

# council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ROME

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REPORT OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURESummary

The report of the Third Session of the Committee on Agriculture is herewith presented for the Council's information, and the matters requiring the attention of the Council are listed after the table of contents.

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MATTERS REQUIRING ATTENTION BY THE COUNCILSummary of Programme of Work and Budget

The Council to consider the views of COAG in considering the programme of work and budget for 1976-77 (paragraphs 42-43)

The Council to consider the application of criteria suggested by COAG for sharpening the priorities and leading to increased efficiency when reviewing the proposed programme of work and budget (paragraph 49).

Report of the Sixty-Fourth Session of the Council

Pursuant to a request by the Council at its Sixty-Fourth Session, a draft amendment concerning COAG's terms of reference was being submitted to the next session of the CCLM, mentioning programmes of work of the Organization in the field of food and agriculture without reference to any organizational unit. The Committee expressed its support and suggested that its views be brought to the attention of the CCLM. (paragraph 132).

World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development

The matter whether to hold a World Conference or to deal with the subjects at regional meetings, should be discussed at the Sixty-Sixth Session of the Council (paragraph 167).

Timing and Frequency of Sessions

The timing of the Committee's sessions and that of the other statutory bodies of the Organization should be studied so as to avoid overlapping (paragraph 177).



## INTRODUCTION

1. The Third Session of the Committee on Agriculture was held in Rome from 15 to 24 April 1975. The Session was attended by 51 members of the Committee, by observers from 15 other Member Nations, by the Permanent Observer for the Holy See, by representatives of the European Economic Community, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Labour Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency and 7 observers from international Organizations. The list of participants is set out in Appendix B to this Report.

### Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

2. The Committee expressed its appreciation of the work done by its outgoing Chairman, Mr. A. Kesseba (Egypt) and First and Second Vice-Chairmen (Mrs. Ewa Raszeja-Tobjasz, Poland, and Mr. B. Lusananda, Thailand). In accordance with Rule I of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee elected Dr. Salahuddin AHMED (Bangladesh) as Chairman, Mr. Claudio BETANCOURT (Cuba) as First Vice-Chairman <sup>1/</sup> and Mr. Carl THOMSEN (Denmark) as Second Vice-Chairman.

### Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements for the Session

3. The Agenda as adopted is set out in Appendix A. The List of Documents is attached as Appendix C.

4. The Committee appointed the following members to the Drafting Committee: Belgium, India, Iran, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, United States of America and Yugoslavia. The Drafting Committee elected Mr. M.T. Kupay (Iran) as its Chairman.

### Statement by the Director-General

5. The Committee heard a statement by Dr. A.E. Boerma, Director-General who welcomed members and introduced Dr. D.F.R. Bommer, the new Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department.

### Statement by the Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department

6. The Committee heard an introductory statement by Dr. D. F.R. Bommer, Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department. The Text of the statement is attached as Appendix D to this Report.

## REVIEW OF THE MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM PROBLEMS OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

7. The Committee discussed this item on the basis of document COAG/75/3 "Review of the Medium and Long-term Problems of the Food and Agricultural Sector" which had been prepared by the Secretariat in response to a request of the Second Session of COAG. The purpose of the document was to provide an analysis of the medium and long-term problems of the food and agricultural sector which the Committee could use as an appropriate framework for its review of and the orientation of the existing ongoing and short-term programmes of the two departments within the competence of the Committee. The Committee had requested a review which was comprehensive in scope and not one limited to selected problems.

8. The Committee noted that its discussions on medium and long-term outlook in its present session would have their main impact on the medium-term document which the Director-General would submit to the forthcoming FAO Conference and which would serve as a guideline for his

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<sup>1/</sup> The Representative of Chile expressed reservations about the election of the First Vice-Chairman.

formulation of the programme of work and budget proposals for the following biennium. The Committee was assured, however, that although the broad structure of the Programme of Work and Budget for the 1976-77 biennium had already been decided on by the FAO Council and the Director-General, work elements and other detailed aspects were still susceptible to such modifications as might be required to take account of the views of the Committee. The Committee agreed that this should be done.

9. There was general agreement that the account of the past progress of world agriculture and prospects of the world food situation given in the first part of the document was soundly based. While there had been some recent improvements, the prospects over the medium and longer term indicated a continuation of a precarious balance between availabilities and demand and there was no room for complacency. Emergencies due to crop failures, such as in 1974 could reoccur and could become perhaps more serious. Thus the problem of food security would be a continuing one. While the production problem had to be met mainly by the efforts of developing countries themselves to attain a greater degree of self-sufficiency in basic foods, which is possible in most developing countries, the food problem had to be seen in a world context in which the productive capacity of developed countries was also a major component of this global context. Similarly, actions already under way to improve world food security by ensuring greater adequacy and better coordination of national stocks were of the greatest importance.

10. The second part of the paper presented an analysis of action needed to meet the problems in the decade ahead. It pointed to the need for a coherent and imaginative strategy of development to be followed if the objectives agreed to by the international community in the United Nations Second Development Decade and reconfirmed and further developed most recently by the World Food Conference were to be attained. The paper then went on to outline major components of such a strategy which could reflect national priorities within a context of world agricultural development. The Committee noted that the approaches and strategies set out in this section were generally appropriate to the task which lay ahead. The Committee urged that more importance be given to comprehensive agrarian reform and structural and social changes. These were a pre-requisite for promoting genuine agricultural development and for ensuring the success of programmes and strategies in the agricultural and food sectors.

11. The vital role of assistance to developing countries in the provision of production means was underlined by the Committee. Representatives of developing countries expressed their concern over the existing trend of relative decrease (in percentage terms) of international development assistance. The Committee agreed that while the primary responsibility for raising their output of food and agricultural raw materials lay with the developing countries themselves, the actual availability of assistance by developed countries was an essential requisite. Delegates of developing countries urged that developed countries meet their commitments of official assistance at the level of 0.7 percent of GNP embodied in the proposals for DD2. A number of members from developed countries informed the Committee on their country's policies and achievements in providing the increased level, and reiterated the intention of their governments to reach this target and instances were cited on progress in this direction despite difficulties arising from the current recession. Attention was also drawn by a number of developed country delegates to the need for their governments to be able to demonstrate to their citizens that constructive use was being made of assistance in order to enlist greater public support for development aid, an area where FAO could contribute by producing appropriate informative literature.

12. Some members felt that the resolutions of the World Food Conference, Declaration and Resolution of the 6th Special Session and of the 29th Session of the UN General Assembly, the World Population Conference and FAO Regional Conferences should have been referred to at greater length in this part of the paper. It was, however, explained that these resolutions and debates had been taken into account in the substantive content of the paper and that they were thus included implicitly rather than explicitly.

13. In the wide-ranging debate about priorities and action required for moving towards a solution of the food problems, particular attention was given to the following aspects of strategies and programmes for agricultural development.

#### Land and Water

14. The Committee recognized that land and water resources were the basic physical foundations on which agriculture was built and noted the targets for their more effective utilization, as contained in document COAG/75/3, requiring investments from all sources combined to be raised to about US\$ 8 million per annum within the next four to five years.

15. The Committee recognized that increased agricultural production would have to be obtained from both a more intensive use of land and water resources and from opening new lands for cultivation. For this purpose, land resources appraisals were required in order to select appropriate management and conservation techniques, and in order to identify the lands most suitable for the expansion of agricultural areas. In this connection the Committee recalled the request of the World Food Conference for FAO to prepare a World Soil Charter.

16. The Committee recognized FAO's role in preparing a global assessment of the world's land resources and stressed that full advantage should be taken of the information already available in the countries concerned. The Committee urged FAO to speed up the publication of the Soil Map of the World and recommended that this document be made full use of for global land appraisal and soil degradation assessments. (see paragraph 59).

17. The Committee stressed that expansion and improvement of irrigation were essential for increasing as well as stabilizing production in many areas. Unit costs of irrigation development were highly variable and the Committee thought that attention should be given to both renovation and improvement of existing schemes and to the development of new ones. The Committee noted that this would involve solving not only technical but also social problems in order to enlist the active participation of the farmers who own the land. Careful planning and assessment of investment needs, special equipment, skilled manpower and trained leadership for execution of schemes would all be called for. In this regard the need for stepping up investments in land and water development was strongly emphasized. The Committee emphasized that FAO's programme on the assessment of soil and water resources and irrigation potential for increasing agricultural production should be action- and field-oriented. It was explained that FAO's field programme, either through UNDP or other organizations including bilateral organizations or through direct advice by missions to developing countries, concentrated on solving the immediate problems confronting the expansion of irrigated agriculture.

18. The Committee recommended that in determining land use, the competing needs of forestry, livestock and crop production should be carefully analysed. It pointed out that mountain areas needed special appraisal for horticulture development as also development of pasture for livestock. The Committee stressed the need for more attention to fodder legumes. These requirements, the Committee suggested, should be kept in mind in soil surveys and land use capability evaluations.

#### Energy Needs

19. The Committee noted that modern agriculture was energy-intensive. It suggested that all efforts be made to meet the needs of agriculture in this field on a priority basis. The Committee also suggested that FAO should strengthen its work in this area (see paragraph 66).

#### Food and Fodder Crop Production

20. While asking for the coverage of the discussions and programmes to include non-food crops as well, the Committee felt that increased attention should be given to the following sub-sectors of food and fodder crops production:

- Intensive production of foodgrains, carrying on the Green Revolution;
- The role of cereals production under rainfed conditions; such production contributes to more adequate diets particularly in less favourable environments;
- Pulses and fodder legumes should receive more attention to provide a cheaper source of proteins;
- Promotion of horticultural crops;
- Development of pastures and rangeland management;
- In connexion with choices on horizontal and vertical expansion of crop production, the importance of double cropping was noted as contributing to rising crop productivity;
- The problem of the intensification of agriculture was also referred to in connection with the need for improving the land use pattern in the rainfed semi-arid zone of the Near East and North Africa where despite difficulties notable successes have been achieved, particularly with respect to the inclusion of fodder legumes and pulses in cereal rotations.

21. The Committee stressed the importance of transferring yield increasing intermediate technology and of the necessary inputs to the large number of small farmers in developing countries who have a major share in the food production process. In this respect it was stressed that FAO support for improving extension, demonstration and distribution (marketing) related to agricultural inputs should be strengthened.

#### Fertilizers

22. Recognizing the need for adequate supplies of fertilizers to developing countries, the Committee recommended that the cooperation between FAO, UNIDO and the World Bank be continued with a view to facilitating the establishment of additional fertilizer production capacity in the developing countries themselves. The Committee noted that FAO was closely following a possible decision by OPEC countries to assist the development of fertilizer manufacturing capacity and to provide supplies to other developing countries at cost price.

23. The Committee stressed the importance of using organic materials as supplementary alternative sources of plant nutrients and recommended that FAO pay full attention to the recycling of organic wastes as fertilizers and strengthen its work in this connection.

24. The Committee agreed that the high prices of fertilizers, unrelated to their increased cost of production, has already adversely affected their use by farmers. Some members stressed that this unfavourable development of prices called for consideration by governments and industry in the exporting countries to supply fertilizers to the developing countries at prices which reflected their cost of production and a minimum return, at the same time ensuring a steady flow, if necessary through a system of quotas.

#### Seeds

25. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Seed Industry Development Programme was concentrating its efforts on the provision of assistance in the formulation of seed industry plans and projects and bringing needs and resources together. Steps had also been taken to prepare a global training programme on seed activities. The Committee emphasized the need for sufficient resources being made available for an adequate expansion of the programme.

26. A number of members stated that it was desirable to obtain the cooperation of private industry in the Seed Programme, for example through the Industry Cooperative Programme. The Committee was informed that the private seed trade was represented by the International Seed Trade Federation (FIS) in the programme and that some seed firms were cooperating as consultants. The establishment of a task force of private seed companies to assist in the implementation of the Seed Programme was under consideration.

#### Pesticides

27. The Committee expressed concern about shortages of pesticides interfering with agricultural production growth in developing countries. In this connection the Committee was informed of the results of an ad hoc Consultation on Pesticides in Agriculture at the beginning of April attended by representatives of interested governments and Industry. This Consultation indicated an eased supply situation due to lower demand following the fall in cotton prices and also because of the completion of new pesticide production capacity. In the area of herbicides, however, there was still a shortage.

#### Mechanization

28. The Committee recognized that there was a need to reflect in development approaches the complex and diverse effects of mechanization on production and employment. Mechanization broadly defined included improved hand tools, animal draught and mechanical power equipment aimed at increasing production and employment. For any given situation an appropriate level of mechanization had to be introduced. The Committee noted that it might be possible to balance the introduction of mechanization with employment and income objectives. The Committee was informed that an Expert Consultation had met in February and had given proposals for guidelines to FAO and the developing countries in formulating mechanization programmes.

#### Livestock

29. The Committee was in general agreement with the livestock policy outlined in the document and the scope indicated for livestock development in the developing countries. However, several members felt that great emphasis should not be placed on poultry and pig production insofar as they competed directly with humans for grains. To encourage their production was therefore appropriate when and where sufficient grains or other by-products were available for feeding them. It was explained that in most cases livestock did not consume food suitable for human consumption.

30. A priority compatible with ecological considerations should be given to the development of ruminant production using marginal land and land unsuitable for crop production. Also the integration of livestock with crop production should be stressed. In view of the food/feed competition, the whole issue of a feed base for ruminants in relation to land use including forage/livestock production relationships should be given more emphasis in FAO's work. Several members pointed to the importance of livestock in providing employment opportunities and diversification of production especially for small farmers.

#### Integrated Rural Development

31. The Committee commented that programmes of Integrated Rural Development (IRD) could prove useful in combining progress in food production with a fuller participation of the rural people through facilitating desirable structural changes in agriculture, and in some countries it had already been given the role of the basis of development. Its close relationship to the area development approach was noted. For its success in application, the Committee advocated that IRD programmes of FAO should be oriented towards a solution of concrete problems as manifested in local political, social and economic conditions being careful that IRD did not become a mere slogan. The Committee recommended that IRD action programmes be properly oriented to serve the interest of landless labourers and small

farmers, distinguishing, however, the differences in opportunities and problems of these two groups. Such a focus for IRD would also improve income distribution and a reduction in un- and under-employment.

32. Comprehensive agrarian reform which was an essential element of IRD gave attention among other items to changing archaic tenurial structures which held back development.

33. A number of members called on FAO to provide more analysis of types and size of farm organization, suitable for different conditions and in this connection the suggestion was made to study existing production cooperatives and to disseminate the experiences from them worldwide.

#### Post-Harvest Management

34. Improvement of post-harvest management of agricultural products was emphasized by the Committee and it expressed the wish to have it included in the next assessment of medium and long-term problem analysis. Not only should the activities for development of storage, handling and processing be fully recognized as a means of preserving food supplies, but there was also a complementary need for management of food security programmes, including assistance with credit, marketing and price stabilization systems. These aspects should receive adequate emphasis especially in developing countries committed to producing and storing buffer stocks of food grains. As far as the field programme was concerned, the Committee felt that every encouragement should be given by governments and development agencies to the processing of food and cash crops for the local as well as overseas markets.

35. Involvement of farmers, specially small farmers should be encouraged to make optimal and efficient use of by-products and offals of agricultural industry. The Committee advocated greater focus on this item.

#### Marketing and Trade

36. The Committee took note of the concern of the developing countries over the marketing of their products. It was essential, the developing countries emphasized, that FAO make every effort to help solve the problems besetting the trade of the developing countries in particular, by supporting measures to dismantle all tariff and other barriers shielding the markets of the developed countries against their exports.

#### Skilled Manpower

37. The Committee emphasized the importance of training both for institutional development and for transfer of technology, and fears were expressed that restricted availability of skilled manpower may become a limiting factor on absorptive capacity and thus on development opportunities for developing countries. For this purpose FAO was requested to carry out in its regular programme a survey of available technical expertise for agricultural development, both in developed and developing countries, and to establish and update from time to time this inventory. As the second part of such a study, an evaluation should be made, both at the national and international level, of long-term demands for skilled manpower. Training capacities of both developed and developing countries should be adapted so as to be capable of meeting these demands.

#### Transfer of Technology

38. The evaluation and transfer of technology was recognized by the Committee as playing a crucial part in the development and modernization of agriculture. It was stressed that this should include technology as relating to development of land and water resources, to crop and livestock production and to processing, storage and marketing. The Committee was informed of proposals for the establishment together with UNDP of technology transfer centres and suggested that further attention be given to applied research in developing countries thereby ensuring the availability of technologies which were relevant to local ecological, social and economic conditions.

### Perspective Studies

39. The Committee recognized the importance of policy analysis and advisory work of FAO, especially now that the political awareness of the fundamental role of food and agriculture had been strengthened and embodied in new institutional arrangements proposed by the World Food Conference. The attention of the Committee was drawn to the fact that much of the analytical base for these advisory activities was provided by perspective studies at the country, regional and global levels. Country Perspective Studies had two major uses. In the first place they provided agricultural policy guidelines to countries' own planning and policy formulation. Secondly they were a means of facilitating the identification of aid and investment projects for the attention both of the country itself and of prospective donors. Delegates from countries for which perspective studies had already been undertaken noted their usefulness in these respects. The suggestion was made that a Regional Perspective Study be carried out for the ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) countries. Perspective studies at the regional and global level were also needed so that country planning and policy formulation could be conducted with more adequate knowledge of perspectives for world agriculture. In view of the usefulness of the perspective studies programme, it was considered desirable that it will be expanded and strengthened in the future. The Committee stressed that Country Perspective Studies could be regarded as the first phase of a permanent programme which could be of substantial value for countries in their continuing review and adjustment of food and agricultural policies.

### Problem-oriented Approach

40. The last section of COAG/75/3 presented preliminary Secretariat thinking as to the scope and more systematic evolution of a more problem-oriented approach to a part of FAO's work. Work along these lines had a number of significant aspects in common with one another: they involved a multidisciplinary approach within the FAO Secretariat; under cover of general approval by the Conference, country participation was voluntary; where a developing country expressed a wish to participate, FAO and the country worked together to define what needed to be done and develop a project or projects; FAO then helped the country to mobilize funds for external financing of the country projects from international financial organizations and from bilateral donors. Examples were the International Scheme for Coordination of Dairy Development, the International Meat Development Scheme and the Seed Industry Development Programme. Characteristics of problems appropriate for such an approach include the possibility of clear identification of the required action with a clear role for the Organization; a demonstrated willingness on the part of the countries concerned to cooperate in the endeavour; and potential for attracting financial or other aid. While the use of this approach was not new, it was tending to be increasingly followed although it had not been formally presented in the Programme of Work and Budget. The major advantage of such an approach was that it provided an explicit focal point for concentration of activities towards the solution of a selected problem. This was proving particularly valuable where the activities were multidisciplinary. The document gave a number of illustrations of problem areas in which such an approach appeared desirable. Some of them were already being handled in this manner.

41. A considerable measure of support for the principle of this approach was expressed by many members of the Committee. However, a number of other members pointed out that various questions would need to be answered regarding details of its application and its possible relationship to existing programmes and its implications for the management, structures and presentation of the Programme of Work and Budget. The Committee therefore felt that the application of this approach should be continued but only gradually and with caution.

### Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1976-77

42. This item was included on the Agenda in line with the Committee's recommendation at its Second Session endorsed by the Council at its Sixty-fourth Session, that its terms of reference be expanded to enable it to review the programmes of work of the Agriculture and Economic and Social Policy Departments. The Committee confirmed that the discussion would

focus on the general lines of work and the broad aspects of development rather than a comprehensive review of the more than 50 sub-programmes related to Agriculture and Economic and Social Policy Departments. Consequently, the Committee had before it an extract covering the two Departments, from CL 65/3 - Outline of the Shape of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1976-77 - which had already been considered by the Council at its Sixty-Fifth Session.

43. Several members expressed their satisfaction at the inclusion of this agenda item since it gave countries not members of the Council an opportunity to examine the programmes before they were finalized for presentation to the Conference.

44. The Committee noted the reasons why the Summary Programme of Work and Budget was not available. The holding of the World Food Conference and the special Sessions of the Programme and Finance Committees in January and the Council in March had impeded the timely preparation of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget.

45. The Committee was informed that the substance of the programme proposals and the balance of resources allocated to the two Departments in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget would not change materially from CL 65/3. The Committee noted that there would be cuts in the allocations for those items indicated by the Council as low priorities, leading to a slight reduction in the overall level of the Budget proposal. The main changes from CL 65/3 would be:

- a) A change in presentation by which the main priorities were grouped into programmes approximating more closely to the Areas of Emphasis, which would also display the involvement of both Headquarters departments and Regional Offices in the unified programme and would group together those programme items which, the Council was concerned, should not overlap.
- b) Incorporation of the results of the first step in implementing the policy of decentralization which, however, still remained to be considered in depth by the Programme and Finance Committee and the Council.
- c) Incorporation of the reduction in low priorities, amounting to a gross amount of \$ 1.5 million in total, some of which would, however, be reallocated to other items.

46. The Committee took note of these and other points as a background to its consideration primarily of the validity of the substantive programme proposals of the Agriculture and Economic and Social Policy Departments.

47. In this connection the following general points were made:

48. Many members expressed their satisfaction with the substantial increase proposed for the technical and economic programme in the food and agricultural sector. Some members, however, questioned the trends towards increased expenditure for staff at Headquarters and the capacity of the Organization to absorb rapidly many new programmes. One possibility to cope with this would be an extended use of consultants and of contractual arrangements with national or international institutions, and in particular with local institutions in developing countries, selected on the widest possible geographical basis. Many members stressed the need for decentralization.

49. The Committee gave considerable attention to criteria that would facilitate the sharpening of the priorities and lead to increased efficiency. These criteria might be applied by Council and its subsidiary bodies when reviewing the proposed Programme of Work and Budget. Such criteria and guidelines might be as follows: represent substantive activities and projects of an international nature with a strong action component; ensure a close link between activities of the Regular Programme and the field programmes funded

from extra-budgetary resources; increase of food crop production, especially in developing countries, and reduction of waste and losses in order to improve the nutritional diets and to contribute to world food security; benefit the Most Seriously Affected Countries (MSA's) and the poorest strata of rural population; attract external financing and result in investment; ensure a transfer of technology; provide maximum employment and better professional training; promote intergovernmental and regional cooperation; avoid duplication of work with other organizations; promote cooperation with national institutions; avoid theoretical studies and investigations, and projects which would lead to substantial long-term commitments.

50. The Committee felt that, in the future, information should be provided on past activities including an evaluation of progress made. It was noted also that this type of approach had been envisaged in the Committee's original mandate to review selective topics in depth, including the extra-budgetary activities related to the Regular Programme under discussion; and that the Committee could not at such short notice and in the time available effectively apply such criteria to the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. It was also noted that a primary task of the Committee was to consider the technical validity of the Programmes but that some expert groups might be necessary to carry out this function.

51. While the level of the Budget was not discussed in detail, there was general recognition of the need for a substantial increase in the budget level. Some members expressed the view that the budget level should be substantially below the \$185 million originally proposed by the Director-General.

#### AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

52. With regard to the programme proposals of the Agriculture Department, the Committee endorsed the range of activities envisaged under the various priority areas, with top priority given to programmes leading to increased food production in developing countries and emphasis on projects oriented towards action at the field level.

#### Training, Research and Extension in Soil, Water and Crop Development

53. Strengthening programmes related to training, extension and research in the field of land, water and crop development received high priority in the discussions of the Committee. The Committee was informed that the assistance envisaged under those programmes had a country and regional focus and would be adapted to the structure of existing national extension services and research institutions. The target of programmes for training courses and seminars would be reached in the 1974-75 biennium, and the proposed expansion would enable a doubling of its activities in these fields.

#### Credit and Marketing Development

54. The Committee recognized the essential role of small farmers credit development as a service to increase food production. It was recognized that all credit must pass through appropriate institutions staffed by personnel suitably trained in the administration of agricultural credit. FAO's role should be to advise governments on the establishment of rural finance divisions in central banks; in improving the capacity of primary credit institutions or cooperatives in lending and recovering from small farmers in accordance with a crop loan system.

55. Many members felt that the proposals gave insufficient priority to this area. It was recognized that a reasonable proportion of the limited resources should be allocated to such crucial areas as export promotion; price stabilization; agricultural inputs marketing, improving food marketing systems for large urban areas and their linkage to rural supply areas; and marketing management training.

Assessment and Planning of Land and Water Resources: Water Development, Water Management and Use

56. Some members suggested that a global inventory should be prepared by FAO of water resources in use at present and an assessment of those available for future use in connection with rural water supply, and irrigation for increased food production.

57. The Committee emphasized that rehabilitation of existing irrigation and drainage projects would offer the most rapid means of contributing to increased food production. It recommended that FAO continue, and if possible increase its activities in this field.

58. Several members emphasized the need for increased attention to soil and water conservation as well as water development and management. The need for soil and water conservation was stressed in particular for areas where new lands were brought into cultivation.

59. The Committee endorsed the proposed strengthening of FAO's work on land resources appraisal. It was informed that the World Soil Map which provided the basis for this appraisal, was completed and only the printing of the last eight map sheets had been delayed for budgetary reasons. One member pointed out that the proposals for 1976-77 did not contain a World Soil Charter as requested by the World Food Conference the aim of which was to avoid irreversible deterioration of the soil.

Soil Fertility and Fertilizer Use Development

60. The Committee noted that this area covered programmes relating to fertilizer use development, the formulation of a world fertilizer policy and the activities of the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme for which considerable new resources were requested. Some members felt that the proposed expansion needed better justification.

61. The Committee stressed the need for consolidating and rationalizing the work of the various units of FAO dealing with fertilizer work. It was informed that steps were being taken to streamline operations and that a progress report would be given to the forthcoming Council session.

Improvement in Rangelands and Crops

62. The Committee supported the proposed activities in pasture and range improvement and management with special emphasis on the improvement of arid and semi-arid rangelands through better management and conservation methods. It welcomed the recommendations of the recent International Conference on the Ecological Management of Arid and Semi-Arid Rangeland in Africa and the Near East (EMASAR), and recommended that all activities related to range management should be coordinated including the UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme, as regards the impact of human activities on grazing lands. Such action should also be applied to hill and mountainous areas.

63. The Committee agreed with the high priority given to the improvement of yield potential and production techniques of food crops with special emphasis on cereal breeding and crop management. Some members emphasized the need for improvement of fruit and vegetable production and the need to ensure sufficient supplies of propagation materials. Furthermore, the importance was stressed of forecasting crop yields on the basis of meteorological and other factors.

### Seed Industry Programme

64. The Committee endorsed the high priority given to seed industry development. It noted that emphasis would be shifted toward the implementation of the programme viz. Provision of assistance to member nations in the formulation and implementation of integrated projects concerned with the production and distribution of quality seeds and propagation material. It noted that a large part of the additional resources was required for country missions to formulate country seed industry programmes. Some members stressed that top priority should be given to the establishment of seed reserve stocks for critical areas likely to be affected by national disasters.

### Small Farmers Technology and Rural Industries

65. The Committee generally agreed that emphasis in agricultural mechanization should be placed on the adaptation of appropriate levels of mechanization, with associated manpower training programmes to ensure the adoption of a mechanization technology adapted to the requirements of the small farmer. Many members stressed the need for national mechanization policies related to individual crop or area requirements in order to make the best use of available land, labour and capital resources for small farmers as well as large-scale agricultural enterprises in developing countries and supported the establishment of technology transfer centres.

66. The Committee called upon FAO to strengthen its work in non-mineral energy sources (wind, solar, water, bio-gas, etc.) in the light of the continuing depletion of fossil fuels.

67. The Committee emphasized that the establishment of small-scale agricultural industries was an essential component in the rural development process. It supported the proposed programme of technology transfer to ensure that agro-industry would more fully contribute as an incentive to agricultural production, raising employment opportunities, development of infrastructure, diversification of sources of income, and increasing foreign exchange earnings and import substitution.

68. Many members supported the strengthening of FAO's role in post-harvest technology as a means of conserving products and ensuring their delivery to markets.

### Application of Atomic Energy in Food and Agriculture

69. The Committee noted that the proposed increase in resources for the application of atomic energy in food and agriculture was to strengthen two major programmes; the production of disease resistant mutants aiming at reducing the extensive use of fungicides and pesticides; and the conservation and effective utilization of fertilizer nitrogen residues in soils. Some members questioned the validity of expansion of this area and suggested that this should have been funded by a shift of resources resulting from the reduction or termination of a number of research programmes initiated during earlier biennia.

### Livestock Development

70. The Committee endorsed the dairy and meat development schemes as excellent examples of investment-oriented activities. Some members stressed the importance of rapidly mobilizing external assistance for the projects identified, and that the question of access to markets in developed countries for meat from developing countries should be given due attention.

71. The Committee noted that about 60 percent of the world's sheep and goat population, as also most buffaloes are in the developing countries. The Committee therefore recommended that increased attention should be given to their improvement, including research on and development of genetic aspects. In general, however, animal genetics work should be strengthened with priority on developmental action rather than research.

### The Control of African Animal Trypanosomiasis

72. The Committee strongly supported the implementation of this programme which in addition to the production of considerable quantities of meat could, upon careful analysis of the impact of such a programme, open substantial areas for food crop production. One member pointed out that animal health aspects in general not mentioned in the document should be given adequate attention in FAO's work.

### Small Farmer Development Activities

73. The Committee took note of the importance of the Small Farmer Development activities aiming at removing the principal constraints which inhibit the increase of the production and income of small farmers. Some members stressed that the proposed farm systems investigations should also deal with the institutions required for the supply of farm inputs.

### Remote Sensing Applications

74. Several members considered remote sensing a most important new technology of particular importance for the survey of natural resources, crop census, monitoring disease incidence, etc. and considered the proposed expansion appropriate. Several other members however, stressed, that careful cost/benefit analysis as well as multilateral arrangements for the supply of satellite imagery and computer services was required in developing these activities. Some members recommended that FAO at this stage should not build up a large unit for application of Remote Sensing techniques.

### ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICY DEPARTMENT

75. As concerns the Programmes of the Economic and Social Policy Department, there was general agreement in the Committee with the choice in the document under consideration of priority areas for expansion. Among these, a number were singled out by Members as deserving particularly high priority.

### Integrated Rural Development

76. A great many members welcomed the emphasis being given to action to promote Integrated Rural Development, in line with the views they had expressed under agenda item 3. Particular stress was laid by some members on IRD which included comprehensive agrarian reform as a key component, as a means of achieving deep-going social and structural changes in rural areas.

77. In this connexion the Committee stressed the importance of FAO moving forward from the stage of clarifying the concept to that of action programmes, and noted the intention to strengthen the staff responsible for giving governments direct advice on planning and implementation of IRD schemes and on backstopping of IRD projects in the field. At the same time it was recognized that a programme of case studies was necessary in order to learn from the experiences in various countries, and to develop typology of IRD approaches from which countries could draw guidance in designing projects suited for their own circumstances. Several delegations stressed the importance of taking advantage of existing studies before launching new ones and of combining elements of different studies when possible. The Committee stressed the need for comparability in terms of methodology of related studies to facilitate useful synthesis.

### Training and Extension

78. Another proposed area of intensified activity supported by the majority of members was that on training. In particular, the Committee welcomed the shift in emphasis from global and international training activities in such areas as agricultural and rural development planning to national planning courses; and the aim of the programme to develop in the participating countries a competence for independently looking after their own training needs. It was felt that these programmes met a widely felt need for training of trainers, and more generally for in-service training at various levels of development administration.

79. With reference to IRD case studies, the training activities, and other similar programmes, the Committee stressed the need for FAO to make greater use of local institutions, particularly those in developing countries. Not only were the staffs of such institutes in a position to make a valuable contribution to the activities, because of their intimate knowledge of the local conditions, but the activity was also likely to be more economical, and it would have beneficial effects on the developing country in question as a form of training exercise. The Committee welcomed the assurance that this was the intention, and that an inventory of likely cooperating institutions was being built up. Some members urged FAO to assist the development of cooperation among developing countries and to stimulate an increased use of experts from the developing countries for projects in other developing countries, with similar climatic, social and other conditions.

80. Extension was closely related to the training activities. Many members supported the proposals for intensified work on evolution of innovative methods of extension work, with emphasis on reaching large numbers of farmers. Detailed discussion on this aspect was, however, deferred since it was the topic of a separate item on the agenda.

### Improvement of Nutrition

81. There was support for the proposals to intensify work on nutrition policies and planning as an essential tool to help to increase food consumption levels and to reduce inequalities of food distribution in the developing countries. This was considered to be valuable not only for developing but also developed countries. The Committee was informed that requests for assistance in this area had been received from 22 countries and that in the present conditions it will not be possible to assist more than a few of these. The Committee agreed with the secretariat that nutrition policies and plans had to be developed as an integral part of agricultural and general economic development plans. Several members stressed the multidisciplinary nature of the exercise and recommended that such activities should be developed parallel to nutrition intervention programmes which have an immediate impact on the vulnerable groups. The importance of improved food preservation, dietary planning and food preparation within the home was also stressed.

### Role of Women in Agricultural Development

82. In a related area, a number of members supported the emphasis given in the proposals to activities aiming at the recognition of the role of women in food production and utilization, and at the formation of national programmes aimed at giving women full equality of opportunity to participate in development activities.

### Policy Oriented Activities

83. Among the policy oriented activities contained in the programme proposals, several members welcomed the emphasis given to the formulation of agricultural development strategies and policies at national, regional and global level. Aside from Country Perspective Studies and the Perspective Study of World Agricultural Development (PSWAD) several members expressed their support for the proposal to intensify assistance to countries on

agricultural aspects of planning for regional economic integration. Increased economic cooperation between developing countries had been stressed both at the World Food Conference and at the Sixth Special Session of the U.N. General Assembly. The Committee also noted with favour the continued work on International Agricultural Adjustment (IAA), while some members pointed out that in developing this line of work further it was necessary to follow closely the related work carried out elsewhere, e.g. by GATT and OECD. The Committee noted with satisfaction that an ad hoc Working Party on the guidelines for IAA would be held in May, and that a comprehensive strategy paper would be presented to the Conference at its Session in November 1975. Depending on the reaction of the Conference, the work was envisaged to shift subsequently from the preparatory stage to one of monitoring of progress and intergovernmental consultations for achieving the objectives specified by the Conference.

84. The Committee expressed its support of the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture. The Committee stressed the importance of flow of information, and hoped that all member governments of UN and FAO would participate actively in the system. Several members also spoke in favour of the programme in support of greater food security.

85. As at the Sixty-Fifth Session of the Council, a number of members again expressed concern about the danger of duplication in the information gathering activities for various purposes, such as the State of Food and Agriculture, the Food Information System, IAA, etc. The Committee was satisfied that the Secretariat was aware of the danger, and was in the process of taking concrete steps to avoid it. The Committee stressed the importance of the creation of a single economic and social data base to serve the entire Organization.

#### AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AND TRAINING

86. This item was placed on the agenda following discussions at the Second Session of COAG which 'laid special emphasis on the need for an effective extension system - effective in terms of numbers, rapport with the rural population and appropriate training - for the dissemination of the new technology'.

87. The Committee took note of document COAG 75/5 prepared to assist it in its consideration of the item. It welcomed 'its critical and constructive approach' and its recommendation for the future. As a detailed technical report on agricultural extension and training, the document afforded ample scope to members of the Committee for an in-depth technical examination of the position, which is a main function of COAG'

88. Several members, speaking from long personal experience under field conditions, discussed the many and varied aspects of extension and training and made a number of valuable suggestions.

89. The definitions of Extension and Training presented in the COAG paper were generally accepted but a number of comments were made aimed at giving greater emphasis to both the social and technical aspects. Some members expressed the opinion that extension should be considered by governments not only as a service but also as a system, and other members felt that more emphasis should be put on the social aspects. The substance of the objectives, scope and role of extension was also clarified by the detailed comments of the members when they referred to the different aspects of the paper, and these comments are reflected in the paragraphs which follows.

90. The Committee recognized that extension was a major element in promoting the technical, social and economic development of the rural areas. It was recognized that it was necessary that governments of developing countries establish a permanent service for agricultural extension and training. Other important factors in the development process were: credit, production inputs, improved seeds and breeds of animals, transportation, marketing channels and price incentives which strengthen farmers motivation and make participation easier. The need for vertical and horizontal links with other services was stressed. The extension worker could not do everything in the village but he had to see the problems in the context of all factors and elements influencing the situation.

91. It was agreed that extension workers should have a agricultural background and that farm and village level workers should be drawn from the rural community which they service; they must be able to identify with the farming community and to ascertain its felt needs. The extension agent had to work in partnership with the farmer, not in a teacher-pupil relationship but rather sharing his views with the farmer in relation to the farmer's own needs.
92. The Committee stressed the importance of the involvement of people in extension at field level. This required not only properly trained extension workers but a far greater use of farm leaders. The majority of farmers still learned from their peers and neighbours and an extension system could make full use of the progressive farmers enjoying the confidence of the rural community. Modifications to the "Summary of Recommendations" contained in document COAG 75/5 were suggested to include this point. It was also stressed that farmers, especially the younger ones, should be trained, for instance at practice-oriented training centres.
93. The Committee emphasized that the quality of extension was of prime importance. The necessity of high quality extension agents was stressed. There was a need to link extension services to education especially at the medium level. Not enough attention had been paid to this in the past both by governments and by aid agencies. Whereas large sums had been spent on developing the quality and status of research workers, extension agents and specialists had been allowed to develop on an 'ad hoc' basis with little regard for continuous training and better service conditions.
94. Several members agreed with the views expressed in the paper that in some developing countries, extension services were more easily available to large farmers than to small farmers. This was because extension programmes tended to be focussed on increasing production. Besides, in some countries the agrarian structure was not conducive to the economic development of small farmers. Farmers' organizations tended to be dominated by large farmers, and there was also a social gap between extension workers and small farmers.
95. It was generally felt that whereas large and medium-size farmers should not be excluded from the extension system, it was necessary to pay positive attention to the needs of small farmers and landless labourers by providing special programmes of assistance.
96. The Committee endorsed the recommendations for greater involvement of women and youth in the extension process. Members drew attention to the recent studies which showed that women played an important role in most agricultural operations including decision-making. It was felt that young farmer couples should receive special attention as they were the element which would form the core of the farming community of the future.
97. It was expressed by the Committee that extension must take into account the level of education and literacy of the rural population in developing its educational materials and methodology for effective extension programmes. Where necessary functional literacy programmes should be introduced.
98. The Committee took special note of the need for the decentralization of extension and training so that extension agents may be responsible and responsive to the communities which they service. At the same time there was need to maintain links both vertically and horizontally with the extension system and with other complementary services like agricultural credit, marketing etc. There would always be a need for a strong mechanism at the national level to coordinate national programmes in the provinces and to ensure harmony and close collaboration with other agricultural and rural development activities carried out by various government and non-government agencies.

99. The question of the use of group and mass approaches to extension as distinct from the individual approach was discussed at length. The Committee felt that a proper mix of all approaches was the correct solution with the range of the mix depending on local situations. In this connection, farmers groups should be viewed as including not only established farmers associations, credit and supply cooperatives, etc. but also non-formal common interest groups whether on a village level or for specific purposes. The use of group approaches, with or without the use of mass media, should be encouraged wherever conditions are favourable, since it permitted a given number of extension workers to reach a larger number of farmers than the individual approach. Moreover, it stimulated friendly competition between farmers and permitted full exploitation of audio-visual methods. Precaution should be taken that the mass media approach will not become a one-way approach. In this connexion the useful role of Radio-Forum was mentioned as a valuable tool for more effective extension work.

100. The establishment of infrastructure for extension purposes requires time and resources. If this infrastructure is already available, it should be utilized and exploited for extension purposes. Hence projects of a research nature, when all necessary data had been collected and termination was contemplated, could with small additional cost and very small staff be maintained for a certain period to serve as an extension demonstration project.

101. Some members suggested that a study should be made of the experience of cooperatives in different situations with regard to the provision of extension and training services.

102. It was proposed that scientific analysis of the many complex factors which influence Agricultural Extension should be encouraged, and that FAO should study the possibility of using national and regional centres when they exist and setting up others when necessary, to exchange and record documentation and information to mutual benefit in extension policy planning and field implementation.

103. The Committee felt that training was the heart of the whole subject. Attention was drawn to the heavy cost of training, particularly for developing countries, which pointed to the need for greater reliance on methods which could create a multiplier effect. There should be network of training activities covering pre-service training, in-service training and non-formal training, which are all equally important and inter-dependent. The Committee was of the view that the time was ripe for a world-wide survey of the extension services in individual countries with a view to ascertain the strengths and weaknesses, including, inter alia, data on contact rates, constraints and results achieved. It would be also quite advisable to renew experience of cooperation where different situations arise but which focus on the efforts of extension and training service. In this connexion the Committee endorsed FAO's proposal for 'master-plans' for training based on identifying the gaps in both formal and non-formal training facilities and in making recommendations on how to fill these gaps. FAO/Unesco/ILO would be involved through the Inter-secretariat Working Group in drawing up the design for studies which would be discussed with governments and the studies would then be carried out through local universities/institutions with support from governments and FAO. The studies would be on a country by country basis and regional offices would also be associated. Funds for some studies would be met from the regular programme but there would be need for extra-budgetary support if wide coverage was to be obtained. FAO would collaborate with donors on this endeavour and would like to use material already available with donors. The Committee also felt that it would be desirable if FAO could indicate trends for future technical assistance in the field of extension and training so that steps may be taken to meet these needs as and when they arrive.

104. The Committee felt that a review of field programmes would be desirable, together with some evaluation studies of past activities.

105. The Committee laid great stress on inter-agency collaboration and welcomed the activities of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group (ISWG) on Agricultural Education and Extension set up by the FAO/Unesco/ILO and the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC).

106. In discussing Resolution IV of the World Food Conference on the establishment of a Consultative Group for Extension on the lines of the Consultative Group for Research, the Committee felt that it might not be necessary to form such a group as the nature of the action required on extension differed significantly from research. The latter laid great emphasis on investment toward coordinating and strengthening research on an international basis, whereas extension systems should be based on a country focus. A strong view was expressed that the purpose would be served by inviting interested governments of both developed and developing countries once a year to a meeting of the ISWG where extension and training problems would be discussed. Other international agencies such as the IBRD, UNDP, etc. should also attend this meeting. Another possibility was that a single consultative group approach would be adopted for the entire field of Integrated Rural Development, of which extension was an important component. In this connexion the Committee noted that the Expert Consultation on IRD scheduled to be held in September would look into this question.

107. The Committee was in agreement with the activities indicated in Section 4 of the paper on the 'Role of FAO'. The inter-agency collaboration with Unesco and ILO was welcomed. It was felt that the priority areas for FAO should include, inter alia, curriculum planning, the training of trainers, non-formal education, the use of innovative methods, and expansion and greater utilization of audio-visual aids, greater attention to women, youth and young farming couples and to closer collaboration between Headquarters and Regional programmes. The Committee also welcomed FAO's proposal for 'Master Plans' for training and the need for such plans on a country by country basis. FAO's large field programme in extension and training was also helpful at country level and should be encouraged.

#### FOLLOW-UP TO THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

108. The Committee was informed that follow-up action by FAO to the recommendations made by the World Food Conference consisted both of continuing programmes of the Organization that were in line with the recommendations made by the World Food Conference, as well as new initiatives arising directly from the Conference. The Committee realized that while the recommendations of the World Food Conference would receive full consideration by FAO, the Organization could only initiate new action through its own Council and Conference. Since the World Food Conference was held only in November 1974, not enough time had yet elapsed for much new action, especially in the field, to be taken by the Organization, apart from those interim measures authorized by the Council at its Sixty-Fifth Session the implementation of which has since been initiated. Most of the response so far necessarily consisted of proposals for future action that would be acted upon at the Sixty-Sixth Session of the Council in 1975, and the FAO Conference in November 1975. The Committee felt that the main items proposed by the Director-General for inclusion in the Programme of Work and Budget for 1976-77 would help to orient the future action of the Organization.

109. In addition to planning for future action, the Organization was cooperating with the United Nations in facilitating the establishment of the World Food Council and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and with the World Bank and the UNDP, in establishment of the Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment (CGFPI). Some members felt that the discussion on this agenda item would be more fruitful after the first session of the World Food Council had taken place. Other members felt, however, that the Committee's main role in the follow-up to the WFC would be to provide guidance on the technical programmes to be undertaken. Several members felt that the recommendations made by the World Food Conference should lead FAO to establish five or six main programme thrusts that would result in increasing food production in the developing countries and match the other calls for developing a long range international food strategy.

110. The Committee stressed that the follow-up programmes to the World Food Conference must be action oriented and that FAO should make sufficient effort and provide enough resources to play its catalytic role of assisting in the analysis of development problems,

arranging input supplies, identifying sources of finance, promoting pre-investment activities, opening up new opportunities for trade and generally helping in the promotion of action to stimulate rapid increases in agricultural production, especially in the developing countries. 1/

111. The Committee stressed that Resolution I - Objectives and Strategies of Food Production - of the World Food Conference was of great importance in emphasizing the need for developing countries to increase their food production. At the same time it recognized that there were many overlaps between this resolution and a number of others that were made by the Conference.

112. Some members emphasized the desirability of COAG concerning itself with resolutions of UN Governing Bodies and major UN conferences relating to agricultural matters and requested that these matters be brought to the attention of COAG in subsequent sessions.

113. The Committee agreed that highest importance should be given in FAO's work to action oriented programmes, both in the regular and in the field programme, emphasizing the catalytic role which FAO needs to play in bringing more investment and other resources to the agriculture of developing countries through its analysis of development problems, formulation of investment projects and by helping in the bringing of donors and recipients together. In this connection the Committee was informed of the follow-up to those resolutions of the World Food Conference which have proposed the establishment of a Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment and the resolution which called for the establishment of a new International Fund for Agricultural Development.

114. The Committee noted the proposals that had been made to follow-up on Resolution II - Priorities for Agricultural and Rural Development - In response to requests from some members, the Committee was informed that the international panel of experts on Integrated Rural Development to be convened in 1975 was intended to provide professional guidance for the whole of FAO's work in this field, and to assist in the mobilization of extra-budgetary resources for subregional and national centres for integrated rural development in the developing countries. The panel members would be chosen in consultation with the countries concerned, mainly from national officials of different regions with experience in national programmes of rural development, but they would serve in a personal capacity. With regard to the proposed World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Integrated Rural Development, the Committee was informed that the Secretariat's views would be fully presented to the Sixty-sixth Session of the Council, which could take a decision on the matter for subsequent confirmation by the Conference.

#### Resolution III - Fertilizers

115. The Committee noted the recent development and activities carried out by FAO with regard to the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme, the consultation of the UNIDO/World Bank/FAO/Working Group on Fertilizers, and the First Session of the Commission on Fertilizers.

116. Several members emphasized the importance of organic materials as fertilizers. The Committee was informed that FAO had intensified its work in this field including: (1) an Expert Consultation on Organic Materials as Fertilizers held in Rome in 1974 and the issue of a major publication on this subject; (2) in cooperation with UNEP, a consultant is following up on this publication with a view to preparing detailed action programmes; (3) FAO/UNDP Regional Projects in South East Asia on this subject matter; (4) the FAO/UNDP programme for the increased use of inoculants on leguminous crops; (5) the considerably increased use of organic materials in the demonstration/extension phases of the FAO Fertilizer Programme projects.

117. Emphasis was also placed on FAO's role in finding sources of investment capital to assist developing countries to increase their fertilizer production capacities.

118. With respect to extension and training work referred to in Resolution IV, Food and Agricultural Research, Extension and Training, the Committee considered that their substantive discussion on this subject under agenda item 5 had adequately covered all points relative to follow-up to the World Food Conference. The Committee stressed the importance of operational research for the transfer of technology to developing countries.

119. Further, in recognition of the various points raised by different members, the Committee emphasized the need for FAO to promote intensive research programmes on integrated nutrient supply, grain and fodder legumes, alternate energy sources for agriculture, genetic upgrading of small ruminants and buffaloes, post harvest technology and use of poor quality water.

120. Some members felt that insufficient emphasis was given to field action programmes in soil conservation in the follow-up proposed to Resolution VI - World Soil Charter and Land Capability Assessment. Others suggested that too many inventories and assessments were carried out by FAO and that the establishment of the World Soil Charter should receive priority over the World Land Capability Assessment. In this connection, one member pointed out that the main objective of the World Soil Charter was to increase agricultural production without endangering the limited world land resources.

121. Attention was drawn to the fact that a land capability assessment based on a uniform methodology provides indispensable information for finding of suitable areas for agricultural development and the selection of appropriate land use which will maintain and possibly improve the productivity of the soil.

122. The Committee further noted that FAO in collaboration with UNEP is developing a sizeable programme in soil conservation, with emphasis on areas where soil degradation presents serious hazards. Specific regional and national projects adapted to local conditions will be implemented and strong emphasis will be given to strengthening national soil institutions and training of national staff in soil conservation practices.

123. Resolution VII - Scientific Water Management: Irrigation, Drainage and Flood Control. The Committee agreed to discuss this Resolution under agenda item 7 (ii) Water Problems affecting Agricultural Development on the basis of document COAG/75/8.

124. Resolution VIII - Women and Food - Several members appreciated the importance of the role of women in supporting improved food production and utilization. They noted the programme that had been proposed for 1976-77 and suggested that other technical divisions and units of the Organization should make a much greater contribution to FAO's present efforts, now centered mainly in the Human Resources, Institutions and Agrarian Reform Division.

125. Resolution X - Pesticides. Many members stressed that pesticides, together with fertilizers, should be given highest priority for follow-up action. Concern was expressed by members for the lack of specific proposals aiming at ensuring pesticide supplies at reasonable prices to developing countries and for providing assistance to developing local manufacture. The Committee noted that these matters are dealt with in the full report of the ad hoc Consultation on Pesticides completed only on 11 April 1975.

126. The Committee noted that FAO had been requested to provide the coordinating Secretariat follow-up action, and that budgetary provision had been included in the proposed Programme of Work and Budget. The Committee also noted the recommendation of the ad hoc Consultation that the FAO Council review at an early date the needs for an inter-agency secretariat approach to ensure necessary coordination, in view of the concern of WHO with the use of pesticides in public health programmes and health aspects of pesticide use; UNIDO with regard to investment in manufacturing facilities; and of both UNEP and Unesco with regard to environmental relationships.

127. Resolution XI - Programme for the control of African animal trypanosomiasis. Several members, stressing the importance of this programme, expressed their appreciation of the action taken by FAO following the World Food Conference.

128. Resolution XII - Seed Industry Development. The Committee reaffirmed the key role of a continuous and secured supply of quality seeds in appreciable quantities to farmers for increased crop yields. It noted with satisfaction the actions already started related to the provision of assistance to Member Nations on the preparation of national seed industry programmes and the formulation and implementation of regional and global training programmes. Noting that the available financial resources were not sufficient to implement this programme vigorously, the Committee strongly recommended that the FAO Seed Industry Development Programme be strengthened considerably to ensure an effective implementation of the necessary follow-up action.

129. Resolution XVI - Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture. The Committee noted that the Director-General's proposal for the establishment of the System, endorsed by the Council at its Sixty-Fifth Session, would be submitted to Member Governments of the United Nations and FAO within a few days, asking for an indication of willingness to participate.

130. Resolution XVII - International Undertaking on World Food Security. The Committee was informed that Food Security missions had already been sent in 1975 to Bangladesh, Thailand, Ecuador and Egypt, and that the Sahel countries would be covered in October. Because of lack of funds, no further missions were foreseen in 1975.

131. The Committee noted that it was planned to present to the Eighteenth FAO Conference Session in November 1975 a report on FAO's response to the resolutions of the World Food and Population Conferences and the Sixth Special Session and the Twentieth Session of the UN General Assembly.

#### REPORT OF THE SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

132. The Committee noted that the paragraph of the Council Report endorsing the recommendation of COAG for an extension of its terms of reference included a reference to the review of "the programmes of work of the Agriculture and Economic and Social Policy Departments." 1/ A point was raised that this was too restrictive since COAG also needed to deal with other questions of food and agriculture which were not within the area of responsibility of these Departments, and should be able to do so also in the future accordingly, the reference should be to the "programmes of work of the Organization" within the competence of COAG. The Committee was informed that the text of the draft amendment concerning COAG's terms of reference which were being submitted to the next Sessions of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), pursuant to a request by the Council, 2/ in fact mentioned programmes of work of the Organization in the field of food and agriculture and contained no reference to any organizational units. The Committee expressed its support for an amendment along these lines and suggested that its views be brought to the attention of the CCLM.

1/ CL 64/REP. para 125 (b).

2/ CL 64/REP. para 126

REPORT ON COMMISSION ON FERTILIZERS

133. The Committee took note of the proceedings of the First Session of the Commission on Fertilizers (July 1974) at which the current market situation and future prospects for fertilizer supplies and prices were reviewed, together with an assessment of measures required in developing countries to fully utilize and expand existing capacities to meet growing demand.

134. The Committee noted that the Commission had reviewed and endorsed the Director-General's emergency plan for increasing the supply of fertilizers to developing countries in response to ECOSOC resolution 186 (LVI). It further noted that the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme (IFS) was subsequently established by the Sixty-Third Session of the Council and the Commission on Fertilizers made responsible for its surveillance. Several members commended the action already taken by the IFS and developed countries were urged to increase their contributions to the Scheme so that it could particularly assist MSA countries.

135. The Committee recalled the recommendations of the Second Session of COAG regarding the more efficient use of fertilizers and strengthening of work in this field, including the FAO Fertilizer Programme, better use of organic materials, adaptation of fertilizers for tropical soils, economics of fertilizer use, marketing, credit and related supporting services, to enable the mass of small-scale farmers in developing countries to benefit from fertilizer use. The Committee stressed that as a result of shortages of supplies and increased prices, effective use of fertilizers from a technical, distribution and economic point of view was required more than ever.

136. The Committee also stressed the importance of the medium and longer-term technical and financial assistance that should be provided to developing countries to expand or build fertilizer plants and took note of bilateral assistance being provided by several developed countries.

137. The Secretariat reported on the progress made in the past year in initiating new Fertilizer Programme Activities, seeking support from UNDP for a project on organic fertilizers in Asia and the Far East region, and from UNEP for a project on biological nitrogen fixation. At the request of the Committee a brief review covering the current situation and short-term outlook for fertilizer supplies and prices, and economic implications was given. Appreciation was expressed for the longer-term outlook prepared by the FAO/UNIDO/World Bank Working Group on Fertilizers as recorded in COAG 75/3 Corr.2.

138. The Committee stressed the importance of the Commission on Fertilizers and noted that the Commission's Second Session, to be held at FAO Headquarters from 3 to 7 June 1975, would analyse the longer-term fertilizer supply and demand position, and consider elements of a world fertilizer policy as requested by the World Food Conference. It further noted that the Commission would also review the current situation and short-term outlook and the activities of the IFS. The Commission would also review the information system on fertilizers and consider the summary reports of the FAO/SIDA Expert Consultation on Organic Materials as Fertilizers and on the Twentieth Session of FIAC.

WATER PROBLEMS AFFECTING AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

139. The Committee called attention to the catalytic role of FAO in promoting and encouraging world-wide action to increase agricultural production through the more effective utilization of available water resources. In this connexion, the Committee stressed the need for FAO to be primarily action-oriented and geared for positive and rapid assistance with regard to the growing demands for capital investment for the expansion of irrigated agriculture.

140. The Committee considered that the furnishing of assistance and advice to launch new projects and particularly to improve existing irrigation schemes was so important that the FAO Programme of Work and Budget should give greater emphasis to these aspects and that the Committee should keep the position progressively under review at future meetings.

141. Several members recalled that the Seventeenth Session of the FAO Conference had proposed that the Organization should prepare a detailed survey of water problems for submission to the Committee in order to enable it to report to the FAO Council on future activities. They felt that document COAG 75/8, although cogent and adequate as a background paper for discussion, was not sufficiently comprehensive to cover, in depth, all the complexities of the many problems involved. Furthermore, the guidelines provided by resolution VII adopted by the recent World Food Conference on "Scientific Water Management Irrigation and Flood Control" should be taken into account in the preparation of the detailed survey. In this respect, the Committee was informed that the background paper had had to be shortened and was submitted in a summarized version. Furthermore, an exhaustive study of the points raised could only be a long-term exercise forming an integral part of the major world-wide survey of soil and water resources also proposed by the Seventeenth Session of the FAO Conference and for which preliminary investigations were proceeding.

142. Other members emphasized the urgency of improving the productivity of rainfed agriculture (or "dry farming") and the need for FAO to play a leading role in this field by giving all technical assistance and advice possible to member governments regarding applied research especially on soil-water relationships, run-off agriculture, controlled environment cropping, semi-arid zone dry farming, climatic constraints and other aspects. It was considered that the improvement of rainfed agriculture should be given the same priority as the expansion of irrigated agriculture.

143. The Committee stressed the need for integrated planning to ensure the adequate and combined use of surface and underground water resources and for FAO to establish standards and policies in this respect. Of particular importance in water resources planning for developing countries was the adoption of an interdisciplinary integrated approach and a shift in priority from large irrigation projects to labour-intensive small-holder schemes in which good farmer training facilities and extension services were essential. The Committee noted that these projects, to be effective, will need to be :

- planned to correspond with the technical capabilities of the farmers concerned ;
- capable of being developed in accordance with the rate of improvement in the farmers' technical proficiency.

144. Most members pointed out the need for ever-increasing collaboration between FAO and other international agencies, international organizations and individual national water departments not only to ensure the immediate transmission of technical information but also to alleviate personnel shortages. The Committee was informed that FAO had always taken the strongest measures to ensure this collaboration, examples of which were the close connections maintained with the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage, the Economic and Social Council, and the Advisory Committee on Coordination (ACC) Sub-Committee on Water Resources Development.

145. Several members underlined the importance of activities aimed at alleviating flood damage which needed to be separated from operations under the heading of anti-erosion work or soil conservation. The disastrous effects of serious flooding demanded a different approach and specialized techniques.

146. The problem of the frequent increase in soil and water salinity experienced by irrigation projects all over the world was raised by several members who considered that FAO should continue to increase assistance and advice on this subject. This was bound up with the questions of rehabilitation or improvement of existing inefficient irrigation schemes and the relationship between land development and water resource use. FAO in giving full attention to all these problems, would assist production improvement in most of its member countries.

147. Some members emphasized the importance of water management at farm level and proposed that FAO should include this aspect in planning and research advice to developing countries. This would include on-farm assistance in land preparation, irrigation improvement and irrigation practices. Members pointed out, also, that on-farm water-use efficiency is low. The Committee therefore emphasized the need for more field research and the promotion by FAO of development programmes for increasing water-use efficiency by improved technology especially under unfavourable eco-geophysical conditions.

148. The importance of adequate water legislation and setting up of Water Authorities to ensure the smooth development of soil and water resources was also emphasized. FAO should promote these aspects by providing suitable models for consideration by developing countries.

#### STUDY ON HUMID TROPICS AND SAVANNAHS

149. The Committee noted the preliminary report, COAG 75/9, which sets out the objectives and methodology proposed for a study on increasing agricultural production in the humid tropics and savannahs areas. The Committee endorsed the proposed methodology and hoped that the findings of the preliminary study would be rapidly interpreted into action programmes.

150. The Committee noted that Phase I of the investigation on the humid tropics and savannahs as set out in paragraph 2.2 of COAG 75/9 would provide a valuable base line for development programme formulation. Some members felt that the procedure outlined in paragraph 3.2 went beyond the requirements expressed in the earlier paragraph. The Committee agreed that attention needed to be given not only to food crops but also to rangeland, pasture and forage production and industrial crops. The Committee emphasized the need for developmental research for the savannahs, particularly with regard to crops ensuring an early vegetative cover and to husbandry measures maintaining soil fertility. In this connexion better use should be made of the available expertise in FAO in plant production and ecology.

151. The Committee noted that the implementation of this programme had been delayed due to limited resources. Some members questioned whether FAO should not concentrate such limited resources on the completion of the studies and action programmes for increased food production in the low rainfall areas which had been the subject of the highest priority in the overall programme of improving productivity in less favourable environments. Other members suggested that the study of humid tropics and savannahs be limited to specific countries and not made to cover all such areas so that action programmes could be formulated much more rapidly.

#### IMPROVING PRODUCTIVITY IN LOW-RAINFALL AREAS

152. The Committee appreciated the progress report submitted as document COAG 75/14 which outlined the priority of low-rainfall areas in consideration of "Improving Productivity in Less Favourable Environments". The Committee, while expressing disappointment with the progress made so far recognized that the extra burden of work caused by the World Food Conference on a small unit may have been a contributory factor. It stressed that urgent attention be given to the finalization of the required procedures and that assistance to interested countries be initiated without further delay.

153. The Committee stressed the need to consolidate the activities relating to low-rainfall area development in FAO and their coordination by the Interdepartmental Working Group. It also requested that the recommendations arising out of the Near East Regional Conference be taken into account in the low-rainfall area development programme. Other members informed the meeting of bilateral dryland farming programmes, such as those in India, Kenya and Tanzania and encouraged close collaboration with these programmes.

#### INTERNATIONAL MEAT DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (IMDS)

154. The Committee supported the Scheme and concurred with the priority areas and the modus operandi proposed. Several members emphasized the need for a fully integrated approach in which balanced consideration would be given to meat production, slaughter, processing and marketing. Regarding the suggestion by some members that more information should be provided on the findings and results of IMDS missions, it was pointed out that mission reports could be made available to interested member countries only after clearance by the government concerned. The Committee recognized that the results of the implementation of IMDS projects would become evident only gradually, within the next few years.

155. The Committee noted with appreciation the strengthening of the staff and facilities required for the implementation of the Scheme through the generous financial assistance obtained from the Government of Sweden through SIDA.

156. Some members stressed the need to utilize fully and develop further rangelands and pastures in order to reduce competition for grain for human or livestock consumption. Pig and poultry production should, for the same reason, be encouraged normally in areas where crop residues and sufficient quantities of grains surplus to human needs were available.

157. The Committee further recommended that high priority should be given to developing countries suffering from great shortages of meat and particularly to the Most Seriously Affected Countries to satisfy domestic requirements. Programmes for meat development should not, however, diminish cultivated areas for crop production.

158. The Committee recommended that in future studies appropriate attention should be given to the inter-dependency between milk and meat production. These studies should be prepared in an uniform manner in order to make information and data comparable.

159. Some members informed the Secretariat of the interest of their Governments in the IMDS and requested priority consideration under the Scheme.

160. A query was raised why there has been no report on the International Scheme for the Coordination of Dairy Development (ISCDD). Noting that reports on the progress of the ISCDD had been channelled through the Committee on Commodity Problems in the past, the Committee recommended that, beginning with the next session of COAG, it should receive full reports on both the Meat and Dairy Scheme.

## AGRARIAN REFORM

161. The Committee reiterated the importance of comprehensive agrarian reform in the socio-economic development process and stressed the necessity to keep this item under constant review and to assess the progress achieved by countries in this field. In this area of activity the Committee recalled the mandate given to the Organization by the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Sessions of the FAO Conference, and the ECOSOC Resolution 1707 (LIII) on Agrarian Reform. The operative aspects of the ECOSOC Resolution had been recently stressed by Resolution II of the World Food Conference.

162. The Committee was of the view that the document COAG 75/11 prepared to help its discussion did not contain those elements of information necessary for the evaluation of progress made, particularly with respect to the progress achieved on the specific recommendations of the Report of the FAO Special Committee on Agrarian Reform of 1971, or the Report of the Second Session of the Committee on Agriculture. Some members also stated that the activities of FAO to implement various decisions and recommendations of the FAO governing bodies had not been adequate and requested the intensification of activities in this field. The Committee therefore decided that the next progress report to be submitted to the Fourth Session should be comprehensive, incorporating the recommendations of the Governing Bodies, Technical Committees of FAO and other International Organizations and Conference, informing the Committee thoroughly on action taken by FAO for a period starting from 1971, that is since the approval of the Report of the Special Committee on Agrarian Reform by the Sixteenth Session of the FAO Conference.

163. The Committee was of the view that a comprehensive agrarian reform was in most cases a pre-requisite for increasing agricultural production, rural development and social progress. Many members warned against the tendency of interchanging or replacing the concept of agrarian reform with land tenure changes or integrated rural development. However, most members expressed the view that agrarian reform which required the political will of the Government, should include not only land tenure changes and the creation of new production structure, but also training, extension, institution building, credit, people's organizations and technical inputs.

164. In discussing the importance of agrarian reform, its significance was noted not only in developing countries, but also in some developed countries. In this connexion, attention was drawn to the Recommendation of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe in 1974, proposing a basic study of the relationship between production and structural policies for consideration at the next European Regional Conference.

165. The Committee noted that the lack of progress in comprehensive agrarian reform programmes had been due to various impediments such as the lack of political will, conceptual confusion, weakness of legislative provisions, inadequacy of the institutional framework and of financial support. As agrarian reform is a prerogative of individual countries, the Committee agreed that FAO's role was mainly to stimulate national and international action, and to assist countries with the implementation of national programmes on request. In order to play this role effectively, FAO had to keep closely in touch with the developments in member countries and the action programmes initiated by other international organizations. The type of case studies on agrarian structural changes which were carried out in the last biennium had to be continued during the current and future biennia, since it helped member countries in formulating their action programmes for this complex developmental strategy.

166. From the annexes to the document provided to the Committee, it was evident that member countries were giving considerable importance to comprehensive agrarian reform in their field programmes. FAO's regular programme activities should serve as a catalyst to the field activities in individual countries. In subsequent progress reports, therefore, it was desirable that FAO's regular programme activities and the field programme executed with UNDP and Trust Fund resources be presented, commenting upon the relative thrust of each programme in order to obtain a complete picture of all activities.

167. With regard to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development proposed to take place in 1978, which would, inter alia, be a follow-up to the 1966 World Conference on Land Reform, many members supported the convening of this conference. Some members felt that the objectives would be better served if the subject were dealt with at regional meetings rather than at a World Conference. The Committee agreed, however, with the suggestion that the matter should be discussed further at the next FAO Council Session as envisaged at the Sixty-fifth Session of the Council.

#### INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT

168. The Committee discussed this item on the basis of document COAG 75/12 - "International Agricultural Adjustment - A Progress Report". The Committee noted that the draft of the proposed strategy being prepared by the Director-General in response to the request of the Conference at its Seventeenth Session, would be considered by the Special Ad Hoc Working Party of Member Governments to be held in May 1975. The Committee considered IAA of great importance and expressed its continuing support for FAO's work in this field.

169. It was suggested that in the preparation of the Director-General's proposed strategy the work going on in other fora such as GATT and UNCTAD should be fully taken into account; and that the work on IAA should draw on the country studies being prepared by the OECD. The discussion in the Committee emphasized the need to take into account the changing commodity situation and the problems of the developing countries.

170. The suggestion was made that, in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee at its Second Session 1/, the draft strategy should reflect adequately the technological aspects of agricultural adjustment, which were considered to be the chief focus of the Committee's future discussions of this subject.

171. The Committee noted that in addition to the draft Proposed Strategy, some supporting studies were under preparation. The Committee stressed the importance of all the documents being completed on schedule, so that they could be submitted to the member governments with adequate time for consideration.

#### PROGRESS REPORT ON FAO/UNEP COOPERATION

172. The Committee generally supported the cooperative activities which had been started by FAO in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme. It was stressed that these activities should remain focussed on the main objectives and priorities of the Organization. The Committee was assured that the present and future FAO/UNEP projects would continue to do so in conformity with the programme framework "Natural Resources for Food and Agriculture" established by the FAO Conference at its Seventeenth Session. Particular emphasis was also laid on the need to maintain within this programme a proper balance between development requirements and environmental goals.

173. The Committee also emphasized that UNEP should not take over from FAO activities which have been traditionally within the field of competence of the Organization but rather work in close collaboration with and through FAO, in order to avoid a dispersion and duplication of international activities related to agriculture and the environment. It was noted that these questions would be raised during the third session of the UNEP Governing Council which was taking place at the same time as the present session of COAG.

174. Some members expressed general concern about the financial repercussion of the cooperative activities of the FAO budget. In view of the fact that UNEP does not accept charges for overhead costs on projects with any of the cooperating agencies, the Conference in 1973 noted that no overhead charges would be levied on FAO/UNEP operating projects and agreed to provide funds for Headquarters backstopping from the Regular Programme. It requested the Council, however, to review the issue after having considered the results of the inter-

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1/ CL 63/5, par. 114.

agencies' consultations which were taking place on the subject, and requested the Director-General to make a progress report to the 1975 session of the Conference.

175. A \$210 000 provision had been made in the FAO Regular Programme and Budget for 1974-75 to meet the support costs related to these projects. The Committee was informed that the Director-General was not planning to propose an increase of these support costs for the next biennium. The problem of overheads for UNEP field projects for technical assistance, however, remained unsolved and for this reason FAO had not so far been able to engage itself in the execution of these projects.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

176. Under this item the Committee considered the timing and frequency of sessions ; possible subjects to be included in the agenda of its next session ; and its methods of work.

##### - Timing and Frequency of Sessions

177. The majority of members reconfirmed that the Committee's sessions should continue to be held once during each biennium but, as recommended at its Second Session, take place in Conference rather than in non-Conference years. A few members suggested that it would be necessary to have two sessions every biennium as was the pattern for COFI, in view of the greatly increased responsibilities falling upon the Committee following the World Food Conference. The Committee requested that the timing of its sessions and that of the other statutory bodies of the Organization should be studied in order to avoid overlapping.

178. The Committee noted that, in accordance with Rule II.4 of its Rule of Procedure, it may hold additional sessions on the call of the Director-General in consultation with its Chairman, or on request by the majority of its members.

##### - Provisional Agenda

179. The Committee noted that, in accordance with Rule IV of its Rules of Procedure, the Director-General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, should prepare a provisional agenda.

180. The Committee confirmed that in line with the proposed expansion of its terms of reference. its Agenda would contain the following major items :

1. (a) Major problems in the implementation of the current programme of work ;  
(b) Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium ;  
(c) Review of the medium - and long-term prospects and problems of the food and agricultural sector, with emphasis on major shifts.
2. Review and appraisal of selected agricultural development problems ;
3. Matters arising from sessions of Governing Bodies ;
4. Reports on progress made in overcoming the selected development problems reviewed by COAG.

181. In line with its suggestion at the second session, the Committee listed the following topics from which 3 or 4 could be included in future sessions under the part of the provisional agenda dealing with selected development problems as follows :

- (i) Promotion of small farmers development (with emphasis on the adoption of measures intended to improve production and efficiency) ;
- (ii) The role of horticultural production in food and agricultural development ;
- (iii) Alternative energy resources for use in agriculture ;
- (iv) Land and water resources for food and agriculture ;
- (v) Cropping Systems ;
- (vi) Farming Systems ;

- (vii) Small scale agro-industry for rural areas ;
- (viii) Problems and evaluation of transfer of technology with particular emphasis on crop and livestock production, harvest and post-harvest mechanization, use of brackish water for agriculture and non-conventional energy for farm use (sun, wind etc) ;
- (ix) Analysis of results and main difficulties of implementing Agrarian Reform and Integrated Rural Development in member countries ;
- (x) Agricultural mechanization and its effects on employment in developing countries ;
- (xi) Agricultural marketing problems.

182. In reaching their decisions in accordance with the rules of COAG on their choice of selected development problems for inclusion in the draft agenda, the Chairman and the Director-General should be primarily guided by the consensus customarily reached at the FAO's biennial Conference on problems for special attention. The Committee stressed the need for an in-depth review from a scientific and technical point of view, taking into account the experiences and lessons gained from field programmes as well as an evaluation of past and ongoing activities of the Organization related to the specific subject. The Committee reconfirmed the recommendation of its Second Session that further efforts be undertaken to improve the working documents which should define the problems involved, indicate alternative and policy options, describe the objectives and main elements of the activities to be carried out by countries and FAO, as well as review experiences and results of significance in specific countries.

- Methods of Work

183. The Committee considered possibilities of improving its methods of work in the light of the experience gained. It stressed the need for members to participate fully in the work of the Committee to make it an effective instrument for dealing with the problems of the agricultural sector.

184. Most members agreed that the review of the programme of work and the medium - and long-term problems should be limited to the first two days of its session in order to provide sufficient time for the review of selected development problems.

185. As a means to enhance the involvement of members in the work of the Committee, some members suggested that for each of the development problems included in the provisional agenda, several Member Governments be selected in advance to take a special interest in the item. The technical representatives of these Governments should be fully prepared to lead the discussion and to bring forward the experience of their respective countries on the subject under review.

186. An alternative, the Secretariat should review the possibility of inviting technical experts from developing countries, ensuring a balanced regional representation, to visit Headquarters three to four months ahead of the session for a full review with the Secretariat staff of the working documents being prepared. This would ensure the close association, at an early stage, of countries' technical experts with the preparatory work. A suggestion was made that the abolition of unnecessary expert panels would make sufficient funds available to finance the participation of experts from developing countries.

187. A further possibility for facilitating a dialogue among members, and with the technical staff at Headquarters, would be to convene during the session a number of discussion groups in which both experts of Member Governments and Headquarters' staff would participate. These groups would report the results of their discussion to the Committee.

188. In order for COAG to effectively carry out its role, its major attention should be on technical and socio-economic issues with discussion aimed at considering in-depth the various aspects relating the world agricultural development and FAO's role relative to them.

189. The Committee emphasized that in making preparations for the Third Session of COAG no account had been taken of the rules of the Organization which state :

- (a) that documents must not be distributed unless they are available in all working languages ;
- (b) that documents must be dispatched to Governments sufficiently in time for full technical discussions of the issues among the government services concerned ;
- (c) and that a high quality and fidelity of translation should be aimed at.

These rules were established so as to ensure equality of working conditions for all delegations. During the present session many delegations had found themselves in serious difficulties because the rules had not been adhered to.

190. The Committee therefore drew the attention of the Director-General to the need to provide for the simultaneous distribution of documents in all languages and to ensure that documents should reach capitals in time so as to permit the preparation of authoritative briefs and to give consideration to the composition of delegations in the light of the agenda.

191. One member felt that the Secretariat would be greatly assisted in its task if some restraint was exercised by delegations in requesting the formal re-presentation of reports containing information readily available in its original form.

#### DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION

192. The Committee noted that in accordance with Rule XXXII-3 GRO and Rule II of its Rules of Procedure, it shall determine the date and place of its sessions. In line with the recommendation at its Second Session, endorsed by the Sixty-fourth Session of the Council, that in future its sessions should be held in Conference rather than in non-Conference years, the Committee recommended that its Fourth Session should be held in Rome in April 1977. The Committee asked that the Director-General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, propose exact dates which ensure the availability in time of the Summary Programme of Work and budget, and which allow submission of the Committee's report to the Spring Sessions of the Programme and Finance Committees, to enable them to review the recommendations of COAG.



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2. Adoption of the Agenda

REVIEW OF FAO'S PROGRAMME OF WORK IN THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

3. Medium and Long-Term Outlook for Food and Agricultural Development
4. Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1976-77.

SELECTED DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS

5. Agricultural Extension and Training

OTHER MATTERS

6. Follow-up to World Food Conference
7. Matters arising from sessions of Governing Bodies
  - (i) Report on Commission on Fertilizers
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8. Progress Reports on Action since the Second Session
  - (i) Study on Humid Tropics and Savannahs
  - (ii) International Meat Development Scheme
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REPORT

11. Adoption of Report



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LISTE DES DELEGUES ET OBSERVATEURS  
LISTA DE DELEGADOS Y OBSERVADORES

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Segundo Vicepresidente: Carl THOMSEN (Denmark)

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STATEMENT BY DR D.F.R. BOMMER, ADG/AG

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Third Session of the Committee on Agriculture.

It seems to be of special value to the work of the Economic and Social Policy Department and the Agriculture Department of FAO to convene this meeting soon after the United Nations World Food Conference of November 1974. This Conference has the strongest bearing on FAO as a whole, both the Departments concerned and on this meeting.

All members of the Committee are aware of the serious events and the still continuing situation which led to the decision to hold a World Food Conference. Its results may have been disappointing for those ignoring the extreme complexity of the world food situation and its close relationship to world and national politics. But in reality the Conference resulted in the unanimous expression of the high priority which food and agriculture has to be given in all countries of the world and in the seeking of new ways of international cooperation and coordination to improve agricultural development. The major conclusions and recommendations of the World Food Conference are of direct relevance to the deliberations and recommendations this meeting may make.

Above all, the Conference stressed the need to devote more attention, more resources and more political support to agriculture especially in the developing world. It is all too easy under the pressures for industrialization and for urbanisation to forget the strategic role which agriculture plays by providing food, income, employment and foreign exchange, but the consequences may be seen in the present food situation, where developing countries have been becoming increasingly dependent for their food supplies on developed countries. The Conference has clearly supported the view that developing countries should, within reasonable economic cost, strive for meeting most of their basic food requirements. The possible continuation of past trends would bring about an intolerable dependency and financial burden which would be detrimental to the development of these countries. It was recognized that this will require an increased flow of technical assistance and financial resources to developing countries.

Following the recommendations of the World Food Conference, a World Food Council has been created by the United Nations recognizing that preventing hunger needs more political will on the world scene than expressed so far. Later on, a Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment will strengthen the efforts of traditional and new donors by coordinating the present flow of resources into the agriculture of developing countries and thereby increase its efficiency. Additional resources are expected to be raised for which the recommended International Fund for Agricultural Development may become an important instrument.

The arrival of these new institutions on the world agricultural scene has created new challenges to the existing international institutions working in the field of agriculture, among them FAO. To rise to this challenge is the task of FAO, and this Committee has an important role in helping and guiding FAO to find the best way in which to respond.

The newly created high-level political bodies for world agricultural policy and investment coordination will need the full support of FAO's long standing experience, its information gathering and analytical ability for providing them with the detailed understanding of the complex issues of food and agriculture. This is a function in which FAO has increasingly tried to strengthen its programme. The magnitude of the task must increase substantially if the goals of a world food policy, aimed at helping the developing countries to eliminate hunger and to create a dynamic rural sector in their economies, is to be achieved. The expectations are that a much larger flow of investment resources will be available for the agricultural sector of the developing world. In turn this will mean an increased regional and country focus to analyse priorities and investment opportunities.

Serving a world food policy FAO has, following the recommendations of the World Food Conference, already taken steps to implement a programme on World Food Security and a Food Information and Early Warning System to counteract dramatic events of food crisis as experienced in recent years. The latter is part of FAO's activities in the field of collecting, analysing and publishing information on world agriculture for which FAO is known since its existence but for which its service is asked for more extensively in the future. This is becoming increasingly important in a number of specific fields such as fertilizers, pesticides or nutrition.

A longer term planning of agricultural development, world and nationwide, would be impossible without a more accurate surveillance of the natural resources, mainly soil, water and genetic resources of crops and livestock on which agriculture is based and its danger of deterioration. Monitoring such tasks FAO possesses a unique role to activate, in collaboration with other agencies and institutions, the world capacity and has therefore been asked by the World Conference to strengthen its activity using the most modern tools available as, for example, remote sensing.

Other recommendations of the World Food Conference paid special attention to agricultural inputs, to research and to application of the technologies most relevant to agricultural production, processing consumption and general rural development. With this, some priorities of a major function have been high-lighted which have for a long time been the core of FAO's activities through its regular and field programme. The recognition that new technologies have to provide an increasingly larger share of future production increases, coupled with the dynamic growth in the potentialities of research, have added importance to this function. The close inter-relationship between investment potentials in developing agricultures and the new technologies which would be involved need no special emphasis.

In the light of the recommendations of the World Food Conference, and the major needs of the developing countries, FAO has set its priorities for the efforts in transfer of technology, institution building and rural development taking into consideration the activities of the other agencies and institutions which work in the same areas.

The new challenges FAO has been called upon to undertake and the tremendous task facing the world's agriculture demand not only the expansion of FAO's activities but also the identification of methods for FAO to organize its work in order to carry out its responsibilities. It will require not only ways and means for FAO to focus its resources on specific major problems and to emphasize its catalytic role in finding solutions by analyzing the needs and then bringing together donors and recipients into a setting where both help received and help extended are most productive. But equally necessary are intensified means of mobilizing the capacity in existing institution of developing and developed countries for research and development to accelerate the effects needed. Contractual arrangements in FAO's Programme of Work and Budget to outside institutions and technical personnel beyond usual consultancy would seem to need strong improvement and acceptance by its governing bodies. It is the only means of avoiding major increases in regular programme posts if a substantially increased task shall be fulfilled by the Organization.

In reviewing the Programme of Work of both the Agriculture and Economic and Social Policy Departments, which is the major task of the Committee, we have to bear in mind the new situation created by the World Food Conference. A comprehensive analysis of the medium and long-term problems of the food and agricultural sectors is the first substantive item on the agenda of this meeting. The conclusion emerges from the analysis that the measures to meet the problems need to cover a wide range of activities. At the same time they need to be closely integrated with each other if they are to be effective which leads to the concept of a problem-oriented approach. A number of such problem-oriented programmes are illustrated in the second part of the paper identifying some major problem areas.

The medium and long-term outlook will give the background for your review of the proposals of the two Departments for their 1976-77 programme. Unfortunately because of the timing of the various statutory bodies this year we were not able to present to you, under item 4 of the agenda, the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. This regrettable circumstance is

certainly not a precedent for future sessions. The very reason for a session of your Committee at this period of the biennial cycle is to have an opportunity to review the summary programme and to provide an input at a sufficiently early stage to be of benefit for subsequent review and decision by the Council and Conference. We feel, however, that the information given on the priority areas for the Agriculture and the Economic and Social Policy Departments do provide an adequate indication of the main priorities and trends of the expansion proposed.

The next agenda item deals with Agricultural Training and Extension - a central tool for modernizing agriculture. Only this one item is presented for review under "selected development problems". This was advisable in order to leave sufficient time for the discussion of agenda items three and four which are of overriding importance.

The follow-up activities to the World Food Conference are presented as a separate agenda item because of its importance. The background document is related to the recommendations of the World Food Conference and FAO's on-going programme and indicates how future work is planned. This item is closely related to items three and four of the agenda and the discussions may serve as a cross reference on how far the resolutions and recommendations have received sufficient coverage in the programme proposals of the two Departments concerned.

In line with the instructions of the Committee, the agenda also deals with matters arising from sessions of the governing bodies. This time, the report of the new Commission on Fertilizers, established in November 1973 and the subject "Water Problems Affecting Agricultural Development" are presented. The latter received, as you are aware, considerable attention at the 16th Session of the FAO Conference in 1973.

The concern of the Committee to be informed and monitor follow-up action on matters reviewed at its earlier sessions is reflected in the "Progress Reports" presented under the last item. The five subjects included will provide an opportunity to assess progress made in important activities launched by FAO since last year.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Committee faces an important and substantive agenda. The future work of the Departments of Agriculture and Economic and Social Policy will benefit from your deliberations, discussions and recommendations. May I express best wishes to you for a successful Third Session of the Committee on Agriculture.



STATEMENT BY DR E.M. OJALA, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL, ES

The item you are about to consider "Review of the Medium and Long-Term Problem of the Food and Agricultural Sector" was placed on your agenda in response to the Committee's desire to have a comprehensive analysis of world agricultural problems, as a framework for the orientation of the on-going and short-term programmes of FAO in the areas within the competence of the Committee. To facilitate its deliberations to this end, the Committee requested a document reviewing the medium and long-term problem of the world's food and agriculture sector. The secretariat has responded to this by producing document COAG/75/3.

Much has happened since the second session of the Committee that is relevant to your consideration of this item, notably the convening of the World Population and Food Conferences, as already mentioned by the Director-General and Dr. Bommer, and the Sixth Special Session of the General Assembly, which stressed the need for a new world economic order.

The past year has also witnessed a very dramatic short-term emergency on the food front.

When the extent of the failure of the rice crop in big food deficit countries such as India and Bangladesh became known in September and October last year, it was evident that the world would have to live through a critical period, when food shortages in many poor countries could turn into famine and starvation if prompt national and international action were not taken to assure supplies to the most needy. The emergency was made more serious by the absence of any significant margin of stocks.

When the Director-General of FAO convened an Urgent Consultation on Cereal Supplies in November last it was agreed that the 33 most severely affected countries needed to obtain another 7.5 million tons of cereal imports in the period up to 30 June 1975. The exporters indicated that these supplies were physically available, and the problem thus became one of financing - serious indeed for poor countries having to import food, oil and fertilizers all at unprecedented high prices.

Fortunately, over the five months since November, although serious pockets of food shortage remain, the magnitude of this emergency problem has been reduced. As of now, the uncovered grain import requirements of these thirty-three countries up till the end of June 1975 has come down to 1.5 - 2.5 million tons. This was the result of additional commercial purchases by the countries concerned, especially India, and additional commitments for food aid. The additional commercial purchases were partly facilitated by credits from third countries, including oil-exporting countries.

There are thus grounds for hope that, with some further effort, the gap in the grain import requirements of the most affected countries up to mid-1975 may be covered. The lesson of this experience over the last six months is that when human need was clearly defined by an international authority, the international community responded by orienting trade, credits and food aid to facilitate the flow of food supplies to the people in greatest danger. The governments concerned, with the international cooperation extended, have managed to keep the number of actual deaths from starvation to a minimum.

It is necessary to remember, however, that even if the emergency import requirements are fully covered, the population affected will not even have been brought up to their normal levels of chronic food shortage, since not all of the production shortfall has been matched by imports. With ever-increasing numbers of people in the main food deficit regions, such emergencies may become more frequent and more serious, with implications for FAO programmes.

There is thus no room for any relaxation in the efforts to speed up world food security and agricultural development and food production.

To most of you, the relevant production figures are by now well known. But they are so telling and so dramatic that it is well to look at them again. You will find many of them summarized very briefly in the document you are now considering. As regards the past trends, since the beginning of the 1960's there has been no lasting improvement in the per caput agricultural production in the developing countries overall, and during the 1970's they have actually lost ground. In annual terms, while their population grew between 1961 and 1974 at the rate of 2.4 percent, their total food production increased at the only slightly higher rate of 2.6 percent a year and in 1970-74 this rate dropped to 1.6 percent. While a sustained growth rate of 2.6 percent is in itself a significant achievement, it does not offer the developing countries the prospect of feeding their peoples better in the future than today from their own production. About the growth of population virtually nothing can be done in the next decade, even with the most successful feasible population policies and measures.

If a significant contribution is to be made towards meeting the projected increases in per caput demand, and towards the higher levels of nutrition so badly needed in much of the developing world, the production growth has to be raised to at least 3.6 percent, and even this is less than the target for food production under the second Development Decade, 4 percent a year.

The performance of individual countries is, of course, not uniform. If the figure of 3.6 percent a year is taken as a benchmark, admittedly not relevant for all countries, then it can be seen that, of the 100 developing countries for which data are available, that rate of growth was equalled or exceeded in 30 countries over the last twelve years. But there were 45 whose food production did not even keep up with the population growth, and 11 in which the growth rate was actually negative, calling for much greater additional efforts.

If I have taken some time to go over this familiar ground, it is because I wish to stress the seriousness of the situation, in both the near and the more distant term. We all know that FAO has estimated the number of the hungry in the world at 460 million in 1970. We believe the number to be very much greater now. If present trends of food production and distribution are not dramatically changed, there is no chance in the near future of reducing the number of the hungry. The only alternative to current trends, and a totally unacceptable one, is a reversal in the hard-fought reduction in death rates, as the very young and the very old, while not actually starving, increasingly succumb to diseases because of their weakened resistance caused by prolonged malnutrition. Figures are already being quoted of such a reversal in some areas. One can only hope that this proves to be a temporary phenomenon, and that more vigorous action, at both national and international levels, will enable mankind to move more rapidly towards the basic goal of adequate food for all.

Against this background, and after referring to the other serious problems affecting agriculture in the developing countries, namely those of under- and unemployment, and the lagging contribution of agriculture to the growth of their export earnings, the document then proceeds to examine ways in which the problem might be faced. It refers to the need to develop and use more efficiently the available land and water resources, and to increase the cropping intensity in suitable areas; and presents a rough indication of the domestic and external investment requirements if certain targets, consistent with the projected food requirements, are to be met. It brings out the need to increase the availability of key inputs such as fertilizers, pesticides and quality seeds. In this connexion I should like to draw your attention to a corrigendum dealing with this part of the document, under symbol COAG 75/3, Corr. 2, which contains a revised outlook of fertilizer supply and demand, based on the findings of the recent meeting of the FAO/UNIDO/World Bank Working Group on Fertilizers, held earlier this month.

The main document discusses the place of livestock development in the overall efforts to increase food production. It stresses the need for drawing up national nutrition policies and plans, as a base for nutrition intervention programmes and other measures to improve nutrition. And it draws attention to the importance, stressed by this Committee at its last session, of achieving simultaneously with the food production goals also the desirable social

goals, by ensuring through an integrated development approach the participation of the rural people in the development process, including in particular the small farmers and landless labourers which hitherto have largely been bypassed by economic and technological progress. The review makes the case for an integrated approach to rural development, calling for the building up of new rural institutional structures of all kinds, including the constitution or acceptance by governments of various forms of farmers' organizations as partners in the rural development efforts.

And what does the working paper conclude ? Can the agricultural production in the developing world be raised from 2.6 percent a year to 3.6 percent or more ? Here I quote from the text of the document. It states that "the resources and techniques to do this exist. So far the political will, the investment and the organization are insufficient. Neither developing nor developed countries are as yet showing adequate concern". The document also states that "The size of the task is measurable and it has been measured for the decade 1975-85. It is the task of governments, individually and collectively, to give leadership, mobilize the will and the goodwill of humanity, set up the necessary organization and make the investment".

These may be blunt words, and it would be well if they can be proved incorrect or unnecessary. They are, in effect, what the World Food Conference was all about. The world is now anxiously waiting for the results of the World Food Conference, to see whether the heightened expectations of people, after the rhetoric of that Conference, will be met.

It is against this same expectation that the activities of FAO will be judged. It is therefore appropriate at this stage to examine what the two largest Departments of the Organization should do to contribute to the meeting of those expectations.

Some suggestions to this effect are made in the document in front of you. In its last section it puts forward the proposal that FAO might increasingly, and more explicitly, adopt for some of its work, what the document calls a problem-oriented approach. That is, the Organization's regular programme activities should increasingly (though not exclusively) be focussed on the solution of selected problems, which can be clearly identified as finite tasks with a clear role for the Organization, and which are assured of full cooperation by the countries concerned.

A number of possible activities adapted for this approach are selected for illustration, including some already being implemented or proposed for implementation in the next Programme of Work and Budget.

The Committee is expected to express its views concerning the broad problem areas that have been suggested for consideration and action. They all constitute specific tasks. They are presented in four groups, namely : the assessment and improvement of land and water resources ; global production programmes ; regional production programmes with a definite geographical focus ; and programmes of a policy or strategy nature.

This will no doubt be the main concern of the debate under this item. But at the same time, the Committee might wish to examine the matter more broadly in the light of the changing environment in which FAO is to carry out its work.

One of the results of the World Food Conference which will place new tasks on FAO is the creation of the World Food Council and the Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment. Neither body has yet started to function substantively, and no doubt some time will pass before they each find their role and place within the overall intergovernmental machinery dealing with food problems. But one thing would already seem to be clear, namely that the major challenge rests with FAO itself, and particularly in the field covered by this Committee. If the Organization adopts more of a problem-oriented approach, this may have to be combined with clearer policy thinking, and a stronger development and investment orientation, especially as regards food production. We anticipate that the World Food Council will depend on FAO for the identification and analysis of major policy issues affecting food and agricultural development. Similarly, FAO will surely be called upon to present the results of its work conducted in all parts of the world, in a manner capable of providing

guidance to the CGFPI, to promote more efficient use of the limited investment resources available for promoting food production in developing countries.

Another trend calling for rethinking by FAO of its working methods is that for decentralization. As you all know, the Director-General has already proposed that FAO move in such a direction as rapidly as possible, keeping in mind the continued need for efficiency and economy in resource use. The same trend is observable in the rest of the United Nations system, and is strongly supported by the majority of member governments in the developing regions.

For FAO this would seem to mean two things. First, to continue the decentralization of those activities that can be better performed in regions or countries, at the fastest possible speed compatible with efficiency. The process of thinking about the types of functions that might best be decentralized is still under way. It would seem that a broad distinction might be made between, on the one hand, activities which, either because of their inherently global nature, or because the overall policy and strategy of the Organization with regard to them has not yet been sufficiently developed, have to be conducted or directed centrally ; and, on the other hand, those activities which are purely regional or country oriented, or constitute a component of a well established global activity, with well defined guidelines, and which can therefore be performed from regional or country offices without a danger of the Organization coming out with conflicting policy views and advice in different parts of the world.

Secondly, in line with the distinction just made, the decentralization of activities will surely call for additional emphasis in headquarters, in close cooperation with the Regional Offices, on the formulation of overall strategy views and options. In this connexion, the Perspective Study on World Agricultural Development (PSWAD) which is being planned with strong regional components, will be of particular importance.

As a last point, we have the impression that member countries, particularly developing countries, would welcome an effort to give more of FAO's activities a country focus, thus avoiding a too thin spreading of our limited resources, and permitting a greater impact in any given country, by coordinating within a coherent framework, drawn up in consultation with the government, our various activities in relation to it. The programme of Organization-wide Country Perspective Studies and their follow-up proposals are useful in this connexion. When examining the document submitted to you under the next agenda item, you will find that it is proposed to give greater country orientation to a number of both old and new activities. We are fully aware of the complexities of this approach. Given the number of countries with which we work and their varied interest there are clear limitations to it. At the same time, it would seem to be within FAO's possibilities to provide, at least in a selected group of countries, perhaps starting with those on the UN lists of Least Developed and Most Seriously Affected countries, more coherent and systematic food planning and production assistance to the governments, by more careful coordination of all country level activities, whether financed from the regular programme or from extra-budgetary sources.

That is all I wish to say at this stage, Mr. Chairman. Your Committee, through its review of medium and long-term problems under this agenda item, can pave the way for a fruitful discussion of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget under the next agenda item.



