOSKOVITS, I.  
Représentant Permanent Representative of Malta to FAO  
Representante Embassy of Malta  
Rome

Netherlands/Pays-Bas/Paises Bajos

Representative TUINMAN, A.S.  
Représentant Minister Plenipotentiary  
Representante Permanent Representative to FAO  
Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the  
Netherlands to FAO  
Rome

Alternate STOFFELS, A.  
Suppléant Cabinet Adviser in charge of International Matters  
Supplente Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries  
The Hague

Associate TERMOHLEN, G.P.  
Adjoint Wageningen Section, Division for Agricultural Research  
Adjunto of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries  
The Hague

New Zealand/Kouvelle Zélande/Nueva Zelandia

Representative           JOHNS, A.T.  
Représentant            Director-General of Agriculture  
Representante           Wellington

Alternates               ATKINS, R.B.  
Suppléants              Counsellor, New Zealand Embassy  
Suplentes                Rome

WOODS, E.R.  
First Secretary (Commercial)  
New Zealand Embassy  
Rome

Nicaragua

Representative           MATA MOROS HUECK, D. Bosco Ernesto  
Représentant            Primor Secretario  
Representante            Embajada de la República de Nicaragua  
Rome

Niger/Niger

Representative           OUSSEINI, S.  
Représentant            Premier Secrétaire  
Representante            Ambassade du Niger  
Bruxelles

Nigeria

Representative           SHAIB, Bukar  
Représentant            Permanent Secretary  
Representante            Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Lagos

Alternate                OLORUNTOBA, B.S.  
Suppléant                Director, Federal Department of Agriculture  
Suplente                 Lagos

Norway/Norvège/Noruega

Representative           LÖCHEN, Arne  
Représentant            Secretary General  
Representante            National Nutrition Council  
Oslo

Alternate                KVAKKESTAD, Sverre  
Suppléant                Counsellor, Ministry of Agriculture  
Suplente                 Oslo

Adviser                 DØRUM, Stein  
Expert                  Secretary of Embassy  
Técnico                 Norwegian Embassy  
Rome

Pakistan/Paquistán

Representative KHALIL, M.I.K.  
Représentant Permanent Representative  
Representante Embassy of Pakistan  
Rome

Peru/Pérou/Perú

Representative ARRIOLA SARMIENTO, J.  
Représentant Embajador del Perú ante la FAO  
Representante Misión Permanente del Perú ante la FAO  
Rome

Philippines/Filipinas

Representative GARCIA, H.B.  
Représentant First Secretary  
Representante Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines  
Rome

Poland/Pologne/Polonia

Representative ZAGAJA, St.  
Représentant Director, Research Department of the  
Representante Ministry of Agriculture  
Warsaw

Alternate PODEDWORNY, H.  
Suppléant Secretary, Polish National FAO Committee  
Suplente Ministry of Agriculture  
Warsaw

Portugal

Representative BARBOSA, Ilidio  
Représentant Inspecteur Supérieur d'Economie  
Representante Direcção Geral de Economia  
Ministério do Ultramar  
Lisbon

Alternates LOBO MIRANDA, João  
Suppléants Engenheiro Agrónomo  
Suplentes Direcção Geral de Economia  
Ministério do Ultramar  
Lisbon

MUNES SALVADOR, Alberto  
Vice-président du Conseil de la Recherche Agronomique  
Direcção Geral dos Serviços Agrícolas  
Lisbon

VIDEIRA E CASTRO, Amadeu  
Engenheiro Agrónomo  
Direcção Geral de Economia  
Ministério do Ultramar  
Lisbon

Romania/Roumanie/Rumania

Representative STANCIU, Ion  
Représentant Ministre Adjoint  
Representante Ministère de l'Agriculture, Industrie Alimentaire  
et des Eaux  
Bucarest

Alternates DUMITRU, Dumitru  
Suppléants Directeur de l'Institut de Recherches  
Suplentes pour l'Economie Agraire  
Bucarest

GHETIE, Coriolan  
Chef de Service  
Ministère de l'Agriculture, Industrie Alimentaire  
et des Eaux  
Bucarest

Senegal/Sénégal

Representative SENE, Djibril  
Représentant Directeur de Recherches au Centre de  
Representative Recherches Agronomiques de Bambey  
Ministère du Développement Rural  
Direction des Services Agricoles  
Dakar

Spain/Espagne/España

Representative GARCIA-RAMOS ITURRALDE, D. Francisco Javier  
Représentant Jefe del Negociado de Oficinas Agronómicas en  
Representante el Extranjero  
Madrid

Alternate FERNANDEZ Y GONZALEZ, D. Antonio  
Suppléant Jefe de la Oficina Agronómica en Italia y  
Suplente Representante de España en la FAO  
Embajada de España  
Rome

Sudan/Soudan/Sudán

Representative KHALIL, A.A.  
Représentant Agricultural Attaché and Representative to FAO  
Representante Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Sudan  
Rome

Sweden/Suède/Suecia

Representative	WIDEN, Ingvar
Représentant	Director-General
Representante	National Board of Agriculture (Lantbruksstyrelsen) 171 20 Solna 1
Alternates	LAGERFELT, Herrik
Suppléants	Secretary Swedish FAO Committee
Suplentes	Stockholm
	CORNELL, Erik
	Permanent Representative
	Swedish Embassy
	Rome

Switzerland/Suisse/Suiza

Representative	DE POURTALES, R.H.
Représentant	Secrétaire du Comité National Suisse
Representante	Berne
Alternate	CARDINAUX, Alfred
Suppléant	Représentant Permanent de la Suisse
Suplente	auprès de la FAO Ambassade de Suisse Rome

Tanzania/Tanzanie

Representative	MAHENDEKA, F.M.
Représentant	Field Officer
Representante	Dar-es-Salaam

Thailand/Thaïlande/Tailandia

Representative	PHIT PANYALAKSHANA
Représentant	Director-General
Representante	Department of Agriculture Bangkok, Thailand
Alternate	WONGSIRI, Tanongchit
Suppléant	First Grade Agricultural Officer
Suplente	Rice Department, Ministry of Agriculture Bangkok
Associate	SETTHOE, Pisarn
Adjoint	Junior Economist
Adjunto	Office of the National Economic Development Board Bangkok



Trinidad and Tobago/Trinité-et-Tobago/Trinidad-Tabago

Representative HAZEL, Nathan  
Représentant Counsellor  
Representante Trinidad and Tobago Mission to the UN  
Geneva

Tunisia/Tunisie/Túnez

Representative BENSALAH, Malek  
Représentant Chef de Service  
Representante Ministère de l'Agriculture  
Tunis

Turkey/Turquie/Turquia

Representative GOKÇORA, Kemal  
Représentant Advisor to the Ministry  
Representante Ministry of Agriculture  
Ankara

Uganda/Ouganda

Representative OTHIENO, T.M.  
Représentant Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture  
Representante Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Cooperatives  
Entebbe

United Kingdom/ Royaume-Uni/Reino Unido

Representative MELVILLE, A.R.  
Représentant Chief, Natural Resources Adviser  
Representante Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
Overseas Development Administration, London

Advisers THORNE, A.L.C.  
Experts Animal Health Adviser  
Técnicos Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
Overseas Development Administration  
London

CUNNINGHAM, R.K.  
Agricultural Research Adviser  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
Overseas Development Administration  
London

EVANS, D.C.P.  
Agricultural Adviser  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
Overseas Development Administration  
London

LAMARQUE, W.G.  
UK Permanent Representative to FAO  
British Embassy  
Rome

United States of America/États-Unis d'Amérique/Estados Unidos de América

Representative Représentant Representante	PHILLIPS, Ralph W. Director, International Organizations Staff Office of Assistant Secretary for International Affairs and Commodity Programs Department of Agriculture Washington, D.C.
Alternate Suppléant Suplente	GARRISON, Carlton S. Research Leader, Seed Production Investigations Plant Science Research Division, Agricultural Research Service Department of Agriculture Washington, D.C.
Advisers Experts Técnicos	BAIRD, Guy B. Agricultural Research Specialist Office of Agriculture Bureau of Technical Assistance Agency for International Development Department of State Washington, D.C.  COBURN, Harry L. Deputy Permanent Representative Office of FAO Affairs, American Embassy Rome  DEYOE, Carrol F. Special Assistant, Office of Agriculture Bureau of Technical Assistance Agency for International Development Department of State Washington, D.C.  GEERKEN, Forrest K. Jr. Assistant Agricultural Attaché American Embassy Rome  LAWRENCE, Edward W. Director, Agriculture Directorate Bureau of International Organization Affairs Department of State Washington, D.C.

Uruguay

Representative Représentant Representante	PEREZ DEL CASTILLO, Carlos Embajador del Uruguay ante la FAO Misión Permanente del Uruguay ante la FAO Rome
Alternate Suppléant Suplente	ZORRILLA DE SAN MARTIN, Diego Representante Alterno ante la FAO Misión Permanente del Uruguay ante la FAO Rome

Venezuela

Representative  
Représentant  
Representante

MEDINA SERFATY, Isaias  
Representante Permanente de Venezuela ante la FAO  
Embajada de Venezuela  
Rome

Alternate  
Suppléant  
Suplente

BRUGNOLI CRUCIANI, Alberto  
Representante Alterno de Venezuela ante la FAO  
Embajada de Venezuela  
Rome

Viet-Nam

Representative  
Représentant  
Representante

CAO VAN CHIEU  
Ministre Conseiller  
Ambassade du Viet-Nam  
Rome

Yugoslavia/Yougoslavie

Representative  
Représentant  
Representante

SAVIĆ, Relja  
Professor, College of Agriculture  
Novi Sad

Zambia

Representative  
Représentant  
Representante

KASAPU, T.M.  
Provincial Agricultural Officer  
Kabwe

B. OBSERVERS  
OBSERVATEURS  
OBSERVADORES

Bolivia/Bolivie

Representative  
Représentant  
Representante

VAILATI, Severo  
Cónsul General de Bolivia en Italia  
y Delegado Permanente ante la FAO  
Rome

Alternate  
Suppléant  
Suplente

ADETT ZAMORA, Antonio  
Administrador  
La Paz

Burundi

Representative  
Représentant  
Representante

NIYONDAGARA, Libérat  
Directeur du Département de l'Agronomie  
Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Élevage  
Bujumbura.

Ecuador/Equateur

Representative	AYALA-LASSO, José
Représentant	Encargado de Negocios a.i.
Representante	Embajada del Ecuador en Italia Rome

Mauritania/Mauritanie

Representative	BENANI YOUBA, Cheikh
Représentant	Directeur de l'Agriculture
Representante	Ministère de la Planification et du Développement Rurale Nouakchott

Syrian Arab Republic/République Arabe Syrienne/República Arabe Siria

Representative	CHOUERI, Emile
Représentant	Counsellor
Representante	Embassy of the Syrian Arab Republic Rome

Swaziland

Representative	SIBANYONI, S.J.S.
Représentant	Permanent Secretary
Representante	Ministry of Agriculture Mbabane

Alternate	SIMELANE, J.
Suppléant	Senior Extension Officer
Suplente	Permanent Secretary Ministry of Agriculture Mbabane

Yemen Arab Republic/République Arabe du Yémen/República Arabe del Yemen

Representative	ALHOTHY, Hashim M.
Représentant	Permanent Representative to FAO
Representante	Embassy of the Yemen Arab Republic Rome

PERMANENT OBSERVER FOR THE HOLY SEE  
OBSERVATEUR PERMANENT DU SAINT-SIEGE  
OBSERVADOR PERMANENTE DE LA SANTA SEDE

FERRARI-TONIOLO, Monsignor Agostino  
Permanent Observer to FAO  
Vatican City

C. UNITED NATIONS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES  
NATIONS UNIES ET AGENCES SPECIALISEES  
NACIONES UNIDAS Y ORGANISMOS ESPECIALIZADOS

United Nations/Nations Unies/Naciones Unidas

PALMER, Dr. Ingrid  
Technical Editor  
GLC.2 Project  
UNRISD, Geneva

United Nations Development Programme/Programme des Nations Unies pour le Developpement/  
Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo

GUCOVSKY, M.  
Senior Technical Adviser  
Technical Advisory Division  
New York

International Labour Organization/Organisation Internationale du Travail/  
Organizacion Internacional del Trabajo

SEMPRINI, Mrs. V.  
ILO Branch Office in Rome  
Rome

International Atomic Energy Agency/Agence Internationale de l'Energie Atomique/  
Organismo Internacional de Energia Atomica

FRIED, Maurice  
Director, Joint FAO/IAEA Division of  
Atomic Energy in Food and Agriculture  
International Atomic Energy Agency  
Vienna

SIGURBJÖRNSSON, Björn  
Deputy Director, Joint FAO/IAEA Division of  
Atomic Energy in Food and Agriculture  
International Atomic Energy Agency  
Vienna

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade/Accord Général sur les Tarifs Douaniers  
et le Commerce/Acuerdo General sobre Aranceles Aduaneros y Comercio

KRAUS, J.H.  
Counsellor, Agriculture Division  
Geneva

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY  
COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE EUROPEENNE  
COMUNIDAD ECONOMICA EUROPEA

GAUDENZI, Mme. F.  
Administrateur Principal à la Direction générale de l'Agriculture  
Division "Organisations et accords internationaux concernant l'agriculture"  
Bruxelles

D. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES  
ORGANIZACIONES INTERNACIONALES

Associated Country Women of the World/Union Mondiale des Femmes Rurales/  
Union Mundial de Mujeres de Campo

PLUME, Mrs. K.  
Observer, London

European Commission on Agriculture/Commission Européenne d'Agriculture/  
Comisión Europea de Agricultura


MAAS, F.D.  
Advisor to the Ministry of Agriculture  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Jerusalem

International Federation of Agricultural Producers/Federation Internationale des  
Producteurs Agricoles/Federacion Internacional de Productores Agricolas

CRACKNELL, M.P  
Secretary General  
IFAP, Paris

International Federation of Plantation, Agricultural and Allied Workers/  
Federation Internationale des Travailleurs des Plantations, de l'Agriculture et des  
Secteurs Connexes/ Federacion Internacional de los Trabajadores de las Plantaciones  
Agricolas y Similares

HODSDON, Dennis F.  
Assistant to General Secretary  
IFPAAW, Geneva

	<b>FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS</b>	<b>COAG/72/INF.7</b> April 1972
	<b>ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE</b>	
	<b>ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION</b>	

ADDRESS BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL

(Introductory Statement by the Deputy Director-General)

On behalf of the Director-General of FAO who is absent from Rome it is my pleasure and privilege to welcome you to the first Session of the New Committee on Agriculture. I am gratified to see that so many Member Nations are represented here. The large attendance is evidence of the great interest in the work to be undertaken by this Committee, which was established by the FAO Conference at its last session.

At the beginning of this first session of the Committee I may recall briefly the events leading to its creation. In 1970 when proposing the establishment of a Committee on Forestry parallel to the previously existing Committee on Fisheries, the Programme Committee became concerned with the problem of balance that would arise in the technical advice available to the Council of the Organization from the absence of any comparable body to deal with the work of FAO in the agricultural, economic and social fields. The Programme Committee therefore recommended that the needs and interests of Member Nations and of FAO in this respect could best be met by the establishment of a Committee on Agriculture under Article V-6 of the Constitution, which would assist the Council in performing its functions, particularly those connected with the current and prospective activities of two major Departments namely the Agriculture Department and the Economic and Social Department.

Thus, with the Committee on Commodity Problems and the Committee on Fisheries and the new Committee on Forestry (the first session of which will commence next week) there now exist four Committees, all open to interested Member Nations, able to provide the Council with expert advice in all the major sectors of the Organization's activities.

The terms of reference of this Committee were laid down by the Conference when establishing the Committee by Resolution 11/71. They contain some interesting features which I believe are worth careful note. In the first place it is evident that the Conference intends this to be an integrating Committee. Thus it is specified in the Resolution of establishment that, in giving programme advice to the Council, the Committee is to place emphasis on the "The integration of all social, technical, economic, institutional and structural aspects related to agricultural and rural development in general". This is a hard but important task, not only within FAO but also within national governments. We have endeavoured to achieve this integration in preparing the working documents for the first session of the Committee. The fact that we have had difficulty in getting the papers completed in the limited time available since the Conference reflects the problems involved in synthesising the contributions of a large number of Divisions which have made their mark in the world because of their specialized expertise in limited aspects of agricultural and rural development. The challenge has been very worth while and I believe we have had a measure of success. But integration is an intellectual rather than a mechanical process. It will take some time to build up a more fully integrated approach to agricultural development, whether at international or national level. This Committee therefore exerts a most valuable influence, and its impact is bound to gain in strength through the years.

Another feature of your terms of reference is that they prescribe a selective approach. This is hardly surprising, since the competence of the Committee potentially covers about 90 percent of the agricultural sector in member countries and 60-70 percent of the work programme of the Organization. Thus the integrating role of the Committee is to be applied to a highly selected number of agricultural problems from meeting to meeting.

It is also worth mentioning, I think, that the Committee is to be concerned both with agricultural problems on a global basis, and with the programmes of FAO. Thus its deliberations are expected by the Conference to be valuable not only in defining the tasks of the Organization over the medium and longer term, but also in providing exchange of information and therefore guidance to member governments in approaching at the national level the agricultural development problems selected for discussion from time to time. The special development subjects on which the Committee will focus its deliberations at this first session were approved by the Council at its 58th session immediately following the last Conference, namely: Seed Industry Development (Item 4), Food and Nutrition Policies (Item 5) and Improving Productivity in Less Favourable Environments (Item 6).

The need to develop efficient seed industries was given special priority in FAO's Indicative World Plan, which estimated that the total value of certified seeds to meet estimated requirements would be in the order of US\$ 900 million in 1975. A dynamic programme to ensure an adequate and continuing supply of quality seed is essential to the success of the strategy of food production in the developing world; it is also a key enabling factor in the economic use of the other inputs, namely fertilizers, plant protection chemicals, farm implements and mechanical equipment. The Secretariat paper proposes a series of measures to provide a suitable framework for the production of basic and certified seed in sufficient quantity to replace farmers' seeds of the key annual crops at regular intervals, with priority given initially to cereals (wheat, barley, rice) pulses and certain annual oilseeds, progressively widening the scope to include hybrid seeds, vegetables, and bulky crops such as potatoes and groundnuts.

The second item deals with the approaches and priorities of one important aspect of national planning for socio-economic development namely that of sound food and nutrition policies. Such policies are needed, not only to orient food production and supply programmes in line with economic demand and nutritional requirements, but also to enlighten other relevant aspects of development policy including food storage, processing, distribution and marketing. The paper also examines the roles of price and trade policies, the redistribution of income, and supplementary feeding and food aid programmes in promoting the attainment of nutritional objectives.

The third subject deals with an area which in the past has been neglected in terms of research and development, namely Less Favourable Environments, covering about 70 percent of arable land. These areas constitute a challenging frontier in our effort to improve productivity. The Secretariat working paper on this subject attempts to define systematically the agricultural development problem of the various regions, as a basis for your deliberations which, hopefully, will lead to the selection of one or two of these problem areas for a more comprehensive study during the second session of your Committee.

In discussing these subjects, your Committee will wish to keep in mind the need to advise the Council on the medium- and longer-term programme of work of the Organization in these areas, with emphasis on implementation, i.e. the initiation of action in the field.

It is a prescribed function of the Committee to review specific matters referred to it by the Conference, the Council or the Director-General. Under this aspect of its terms of reference the Committee will take up four subjects, namely, the FAO Medium-Term Plan, Agrarian Reform, the Perspective Study of World Agricultural Development and Agricultural Research Priorities.

Thus the Committee, under Item 3 of its Agenda, as requested by Conference Resolution 6/71 on the Medium-Term Plan, will review the 62 sub-programmes relating to the work of the Agriculture and Economic and Social Departments. This list includes one sub-programme of PAB but excludes six sub-programmes with a predominantly commodity and trade content which will be reviewed by the CCP rather than by your Committee. The views and comments of the Committee on Agriculture as well as those of the Regional Conferences to be held during 1972



(to which the views of COAG, COFI and COFO are to be submitted) will be taken into account by the Director-General in his presentation to the Conference of a balanced and coordinated set of programme priorities as the basis for the preparation of the programme of work for 1974-75. You may like to know that at the meeting of the Committee on Fisheries last week, there was little mention of elimination of any lower priority activities but there was a very brisk and business like discussion of what sub-programmes were considered to be the top priorities. Interventions were without lengthy explanation or justification but brief and specific.

I suspect, Mr. Chairman, that the consideration of the Medium-Term Plan will start from the financial situation confronting the Organization, as well as the current trends in the field programme.

The Programme of Work and Budget for 1972-73 submitted to the 16th Session of the Conference amounted to approximately US \$ 87 million. As a result of changes in the latter part of 1971 in dollar exchange rates, and more rapid increases than originally projected for post and wage index adjustments and other operating costs, it became apparent however that FAO would be faced with increased costs well in excess of the sum of about \$ 2 million included in the budget in accordance with the principle of 'Full budgeting'. The Conference authorized the Director-General to withdraw \$ 1 million from the Working Capital Fund at the beginning of the 1972-73 biennium and recognized the possibility that withdrawal of an additional \$ 2 million from the Working Capital Fund might be required later in the biennium. You may recall that the Director-General had also agreed to effect during the biennium reductions of approximately \$ 1 million in the original figure of \$ 87 million. The Programme of Work and Budget approved by the 16th Session of the Conference, subject to the measures referred to above, thus amounted to approximately \$ 86 million, an increase of 17.5 percent over the previous biennium for cost increases and 1.6 percent for programme increases.

Since that time, FAO's financial situation has further deteriorated and projections of costs and an exchange rate of Lire 586 to the dollar (the present rate is slightly below this level) indicate a total deficit of more than \$ 6.5 million for the biennium. Assuming that no more than the previously envisaged total withdrawals of \$ 3 million from the Working Capital Fund were to be approved by the Council, FAO would still be faced with a possible gap of over \$ 3.5 million. The situation and possible remedial measures, some of which are already in hand, is to be discussed with the Finance Committee next month.

In these circumstances and in view of their implications for 1974-75, it is absolutely necessary that we formulate our future policies and programmes in a rather austere way and be ready to modify our pattern of activities, eliminating some in the process, and give evidence of flexibility in modes of action to increase our efficiency and effectiveness.

The importance of the field programme can readily be seen from the extra-budgetary resources to be administered by FAO, which in the present biennium amount to about \$ 230 million, some 85 percent of this amount coming from UNDP. With the current policies of the major donors on multilateral aid it seems, however, rather doubtful that the pledges to UNDP will rise at the annual rate of about 10 percent assumed by the Governing Council when it formulated its consensus in 1970. In fact, the pledges in 1971 amounted to \$ 239 million, an increase of 8 percent over the previous year, which is far short of the real needs of developing countries. The percentage of Special Fund projects - now called large-scale projects - for which FAO is designated executing agency has fallen, in terms of value, from 43 percent in 1960 to 28 percent in 1971.

Other sources of funds for field programmes are the Government Cooperative Programmes, whereby bilateral aid agencies channel part of their technical assistance funds through FAO including the provision of Associate Experts. Annual project costs have grown rapidly from less than \$ 250,000 in 1960 to about \$ 6.5 million in 1970.

The Committee may also wish to take into account the demands on FAO likely to arise from action in other inter-governmental fora, particularly the forthcoming United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, in the preparation of which FAO has played an important

part. The Action Plan to be considered at Stockholm this summer contains several proposals closely related to FAO's programme of work, particularly under the programme objective, Environment and War on Waste. The Council has been requested to review the implications of this Action Plan, when approved, both on priorities in this biennium as well as in the Medium-Term. The Conference has recommended that FAO should take a leading role in the protection of the environment and in the conservation of natural resources at the international level, thereby assisting in protecting the vital interests of agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

I should like to take this opportunity to inform you of the Director-General's renewed and continuing efforts to increase the effectiveness of the Organization. During the past weeks he established a Group on Objectives and Policies of the Organization with a view to orienting FAO's programme towards identified major problems. With its members coming from a broad range of professional grades, all serving in a personal capacity, the group brought together a variety of background and independent views. This report represents, of course, only one contribution to the process through which the Director-General will arrive at his decisions and proposals to our governing bodies. Currently the issues raised are being discussed among all levels of the staff, at Headquarters and in the field. A substantial contribution is also expected from the in-depth study of the role and functions of Headquarters, regional offices and country offices, which was requested by the Conference at its sixteenth session, and which is underway. It is premature at this stage to put any views to you as the process of consideration has barely begun. Nevertheless, the Director-General felt that you would wish to be informed of this initiative.


Other subjects for your attention are listed under Item 7 on your Agenda, namely agrarian reform, PSWAD/agricultural adjustment and agricultural research.

The first of these items follows from Conference Resolution 3/71 which included a recommendation that the Committee on Agriculture give adequate attention in the conduct of its activities to the rural development aspects and particularly to those bearing on the reform of agrarian structures. It is assumed, however, that your Committee will not need to go into substantive consideration of agrarian reform at this stage, since the Report of the Special Committee on Agrarian Reform was fully considered at the Sixteenth Session of the Conference and will be further discussed at the Regional Conference in 1972.

The second item is a report on the progress to date in developing lines of work under the Perspective Study of World Agricultural Development with particular emphasis on agricultural adjustment on which a report will be made ready for the 1973 Conference Session.

Under the last of these items, the Committee is asked to consider needs and priorities in agricultural research in line with Conference Resolution 9/71. A fairly substantive working document on this important subject has been prepared by the Secretariat.

There is no doubt that the Committee faces a very important and substantial Agenda at its first session. On behalf of the Director-General I wish you success in your deliberations.

	FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS	COAG/72/1 Rev. 1 17 April 1972
	ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE	
	ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION	

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

First Session

Rome, 17-22 April 1972

AGENDA

Introduction

1. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen
2. Adoption of the Agenda
- 2(a) Adoption of Rules of Procedure

Medium Term Programmes and Priorities

3. FAO Medium Term Plan 1974-79 relating to the work of the Agriculture and Economic and Social Departments

Selected Development Problems

4. Seed Industry Development
5. Food and Nutrition Policies
6. Improving Productivity in Less Favourable Environments

Other Matters

7. Matters arising from the Sixteenth Session of the FAO Conference
  - (a) Agrarian Reform - Implementation of Conference Resolution 3/71
  - (b) PSWAD/Agricultural Adjustment - Review of Progress
  - (c) Agricultural Research - Needs and Priorities
8. Other Business
  - (a) Functions of the Committee on Agriculture
9. Date and Place of Next Session

Report

10. Adoption of Report

Appendix D  
Appendice D  
Apéndice D

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
COMITE DE L'AGRICULTURE  
COMITE DE AGRICULTURA

(Rome, 17-22 April 1972  
Rome, 17-22 avril 1972  
Roma, 17-22 abril 1972)

LIST OF DOCUMENTS  
LISTE DES DOCUMENTS  
LISTA DE DOCUMENTOS

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| COAG/72/1                     | - Provisional Agenda<br>- Ordre du jour provisoire<br>- Programa provisional  |
| COAG/72/1 Rev. 1              | - Agenda<br>- Ordre du jour<br>- Programa   |
| COAG/72/2                     | - Provisional Timetable<br>- Calendrier provisoire<br>- Calendario provisional  |
| COAG/72/2 Rev. 1              | - Timetable<br>- Calendrier<br>- Calendario   |
| COAG/72/3                     | - Notes on Provisional Agenda<br>- Notes sur l'ordre du jour provisoire<br>- Notas al Programa provisional  |
| COAG/72/4                     | - Draft Rules of Procedure of the Committee on Agriculture<br>- Projet du Règlement intérieur du Comité de l'agriculture<br>- Proyecto de Reglamento del Comité de Agricultura  |
| COAG/72/5<br>COAG/72/5 Add. 1 | - FAO Medium-Term Plan 1974-79 relating to the work of the<br>Agriculture and Economic and Social Departments<br>- Plan à moyen terme de la FAO (1974-1979) concernant<br>les travaux du Département de l'agriculture et du<br>Département économique et social<br>- Plan a plazo medio de la FAO para 1974-79 relativo a las<br>actividades del Departamento de Agricultura y del<br>Departamento Económico y Social |
| COAG/72/6                     | - Seed Industry Development<br>- Développement de l'industrie des semences<br>- Fomento de la Industria de las semillas   |

- COAG/72/7
- Formulation of Food and Nutrition Policies
  - Elaboration des politiques de l'alimentation et de la nutrition
  - Formulación de políticas de alimentación y nutrición
- COAG/72/8
- Improving Productivity in Less Favourable Environments
  - Amélioration de la productivité dans des environnements peu favorables
  - Mejora de la productividad en ambientes difíciles
- COAG/72/9
- Agrarian Reform
  - Réforme agraire
  - Reforma agraria
- COAG/72/10
- PSWAD/International Agricultural Adjustment
  - EPDAM/Ajustement agricole international
  - EPDAM/Reajuste Internacional de la Agricultura
- COAG/72/11
- Agricultural Research
  - Recherche agricole
  - Investigación agrícola
- COAG/72/Inf. 1
- List of Documents
  - Liste des documents
  - Lista de documentos
- COAG/72/Inf. 2
- Information for Delegates
  - Renseignements à l'intention des délégués
  - Información para los delegados
- COAG/72/Inf. 3
- List of Participants
  - Liste des participants
  - Lista de participantes
- COAG/72/Inf. 4
- United Nations Conference on the Human Environment
  - Conference des Nations Unies sur l'Environnement
  - Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Medio Humano
- COAG/72/Inf. 5
- Information Document presented by the Argentine Delegation on Item 7a - Agrarian Reform
  - Document d'information présenté par la délégation de l'Argentine au sujet du point 7(a) - Réforme agraire
  - Documento informativo presentado por la delgación argentina para el tema 7a - Reforma agraria
- COAG/72/Inf. 6
- Extracts from the Report of the Sixteenth Session of the FAO Conference - Establishment of a Committee on Agriculture
  - Extraits du rapport de la Seizième Session de la Conference de la FAO - Création d'un Comité de l'agriculture
  - Extractos del informe del 16º Periodo de Sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO - Creación de un Comité de Agricultura

- COAG/72/Inf. 7    - Introductory Statement by the Deputy Director-General  
                  - Exposé liminaire du Directeur général adjoint  
                  - Discurso de introducción del Director General Adjunto

REFERENCE DOCUMENT  
DOCUMENT DE REFERENCE  
DOCUMENTO DE REFERENCIA

- C 71/15            - The Medium Term Plan 1972-77  
                  - Plan à moyen terme 1972-77  
                  - El plan a plazo medio: 1972-77

RULES OF PROCEDURE

RULE I

Officers

1. At the first session after the appointment of its members by the Council, pursuant to Rule XXXII-1 of the General Rules of the Organization, the Committee shall elect a Chairman, a first Vice-Chairman and a second Vice-Chairman from among the representatives of its members, who shall remain in office until the election of a new Chairman and new Vice-Chairmen.

2. The Chairman, or in his absence one of the Vice-Chairmen, shall preside at meetings of the Committee and exercise such other functions as may be required to facilitate its work. In the event of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairmen not being able to preside at a meeting, the Committee shall appoint one of its members to take the chair.

RULE II

Sessions

1. The Committee shall hold sessions as provided in Rule XXXII-3 and 4 of the General Rules of the Organization.

2. Any number of separate meetings may be held during each session of the Committee.

3. The Committee shall determine the date and place of its sessions. Normally, the Committee shall hold one session during each biennium, to be convened by the Director-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee. The Committee shall preferably meet early in the non-Conference years.

4. If required, the Committee may hold additional sessions on the call of the Director-General in consultation with its Chairman, or on request submitted in writing to the Director-General by the majority of the members of the Committee.

5. Notice of the date and place of each session shall normally be communicated at least two months in advance of the session to all Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization, and to such non-member nations and international organizations as may have been invited to attend the session.

6. Each Member Nation of the Committee may appoint alternates, associates and advisers to its representative on the Committee.

7. Presence of members representing a majority of the Member Nations of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for any formal action by the Committee.

RULE III

Attendance

1. Participation of international organizations in an observer capacity in the work of the Committee shall be governed by the relevant provisions of the Constitution and the General Rules of the Organization, 1/ as well as by the General Rules of the Organization on relations with international organizations.
2. Attendance by non-member nations of the Organization at sessions of the Committee shall be governed by the principles relating to the granting of observer status to nations adopted by the Conference.
3. (a) Meetings of the Committee shall be held in public, unless the Committee decides to meet in private for discussion of any items on its agenda.  
  
(b) Subject to the provisions of sub-paragraph (c) below, any Member Nation not represented on the Committee, any Associate Member or any non-member nation invited to attend in an observer capacity a session of the Committee, may submit memoranda and participate without vote in any discussion at a public or private meeting of the Committee.  
  
(c) In exceptional circumstances, the Committee may decide to restrict attendance at private meetings to the representative or observer of each Member Nation of the Organization.

RULE IV

Agenda and Documents

1. The Director-General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, shall prepare a provisional agenda and shall normally circulate it at least two months in advance of the session to all Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization and to all non-member nations and international organizations invited to attend the session.
2. All Member Nations of the Organization and Associate Members may request the Director-General normally not less than 30 days before the proposed date of the session to insert an item on the provisional agenda. The Director-General shall thereupon circulate the proposed item to all members of the Committee, together with any necessary papers.

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1/ It is understood that in this context the terms "Constitution" and the "General Rules of the Organization" are to be taken to include all general rules and policy statements formally adopted by the Conference and intended to supplement the Constitution and the Rules, such as the "Statement of principles relating to the granting of observer status to nations", the "Principles and procedures which should govern conventions and agreements concluded under Article XIV and XV of the Constitution" and commissions and committees established under Article VI of the Constitution and the general rules regarding relationship between the Organization and governmental and non-governmental organizations.



3. The Committee in session may by general consent amend the agenda by the deletion, addition or modification of any item, provided that no matter referred to it by the Council or on request of the Conference may be omitted from the agenda.
4. Documents not already circulated shall be dispatched with the provisional agenda, or as soon as possible thereafter.

#### RULE V

##### Voting

1. Each member of the Committee shall have one vote.
2. The decisions of the Committee shall be ascertained by the Chairman, who shall resort, upon the request of one or more members, to a vote, in which case the pertinent provisions of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization shall apply mutatis mutandis.

#### RULE VI

##### Reports

1. At each session, the Committee shall approve a report embodying its views, recommendations and decisions, including, when requested, a statement of minority views. Any recommendations adopted by the Committee which affect the programme or finances of the Organization or concerning legal or constitutional matters, shall be reported to the Council with the comments of the appropriate subsidiary committees of the Council. The reports of the Committee shall also be placed before the Conference.
2. Reports of sessions shall be circulated to all Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization and to non-member nations invited to attend the session, as well as to interested international organizations entitled to be represented at the session.
3. The comments of the Committee on the report of any of its subsidiary bodies and, if one or more Member Nations of the Committee so request, the views of those Member Nations shall be incorporated into the Committee's report. If any Member Nation so requests, this part of the Committee's report shall be circulated as soon as possible by the Director-General to the nations or international organizations which normally receive the reports of the subsidiary body in question. The Committee may also request the Director-General, in transmitting the report and records of its proceedings to Member Nations, to call particular attention to its views and comments on the report of any of its subsidiary bodies.
4. The Committee shall determine the procedures in regard to press communiqués concerning its activities.

#### RULE VII

##### Subsidiary Bodies

1. In accordance with Rule XXXII-11 of the General Rules of the Organization the Committee may, on an exceptional basis, establish subsidiary or ad hoc bodies where it considers that

such action is conducive to facilitating its own work and will not adversely affect the multi-disciplinary consideration of questions submitted to the Committee for examination. The Committee may include in the membership of such subsidiary or ad hoc bodies Member Nations that are not members of the Committee and Associate Members. The Council may admit to membership of such subsidiary or ad hoc bodies established by the Committee, nations which, while not Member Nations or Associate Members of the Organization, are members of the United Nations.

2. Before taking a decision on the establishment of any subsidiary or ad hoc body, the Committee shall examine the administrative and financial implications of such a decision, in the light of a report to be submitted by the Director-General.

3. The Committee shall define the terms of reference, composition and, as far as possible the duration of the mandate of each subsidiary or ad hoc body. Such subsidiary or ad hoc bodies shall report to the Committee. The reports of the subsidiary or ad hoc bodies shall be made available for information to all members of the subsidiary or ad hoc bodies concerned, all Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization, non-member nations invited to the session of the subsidiary or ad hoc bodies, and to interested international organizations entitled to attend such sessions.

#### RULE VIII

##### Suspension of Rules

The Committee may by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, decide to suspend any of the foregoing Rules of Procedure, provided that 24 hours' notice of the proposal for the suspension has been given and that the action contemplated is consistent with the Constitution and the General Rules of the Organization 1/. Such notice may be waived if no member objects.

#### RULE IX

##### Amendment of Rules

The Committee may, by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, amend its Rules of Procedure, provided that such amendment is consistent with the Constitution and the General Rules of the Organization. No proposal for the amendment of these Rules shall be included in the agenda of any session of the Committee, unless notice thereof has been dispatched by the Director-General to members of the Committee at least 30 days before the opening of the session.

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1/ See footnote to Rule III, paragraph 1.