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Rome, 22 June - 3 July 1981

REPORT OF THE SIXTH SESSION
OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (COAG)

(Rome, 25 March - 3 April 1981)

Summary

The Report of the Sixth Session of the Committee on Agriculture is herewith presented for the Council's information. The matters requiring attention by the Council are listed after the table of contents.

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MATTERS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

There are no matters requiring action by the Council, but the Council may wish to note the following main points in the Report of the Committee.

Implementation of the Programme 1980-81

The Committee reviewed the implementation of programmes under Chapter 2.1 and made a number of recommendations concerning each Major Programme.

Medium- and Long-Term Outlook

Summary Programme of Work

Following the recommendation of the Council that consideration be given by the Conference to Medium-Term Objectives and the Programme of Work and Budget jointly, the Committee reviewed the two documents together and made a number of recommendations concerning each Major Programme under Chapter 2.1.

The Committee considered that the long-term goals and medium-term objectives proposed generally reflected the problems of the sector and the tasks to be undertaken to achieve a four percent annual growth rate in food production in developing countries (para. 53).

The Committee noted that the proposed Programme of Work for 1982-83 in Chapter 2.1 corresponded to the objectives; and without prejudice to the position of Member Nations regarding budgetary considerations, which were not under discussion by COAG, generally agreed with the priorities of the different programmes (para. 56).

Introducing Nutrition in Agricultural and Rural Development

The Committee:

- (i) confirmed the leading role played by FAO in promoting an approach incorporating nutrition objectives and perspectives into all relevant programmes and projects, and expressed the wish that FAO take initiatives to share its experience and exchange views with UN and other international organizations and bilateral agencies concerned, especially on method development, training procedures and supporting materials (paras. 124 and 125);
- (ii) emphasized the need for further development of the Guidelines for Introduction of Nutrition Considerations as an outcome of more field experience reflecting specific conditions at the country level (para. 126);
- (iii) stressed the need for Member Nations to set up the necessary mechanism for the introduction of nutritional considerations in their development plans, especially in agricultural sector planning (para. 129), and for the collection and analysis of disaggregated nutrition data necessary for meaningful nutrition impact assessment (para. 130);
- (iv) stressed the need to emphasize the role of the rural women in the Guidelines (para. 131);
- (v) stressed the need for organizing general educational programmes at grass-root level with special regard to nutrition aspects, and to this end urged FAO to incorporate appropriate procedures for people's participation in the Guidelines (para. 132);

- (vi) endorsed the continued FAO efforts in building up the expertise of national staffs concerned with food and nutrition problems (para. 133);
- (vii) stressed the need for an evaluation method, linking both economic and nutrition indicators (para. 135);
- (viii) recommended a number of programme activities, in particular:

Case Studies at an early stage in project planning; expanded consultations with international agencies and national institutions engaged in method development; strengthening of national data systems; and the development and publication of training materials, with emphasis on middle-level training (para. 136).

Follow-up to WCARRD

The Committee:

- (i) expressed its appreciation of FAO's efforts to reorient its own programme of work in the direction of WCARRD priorities, focussing especially on the eradication of rural poverty (para. 139); supported the role of FAO as lead agency and recognized the need under its leadership for a similar reorientation of the work of the ACC Task Force on Rural Development (para. 140);
- (ii) welcomed the holding of inter-country consultations at the regional level (para. 141); urged FAO to help Member Nations, at their request, to review the plans, strategies and programmes or policies on rural development; and supported the assistance provided by the WCARRD follow-up missions to countries (para. 142);
- (iii) expressed disappointment that total pledges made by only six donors, amounted so far to less than fifty percent of the target of US\$ 20 million; expressed appreciation to the donors who had made these pledges and appealed to other potential donors to contribute the balance required (para. 143);
- (iv) supported the view that people's participation should be central to the WCARRD follow-up (para. 144); and attached great importance to the integration of women in development, as a major component of WCARRD follow-up (para. 145);
- (v) welcomed the active role provided by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in involving people's participation at the grass-roots level and noted FAO's consultations with NGOs (para. 146);
- (vi) stressed the importance of farmers' training and agricultural extension as part of WCARRD follow-up; endorsed the great concern with the social and behavioural aspects in agricultural extension and training for rural development; and noted with interest some of the innovative approaches in farmers' training being undertaken by FAO under WCARRD follow-up (para. 147);
- (vii) stressed the importance of monitoring and evaluation and strongly endorsed FAO's follow-up programme in this respect (para. 148);
- (viii) expressed appreciation at the overall content of the programme, and the substantial accomplishments achieved since the World Conference (para. 149);
- (ix) recommended the introduction of the socio-economic concerns of WCARRD into the agrotechnical aspects of agricultural development activities (para. 150);
- (x) the Committee agreed that further consideration of this subject take place at its next Session (para. 151).

Soil and Water Conservation

The Committee:

- (i) stressed the urgent need for creating awareness of the scope, danger and problem of soil degradation and of the possibilities of preventing it, and urged FAO to mount a world-wide publicity campaign, including a massive training effort (para. 159);
- (ii) agreed that the main responsibility for initiating and carrying out soil conservation programmes remained with governments, in view of the complexity and the importance of such programmes for the community as a whole (para. 160);
- (iii) urged that there should be more research on the economics of land degradation and soil conservation practices (para. 161);
- (iv) urged that integrated improved land use practices be introduced in conjunction with soil erosion control techniques; and that special attention be given to the problems of arid and semi-arid regions and to areas affected by shifting cultivation (para. 162);
- (v) recommended that FAO and countries themselves place greater emphasis on training and that a training component be incorporated into all soil conservation programmes (para. 164);
- (vi) supported the inter-disciplinary approach to soil and water conservation through an Inter-departmental Working Group within FAO (para. 173);
- (vii) endorsed regional projects in the fields of conservation and watershed management as a means of creating further awareness of the problem and of developing national soil conservation programmes and to further Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) (para. 174);
- (viii) agreed to bring the draft proposal for a World Soil Charter to the attention of the Council (para. 176).

Energy in Agriculture and Rural Development

The Committee:

- (i) supported the need for emphasis on the conservation of energy, energy-efficient practices, techniques and production systems (para. 182); and in this area supported FAO activities (para. 183); stressed the uses of alternative sources of energy as areas requiring the attention of FAO, other international organizations and governments (para. 186);
- (ii) agreed that the move from non-renewable to renewable energy sources would have to rely on a wide range of diverse sources of energy (para. 190); stressed the continuing importance of wood as a major source of renewable energy in the rural sector (para. 191); and emphasized the need for practical action to increase fuelwood production and to improve the efficiency of its conversion into energy (para. 192);
- (iii) agreed that major expansion of the conversion of food commodities, or the use of food production resources for energy production might in some cases have detrimental effects on food-importing countries, especially among the poorest strata of their populations (para. 196);

- (iv) reached consensus that FAO should become active in monitoring price and supply changes in cereals and other basic food staples under the impact of increasing energy use of food commodities so that timely action could be taken to avert major food shortages for the vulnerable segments of the world population (para. 199);
- (v) suggested that FAO extend technical assistance within the availability of resources, to countries which plan to embark on energy cropping programmes (para. 200);
- (vi) agreed that in the formulation of rural energy policies it was necessary to take cognizance of the specific situations of each country and the need for an overall national energy policy framework with particular emphasis on the needs of agriculture, and that for this purpose, international technical assistance would be useful (para. 204);
- (vii) accepted the relevance of the medium-term action programme to the issues of energy and agriculture and felt that it provided useful guidelines for the medium-term programme of FAO in this area (para. 209).

Agenda for the Seventh Session

The following topics were recommended for possible inclusion in the Provisional Agenda of its Seventh Session under the item Selected Development Problems:

- Plant Protection - Development of a Global Strategy
- Animal Health (National and International Strategies of Action)
- Follow-up to WCARRD with special reference to the Role of Women in Agricultural Production (para. 214).

INTRODUCTION

1. The Sixth Session of the Committee on Agriculture was held in Rome from 25 March to 3 April 1981. The Session was attended by representatives of 80 of the 94 Member Nations. Members of the Committee, by observers from 3 other Member Nations and by the Permanent Observer of the Holy See. Representatives of the following Organizations and bodies in the United Nations system: Economic Commission for Western Asia, International Atomic Energy Agency, International Labour Organization, UN Children's Fund and World Food Council, and of two intergovernmental organizations and observers from 10 other international organizations also participated. The list of Members of the Committee is attached as Appendix B and the list of delegates and observers as Appendix C.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN

2. In accordance with Rule I of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee elected Sidaty Aidara (Senegal) as Chairman of the Committee, Norman W. Tape (Canada) as First Vice-Chairman and Jan Schwarz (Czechoslovakia) as Second Vice-Chairman.

IN MEMORY OF S. KUŚMIERKIEWICZ

3. The Committee observed one minute of silence in memory of Mr. Stanislaw Kuśmierkiewicz, Deputy Permanent Representative of Poland, who died tragically on Monday, 30 March. The Committee expressed its sincere condolences to the family and to the Government of Poland for this untimely loss.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND TIMETABLE FOR THE SESSION

4. The Agenda as adopted is set out in Appendix A. In line with suggestions made by the Council at its Seventy-eighth Session concerning Conference Procedures, 1/ the Committee decided to discuss item 4 Medium- and Long-Term Outlook for Food and Agricultural Development simultaneously with item 5 Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1982-83.

5. The Committee appointed the following members to the Drafting Committee: Bangladesh, Brazil, France, India, Iraq, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, United States of America. Mr. Ramadhar (India) served as Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL

6. The Committee heard a statement by Dr. Ralph W. Phillips, Deputy Director-General which is attached as Appendix E.

REVIEW OF FAO'S PROGRAMME OF WORK IN THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SECTORIMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK 1980-81

7. The Committee reviewed the implementation of the biennial programme of work of the Organization within its field of competence. The discussion was based on document COAG/81/3 - Implementation of the Programme of Work 1980-81, which dealt with activities implemented during 1979-80 and those envisaged for 1981, under major programme 2.1 Agriculture covering the Agriculture and Economic and Social Policy Departments and the Joint activities with the Regional Offices and Joint Divisions. An Addendum to the document (COAG/81/3 Add. 1) contained progress reports on the selected development problems discussed by the Committee at its Fifth Session, i.e. a) Nutrition in agriculture, b) The on-farm use of water, and c) Agricultural mechanization in relation to production, employment and income distribution in developing countries.

8. The Committee noted that the presentation of the document was based on recommendations of its Fourth Session and followed the programme structure approved by the Council at its Seventieth Session. The Committee also noted that the document took into account the wishes expressed at its Fifth Session for further improvement, especially with respect to the effectiveness of the various activities for a better assessment of relative priorities.

1/ Report of the Council of FAO, Seventy-eighth Session, Rome, 24 November - 4 December 1980, paras 173 and 174 (a) and (b)

9. The Committee expressed satisfaction with the format and contents of the background document as well as the Addendum. It also commended the Secretariat for the achievements made in the implementation of programmes under major programme 2.1 Agriculture. It suggested, however, that it would be helpful in future to have a more precise evaluation of the success of the implementation of programme activities and of the constraints and problems encountered which had militated against the realization of anticipated objectives. The Committee noted, however, the explanation given by the Secretariat that the time schedule for the preparation of the background document at best permitted an evaluation of activities carried out during the first nine months of the biennium and that taking this and resource constraints into account, progress on the lines suggested might more easily be achieved by attempting more in-depth evaluation of the special topics included in its agenda.

10. In this connexion it was noted that Conference evaluation documents reviewing all of the regular and extra-budgetary programmes were currently under preparation. It was requested that these reviews be circulated to Member Nations as soon as possible.

11. The Committee suggested that in future sessions COAG should be informed of overall major developments in the field of agriculture since its preceding session. The Committee noted, however, that in the view of the Secretariat this was a matter relating to the "State of Food and Agriculture" and the "Commodity Review and Outlook" and that these publications could take the Committee's suggestion into account.

12. Recognizing the distinction made between Regular Programme activities and field project activities carried out with extra-budgetary resources and reported in Tables 1 and 2 of COAG/81/3, the Committee requested that, as far as possible information should be provided on a sub-programme basis.

2.1.1 Natural Resources

13. The Committee endorsed the objectives and activities under this Programme. It noted the usefulness of the agro-ecological zone study as a basis to assess the population-supporting capacity of lands at the regional level and urged that it be applied and refined at the country level.

14. The Committee gave strong support to work on energy-saving techniques, with special reference to the recycling of organic materials and biological nitrogen fixation. However, the Committee stressed that fertilizers remain an essential input for increased agricultural production and commended the work of FAO's Fertilizer Programme which had been active for the last twenty years. It was noted that this programme had been adjusted to include other related inputs and had become a major element of rural development activities.

15. The Committee expressed its support to the newly launched International Support Programme for Farm Water Management. It considered that this area had been neglected in many countries and that a strengthening of this activity would be an important means of increasing food production, as well as raising living standards of the small farmers and increasing the participation of the rural population in development.

16. The Committee endorsed activities being undertaken in rehabilitation and improvement of irrigation and drainage schemes and the efforts to introduce energy-saving techniques in this field.

17. The Committee stressed the importance attached to soil and water conservation combining the protection of the environment with sustained production.

18. The Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Regional Conference for Latin America giving high priority to activities in the field of conservation and requested the Organization's support for action at the country level.

19. The Committee welcomed the measures taken to expand the Farm Management Data Collection and Analysis System. It noted that the system was being adopted by leading agricultural universities, international and regional agricultural research institutes and introduced to many national institutes in the developing countries. The Committee felt that the system would form a valuable tool in the mobilisation of small farmers in the development process.

2.1.2 Crops

20. The Committee expressed satisfaction with the general activities under this programme. It stressed that more emphasis should be given to roots and tubers as well as to plantains, as a basic carbohydrate source for the small farmers in areas where cereals were not grown. Regarding work on the introduction of modern varieties of crop plants it suggested that more research should be carried out on traditional varieties and that the introduction of modern varieties should be limited. It stressed the role played by the International Board of Plant Genetic Resources (IBPGR) and requested more information on the FAO Genetic Resources Programmes; in this same connexion a request was made to increase germplasm-collecting missions. Some Members of the Committee also suggested that in addition to the existing IBPGR Advisory Committees, two more committees should be formed on Roots and Tubers and Vegetables.

21. Some Members of the Committee expressed their concern about the increase of weeds due to the use of fertilizers and requested that weed control activities be linked with fertilizer recommendations.

22. The Committee, considering the activities on remote sensing, cautioned against the use of too sophisticated methods in developing countries and noted that FAO's assistance was oriented to the needs and capabilities of developing countries.

23. The importance of applying crop protection measures was stressed as being an integral part of efforts towards increased production. Several members of the Committee commended FAO especially for its prompt action in connexion with the desert and migratory locust programme. The Committee expressed the hope that bird pests would have a similar global control programme as Desert Locust in the future.

24. The Committee, recognizing that even a fifty percent reduction in post-harvest losses in staple food crops would make a major contribution to alleviating the food deficit of many developing countries, regretted that extra-budgetary funds were not available to meet the numbers of technically viable and socio-economically desirable requests being received by the FAO Special Action Programme for the Prevention of Food Losses. The Committee requested that every effort be made to identify funding sources.

25. In connexion with the prevention of food losses, as well as in establishing food reserves at farm and village level, the Committee called upon FAO to continue and strengthen its assistance to Member Nations in the construction of adequate storage especially utilizing low-cost local materials and using indigenous technologies.

26. The work on the selection of hand tools, animal draught and mechanical equipment was commended by the Committee. With the need for particular attention being given by many Member Nations to animal draught, the Committee recommended that FAO should give special attention in the coming years to the design, assembly and local maintenance of appropriate animal-drawn implements.

27. The Committee emphasized that FAO needed not to be discouraged by the slower-than-expected acceptance of composite flour activities which, having been shown to be technically feasible, were a desirable alternative to reduce wheat and wheat flour importation.

2.1.3 Livestock

28. The Committee fully endorsed the objectives of this important programme, and supported the activities carried out, in particular the high priority given to training.

29. The Committee expressed its satisfaction with the action taken on the Programme for the Control of African Animal Trypanosomiasis and Related Development; and stressed that planned land use as a corollary of tsetse/trypanosomiasis control operations is of paramount importance. The Committee noted that environmental safeguards are being taken fully into account in tsetse control operations.

30. The Committee commended FAO for the well-programmed emergency activities of African swine fever and Rinderpest in which the Technical Cooperation Programme support had demonstrated the value of quick action. Several Members of the Committee expressed the view that other diseases such as tick-borne ones must be given similar emphasis because of their economic importance for the countries.

31. The Committee supported the activities implemented on animal production which gave emphasis to work on feed resources utilization, the development of fodder crops and pastures, especially those utilizing tropical legumes, the improvement and conservation of animal genetic resources and animal draught power. The Committee noted the priority given to the development of small animal production for which it had urged additional research.

32. The Committee considered the Artificial Insemination and Breeding Development Programme, the International Scheme for the Coordination of Dairy Development and the International Meat Development Scheme activities very successful and recommended their continuation and expanded financial support.

2.1.4 Research Support

33. The Committee commended the emphasis being given to continued support for agricultural research at both national and international levels and reaffirmed its belief that sound and efficient national research systems were a vital necessity for dynamic development. Regarding the apparently low level of field programme research support in the Latin American Region, the Committee was informed that out of a total of 297 field projects in support to research, 84 were at present being implemented in Latin American countries. The Committee suggested that future documents concerning the implementation of the Programme of Work should provide in Table 2 information on the number of field projects by region.

34. Recognizing the urgent need for more rapid translation of research results into practice, particularly for the poorer farmers, the Committee welcomed the emphasis being given in the programme to encourage research in traditional farm crops and livestock especially in more difficult areas such as the dry zone of Eastern Africa. It also commended the work begun on traditional farming systems especially that on shifting cultivation in Africa. It urged increased research on roots and tubers.

35. The Committee noted that a considerable amount of research was also conducted on traditional farm animals, including draught animals such as the buffalo. It urged however that increasing attention should be given to research on small animals which formed a valuable source of protein.

36. The emphasis being given to research management training was supported by the Committee. It noted that collaboration in this field had been initiated with several agencies and organizations.

37. The Committee noted with approval the continued activities of the Current Agricultural Research Information System (CARIS) in providing research data and especially commended the decentralization process and the achievement of compatibility with the International Information System for Agricultural Sciences Technology (AGRIS). It urged however that attempts to achieve compatibility with other similar data systems should be speeded up in order to facilitate in the CARIS System the use of data from other sources which were currently not available, particularly from the Permanent Inventory of Agricultural Research Projects in the European Communities (AGREP) and the Current Research Information System (CRIS).

2.1.5 Rural Development

38. The Committee endorsed the objectives and activities of the Programme which gave the greatest emphasis to assisting countries to implement the WCARRD Programme of Action. It stressed the need for an integrated approach to rural development and the introduction of new and improved techniques. It noted with satisfaction that the highest priority was given to providing technical assistance and technical backstopping to country development projects or to activities that promoted the establishment or changed the orientation of future projects towards that of involving the rural poor in development. The Committee stressed the importance of FAO's role as lead agency for rural development and the related work of the ACC Task Force on Rural Development.

39. The Committee noted the emphasis being placed on training, especially at the grass roots level in the sector of agricultural education, training and extension. It welcomed the progress made in the area of development support communication to increase and improve the use of mass media to reach rural people. It noted the importance of training of administrators and managers who implement rural development activities, training in marketing and credit and the work in home economics and women in development to reorient training for rural women.

40. The Committee supported the assistance being provided to the Regional Centres for Rural Development, and endorsed activities to increase participation of the rural poor including promotion of self-help organizations, improving rural employment and manpower planning. It endorsed the institution of small-scale marketing facilities including the further extension at rural markets in Asia and Africa as poles for rural and particularly small farm development. The Committee commended the work of Scheme for Agricultural Credit Development (SACRED) and its Regional agricultural credit associations and stressed expanded emphasis in work on the rôle of women in development to assist activities and organizations to enable the participation in development of the poorest and least advantaged rural women.

2.1.6 Nutrition

41. The Committee expressed satisfaction with the progress achieved concerning the implementation of Conference Resolution 8/77 (C 77/REP Para.204 on Nutrition). It noted that FAO had established mechanisms to facilitate introduction of nutrition into agriculture and rural development programmes. The Committee emphasized the need to continue assistance to countries in the development of policies and plans for nutrition improvement with emphasis on integration of nutrition objectives in agriculture and rural development. The Committee emphasized the value of work on nutrition intervention programmes, food control, international food standardization and food safety, in particular aflatoxins, and requested that assistance to Member Nations in these areas should be pursued vigorously.

42. The Committee considered that manpower development through training was an important element in all the areas of Programme 2.1.6.

2.1.7 Food and Agricultural Information and Analysis

43. The Committee noted the objectives of the programme and commended the regular and ad hoc activities undertaken to achieve them. It welcomed the further development of FAO's comprehensive and computerized data systems which had enabled speedy and efficient dissemination to Member Nations of information and analyses on world food and agriculture not always available from national sources. In this context, the Committee took particular note of the Director-General's early warning of a potential food crisis this year, and the Special reports on the African Food Emergency. These were made possible on the basis of information compiled and analysed under this programme, particularly the Global Food Information and Early Warning System, the reports of which had been particularly useful to governments.

44. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the annual publications, the "State of Food and Agriculture" (SOFA) and "Commodity Review and Outlook" while continuing to provide analyses of the food and agricultural situation, and commodity markets, and their outlook, also contained special chapters on current problems such as fisheries, rural poverty, evaluation of agricultural protectionism and international commodity agreements. In

connexion with a suggestion that the FAO World Food Surveys be regularly updated, and published after not unduly long intervals, the Committee noted the explanation of the Secretariat that FAO attached great importance to issuing regular revisions of the World Food Survey. The Fifth World Food Survey was planned to be published in 1984. However, the revision of World Food Surveys was a difficult undertaking as it involved both work for conceptual and analytical improvement as well as the compilation of data on a wide and up-to-date basis. These aspects limited the number of possible updatings.

2.1.8 Food and Agricultural Policy

45. The Committee noted the objectives of this programme and endorsed the emphasis on activities relating to the attainment of world food security. It agreed that, in view of the gravity of the world food situation, food security should continue to be the prime concern of all countries and the priorities of this programme should be geared to cope with this situation. It stressed the need for assistance to low-income countries for establishing food security reserves and related infrastructure and expressed its appreciation of the assistance being provided under the FAO Food Security Assistance Scheme. It recommended that developing countries should cooperate with each other in building grain storage facilities at farm level by sharing their technical expertise and experience.

46. The Committee noted with appreciation the assistance FAO was giving to governments in the formulation of their plans, policies and programmes for improvement of food self-sufficiency, especially in Africa, where it had played a leading role in assisting OAU in preparation of its Lagos Plan of Action.

47. The Committee stressed the importance of training programmes to enhance the capacity of Member Nations to formulate their agricultural development plans and projects. It recommended that such training should continue to receive high priority, particularly in the field of project analysis and evaluation. In this connexion, FAO should orient its training programmes to meet the countries' needs of trained manpower by increasing the emphasis at regional, sub-regional and country levels and assisting regional training institutions.

48. The Committee noted that although no specific reference had been made in the background document to pricing policies, FAO did in fact carry out considerable work in this area, both at micro and macro levels, and in particular in connexion with the advice given under the Food Security Assistance Scheme. It also noted that a regional workshop on pricing policies for small farmers had recently been held in Bangkok and that there were plans to follow this up with workshops at the national level.

MEDIUM- AND LONG-TERM OUTLOOK FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND SUMMARY PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET 1982-83

49. The Committee decided to discuss jointly Agenda items 4. Medium- and Long-Term Outlook for Food and Agricultural Development, and 5. Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1982-83, as this was in line with the proposal of the Council that the documents "Programme of Work and Budget" and "Medium-Term Objectives" should be discussed together at the Conference.

50. The discussion was based on two separate documents: COAG/81/4 - Medium- and Long-Term Outlook for Food and Agricultural Development " - and COAG/81/5 - Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1982-83. Document COAG/81/4 followed closely the format of its predecessor which had been found satisfactory. The Committee noted that the document provided a concise review of long-term goals and strategies for agricultural development followed by a presentation of the medium-term outlook for the eight programmes of major programme 2.1 - Agriculture. It was largely based on the FAO study "Agriculture: Toward 2000" (AT 2000) and the agricultural targets contained in the UN General Assembly Resolution on the International Development Strategy (IDS) for the Third UN Development Decade.

51. The Committee noted that document COAG/81/5, although reading "Summary of Work and Budget", in fact was an extract from the document bearing that title which would be submitted to the Seventy-Ninth Session of the Council in June. The document before the Committee dealt with the priorities and proposed programme increases only in relation to Major Programme 2.1 - Agriculture, and was intended to enable the Committee to examine the general lines of work and the broad aspects of the programme in the fields of the Agriculture and Economic and Social Policy Departments and their interrelation with each other.

52. The Committee felt that both documents showed significant improvements over former presentations and noted that although concise, provided sufficient information for the Committee's work. Some suggestions were made for possible further improvements in future presentations. Some of these might be feasible within the constraints of the nature, timing and scope of these documents, but it was generally agreed that the format of the document was satisfactory.

53. The Committee noted that the long-term goals and medium-term objectives and strategies presented in the document generally reflected the problems of the sector and the tasks to be undertaken in order to achieve a four percent annual growth rate in food production in developing countries as compared to less than three percent per annum at present. In this connexion it was recalled that the annual flow of international financial assistance which would be needed to reach the growth target of four percent was estimated by the Secretariat at US \$ 8 - 9 billion in 1975 prices during the early 1980's.

54. The Committee agreed with the high priority accorded to food security, energy, management of natural resources, harmonization of crop and livestock production, research, conservation of the environment through appropriate farming systems, the Plan of Action of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (with particular reference to rural institutions, training, extension, integration of women and rural youth, and people's participation), integration of nutrition in rural development, and food and agricultural information and analysis.

55. The Committee endorsed the high priority given to activities in Africa. It also recommended that Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) activities be encouraged through regional and sub-regional programmes. It suggested that greater attention be given to strengthening national institutions to encourage self-reliance.

56. The Committee noted that the proposed Programme of Work for 1982-83 in Chapter 2.1 corresponded to the objectives of the long and medium-term outlook. Without prejudice to the position of Member Nations regarding budgetary considerations which were not under discussion by COAG, the Committee generally agreed with the priorities of the different programmes as presented in COAG/81/5.

57. The Committee made the following observations on individual programmes.

2.1.1 Natural Resources

58. The Committee noted that increased agricultural production would have to come from both horizontal and vertical expansion. It noted the large percentage of arable land under rainfed agricultural production and stressed the need to concentrate efforts on maximizing production from it. It endorsed in general the medium-term objectives in the field of natural resources.

59. The Committee supported the activities proposed for the 1982-83 biennium and approved the choice of priorities. It agreed with the shifts of resources proposed to reinforce specific activities in the domain of natural resources, namely soil conservation, improving shifting cultivation, farm water management and rehabilitation of existing irrigation and drainage schemes.

60. The Committee endorsed the need to identify the production capacity of land resources at the national level and the potential for increased production under various levels of inputs.

61. The Committee endorsed the increased emphasis being given to energy in agriculture with special reference to the recycling of organic materials. In this respect the Committee stressed the need to develop integrated plant nutrition systems through making better use of organic sources of plant nutrients, in combination with greater use of mineral fertilizers and biological nitrogen fixation in farmers' fields. The Committee urged that activities under the Fertilizer Programme be continued. It expressed appreciation to the donors of the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme (IFS) and appealed for their continued support.

62. Having noted that greater availability of water alone does not necessarily lead to the desired increase in production, the Committee stressed that greater attention needed to be given to the improvement of water use at the farm level. The Committee welcomed the launching of FAO's International Support Programme for Farm Water Management. The Committee urged intensification of work on projects related to rehabilitation and improvement of existing irrigation and drainage systems and the promotion of appropriate techniques, with particular reference to energy-saving devices.

63. The Committee urged greater attention to the protection of the environment, including safeguarding soil and water resources against degradation through improved management and introduction of appropriate practices in areas of shifting cultivation. The Committee endorsed the emphasis on soil and water conservation and supported FAO's efforts to assist countries in the development of soil conservation policies and programmes.

64. The Committee stressed the need for small farm development strategies in connexion with farm management activities which would be directly beneficial to the farmers themselves and would simultaneously provide the means of assessing shifting cultivation and alternative farming systems. The plan to extend the farm management data system to country level was commended.

2.1.2 Crops

65. The Committee concurred with the objectives of this Programme in the medium-term with major emphasis on staple food crops.

66. The Committee felt that many of the crop production targets required increased efforts in the areas of applied research at the level of the small farmer as well as proper extension servicing in order to raise production.

67. The Committee referred to problems involved in the introduction of high-yielding varieties (new diseases, pests) and favoured a more appropriate use of local germplasms in developing high-yielding and disease-resistant varieties.

68. The Committee viewed the reduction of post-harvest losses as an important medium-term objective and appealed for continued assistance to maintain an adequate flow of resources through the FAO Special Action Programme.

69. The Committee strongly supported FAO's proposed medium-term activities in the energy field to provide the basis for international action. Every effort should be made to harness alternative renewable energy sources and special attention needed to be given to the efficient use of energy in the production, processing and marketing of agricultural products.

70. The Committee expressed its support to the programme proposed for 1982-83 and its priorities with emphasis on such staple cereals as maize, sorghum, millet, rice and wheat. It stressed the necessity to intensify production at the level of the small farmer, especially in the African region. It welcomed the concept of pilot demonstration schemes to introduce adapted and feasible technical improvements. In this connexion, it emphasized that there should be improved links between research, development and the farming community.

71. The Committee endorsed the programme of fodder crops in general and drew special attention to biological nitrogen fixation.

72. The Committee underlined the importance of the Genetic Resources Programme and in this connexion stressed the role of the International Board of Plant Genetic Resources (IBPGR) providing support to this programme.

73. The Committee endorsed the Seed Improvement and Development Programme, implemented in close collaboration with national institutions. It felt that the programme should include more high-yielding forage seed in an integrated programme of livestock and forage crops. It emphasized the need for training in seed production, processing and storage techniques. It endorsed the proposed establishment of seed security centres in Africa and Asia.

74. The Committee emphasized the need to give high priority to crop protection in general and more specifically to the reduction of post-harvest losses, including more accurate loss assessment. It stressed the need to strengthen quarantine procedures and effective plant protection techniques. It also emphasized that expanded support to the control of desert locust as well as other migratory pests was essential.

75. The Committee expressed concern about the high cost of pesticides and stressed the importance of the programme on biological control of pests versus that of chemical control. The Committee urged the need to establish national testing units for pesticides particularly in the developing countries.

76. The Committee noted the importance of supporting food production with adequate mechanization, the need to train operators and maintenance staff and the selection of appropriate equipment. It called upon FAO to provide increased assistance in regard to animal-draught equipment and in the formulation of national agricultural mechanization policies. The Committee stressed the importance of crop drying, the improvement of storage and other rural buildings at farm, village and community level.

77. The Committee endorsed the priority given to the Special Action Programme on the Prevention of Food Losses, and noted with concern the lack of investment follow-up to the projects implemented under this Programme.

78. The Committee supported the proposed work on food and agricultural industries stressing that more attention should be given to the promotion of TCDC activities and joint ventures. It recommended that the composite flour programme be further expanded and supported.

2.1.3 Livestock

79. The Committee noted that over the medium-term the demand for livestock products would rise more rapidly than for any other food commodity. In line with this, the Committee expressed its full support for all components of the livestock programme including the Organization-wide priority on the Programme for the Control of African Animal Trypanosomiasis and Related Development. The importance of adequate water supply for livestock was stressed.

80. The Committee confirmed that the improvement of veterinary services and related infrastructures continued to be of primary importance and that this, together with the development of feed resources and the implementation of well-planned breeding programmes, would contribute significantly to maximizing the productivity of animals. The Committee agreed to the important role of the International Meat Development Scheme, the International Scheme for the Coordination of Dairy Development and the Programme for the Control of African Animal Trypanosomiasis and Related Development in providing planning assistance and recommended that financial support be continued.

81. The Committee endorsed the activities foreseen under the livestock programme for 1982-83 since they corresponded to the priorities established in the document on medium- and long-term objectives and had small farmers as the target group. It appreciated that training would be given high priority. The Committee gave particular support to an intensification of activities aimed at better utilization of available feed resources because of the scarcity and high costs of feeds in many countries. It stressed particularly the need for emphasis on grassland and forage production and the role of legumes in tropical grazing systems.

82. The Committee agreed with the action on animal diseases which covered emergency disease control such as African swine fever and rinderpest, as well as longer-term control campaigns on foot-and-mouth disease and tick-borne diseases, and stressed the importance of regional disease reporting and notification.

83. The Committee endorsed the expansion of the Programme for the Control of African Animal Trypanosomiasis and Related Development and stressed that as the Programme in essence concerned rural development, it was essential that land use plans were implemented concomitantly with tsetse/trypanosomiasis control operations. It noted that environmental factors would be taken into full consideration in such operations.

84. The Committee noted that the sub-programme on animal genetic resources, in addition to its comprehensive action plans, included a significant component on breeding of trypanotolerant cattle.

85. On animal husbandry, the Committee recommended that emphasis should be given to better harmonization of crop/livestock production and that small stock production should receive more attention. At the same time, the Committee expressed satisfaction that the activities on development of animal draught power would be intensified; and that the activities under the planning schemes on meat and milk development would be continued.

2.1.4 Research Support

86. The Committee reaffirmed the high priority given to support for research at national, regional and international levels in the Medium-Term Programme. In particular, it stressed the urgency for strengthening national agricultural research systems and commended the Organization's proposals to give increased attention to training in research and research management.

87. The cooperative research networks established in the European region were indicated as models which might be followed elsewhere to support national research efforts in well-selected research problems of agricultural development. The importance of close liaison with the International Research Centres and other advanced regional and national institutions in developed and developing countries was stressed in this context. The Organization had a key role to play in supporting all such efforts within a global agricultural research system and in the dissemination of research results and new technologists for application in agricultural and rural development.

88. Strong support was given by the Committee to the CARIS programme and the Committee felt that additional support was needed at the country level to enable the developing countries to make full use of the information it provided by the Programme.

89. The Committee noted the important role of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) supporting international agricultural activities but stressed the need for these activities to be more closely related to the work of national and regional agricultural research institutions. It also stressed the importance of close liaison between all research institutions, especially those in similar agro-ecological zones, to increase the efficiency of research efforts.

90. In considering the proposed programme for 1982-83 the Committee strongly endorsed the high priority given to the development of research institutions at the national level and, whilst it welcomed the modest increase in the programme, it urged that stronger support should be given.

91. The Committee also stressed the importance of short-term problem-solving adaptive research to meet the fast growing demands of technology and the need for the involvement of farmers in such field-level trials, as part of a more general educative process.

92. The Committee endorsed the continuing joint programme with IAEA on the agricultural application of isotopes and radiation and supported especially the strong training component of this programme. It noted the orientation of this sub-programme to the FAO priority programmes and that FAO provides approximately twenty-five percent of the total programme cost, with the balance provided by IAEA.

93. The Committee strongly supported the continuing CARIS programme and urged that further efforts be made during the biennium to ensure its early compatibility with AGREP. It also endorsed the continuing cooperation with UNCTAD in the preparation of cooperative research proposals in many important commodity fields.

94. The Committee called attention once again to the fact that no mention was made of Regular Programme allocations being provided for research in the Latin American Region, and requested that appropriate indications of the scale of research and support thereto should be provided in the full Programme of Work and Budget.

2.1.5 Rural Development

95. The Committee agreed with the high priority accorded to the promotion of agrarian reform and rural development, as defined by the Declaration of Principles and Programme of Action of WCARRD. It affirmed the integrated objective of growth with equity through improved access to resources and people's participation. The Committee welcomed the reorientation of activities under this item. It emphasized that involving the masses of rural people, and especially the rural poor, required adequate policies and programmes for the establishment and strengthening of effective rural institutions and services.

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96. The Committee felt that active participation of the millions of small farmers and other disadvantaged groups could become a reality through adequate people's organizations at the village level. The Committee stressed that people's organizations, especially cooperatives and similar small farmers' organizations, should become a primary component in the design and modality of implementation of rural development programmes and projects. The Committee emphasized the importance of enhancing the involvement of rural women and families in food production and distribution, and their access to, and participation in the system of agricultural services, inputs and supplies.

97. The Committee supported the need for extension and training as essential for the promotion of efficient and self-supporting national rural institutions, and welcomed the use of mass-media to inform, motivate and train rural people. Training, with particular emphasis on small farmers, was also crucial in other technical fields. The improvement of the rural marketing systems was considered essential for rural development. The Committee also welcomed the emphasis on credit and banking to assist countries in linking agricultural banking systems with rural development programmes.

98. The Committee welcomed the inclusion of Rural Development as a priority focus in the proposed programme under Chapter 2.1 for 1982-83. It attached very great importance to the activities that support efforts of countries to implement the Programme of Action of WCARRD. It acknowledged the special responsibility that FAO had as the lead agency in the UN system in WCARRD Follow-up and to the activities of the ACC Task Force.

99. The Committee felt that the content and orientation of the proposed activities were appropriate. It supported the activities proposed under Education, Extension and Training, Development Support Communications, Marketing, Credit, Home Economics and Social Programmes.

100. The Committee welcomed the emphasis given to fostering increased participation by the poorest and least advantaged rural people including small farmers and the landless peasants and stressed particularly the role of women in rural development.

101. The Committee supported the proposed strengthening of activities related to Training and Extension, Development Support Communications, Agrarian Reform, Rural People's Participation and Organizations, especially Agricultural Cooperatives, Integration of Women in Development and Agricultural Marketing and Credit.

2.1.6 Nutrition

102. In reviewing the strategies and objectives for the medium-term, the Committee reiterated the necessity for measures to reduce malnutrition and to meet the basic food needs of the rural poor. The Committee recalled the observation made at its Fifth Session that in order to be effective, nutrition planning should become an integral part of overall development and production planning. It pointed out that it was also important to improve food systems by ensuring the quality and safety of food supplies and providing consumer protection against adulteration, contamination and fraud. It noted that it would have the opportunity to review Programme 2.1.6 Nutrition in more detail under Agenda Item 6 during the current Session of the Committee, but in the context of Item 4 it expressed support for FAO's proposed medium-term strategy to assist Member Nations to improve nutrition and ensure the quality and safety of food supplies. It commended the continuing attention being given to formulation of food and nutrition policies and plans, assessment of nutrition problems and to improving methodologies for surveillance of the nutrition situation at national and area levels.

103. The Committee endorsed the introduction of nutritional considerations into agriculture and rural development projects. It strongly supported the broadening of assistance to direct nutrition interventions and the attention being paid to community nutrition programmes to increase the food intake of the most malnourished population groups. It recognized the value of feeding programmes and stressed that in addition to participation in WFP-assisted programmes, FAO should aid programmes to promote increased use of local supplies, particularly for the development of infant and weaning foods based on local products.

104. The Committee commended the support given to food control and food safety programmes and to the work carried out jointly with WHO through the CODEX ALIMENTARIUS Commission. It also noted with satisfaction the encouragement given, inter-alia, through CODEX regional coordinating committees, to technical cooperation in food control among developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

105. The Committee felt that lack of suitably trained manpower at all levels was a major constraint to formulating and implementing strategies to improve nutrition and it expressed the need to give greater emphasis to training in future.

106. The Committee welcomed the increased emphasis given in the proposed programme for 1982-83 to the introduction of nutrition in agricultural and rural development plans and projects and noted with satisfaction that extra resources had been allocated to food and nutrition assessment, support to field programmes and to work on food quality improvement at village level.

107. Concern was expressed that the programme increase for the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific was much lower than that for the other regions, although malnutrition was a major concern in most countries in Asia and the Pacific.

2.1.7 Food and Agricultural Information and Analysis

108. The Committee stressed the importance of keeping Member Nations fully apprised of the current food and agricultural situation. It welcomed the Organization's plans and programmes for improved data collection and analyses and reiterated the objective that FAO's information system and analyses should be of benefit to all Member Nations. The Committee emphasized the need for national agricultural statistical services to be improved where necessary.

109. The Committee drew particular attention to the need for the Organization to maintain its vigilance and further strengthen its surveillance of food shortages so that timely action could be taken when food emergencies arose. It especially welcomed the emphasis given in the Global Information and Early Warning System on the food situation in vulnerable countries and supported the System's strengthening and improvement as proposed for the 1982-83 biennium. It also stressed to need to assist in developing national early warning systems, linked to the Global System.

110. The Committee suggested that the monitoring of external resource flows to agriculture should be continued and their analysis improved in relation to perceived needs for the achievement of development targets.

111. The Committee noted that information on domestic resource flows to agriculture remained scanty and incomplete. It therefore urged that highest possible priority be given in this area to data collection and analysis.

2.1.8 Food and Agricultural Policy

112. In reviewing the strategies and objectives for the medium-term, the Committee expressed concern that the food and agricultural situation continued to remain fragile and insecure.

113. Many developing countries would need to reorient their agricultural policies and plans in order to achieve rapid and sustained expansion of food production. In the view of the Committee, the provision of policy and planning assistance should be given high priority, particularly in Africa, in order to help countries improve self-reliance.

114. Plans, strategies, policies and programmes to improve food security would remain a top priority in the medium-term. To obtain a progressive improvement in food security the Committee agreed that all low-income countries would need to develop protection against crop failures. This would require the establishment of national, regional and international food security systems, including minimum reserve stocks, assured food aid and adequate emergency aid, and greater incentives to food production, in line with the goals agreed in the International Development Strategy. Action would also be needed to stabilize world commodity markets and expand agricultural exports, particularly those of developing countries.

115. As regards the 1982-83 proposals for 2.1.8 Food and Agricultural Policy, the Committee agreed that the Organization would need to expand the provision of policy and planning advice to developing countries, particularly in Africa, as envisaged in the Lagos Plan of Action.

116. It was considered that attention should be given to improvement and adjustment of price and related policies. Strengthening of training programmes in project analysis and planning, in order to enhance national expertise in project identification, formulation and implementation was also necessary, together with increased attention to nutritional considerations in agricultural and rural development projects.

117. The Committee noted that planning assistance was also focusing on the importance of agricultural censuses and surveys as a source of basic data for planning development programmes and follow-up to WCARRD. The Committee supported the priority being given to preparations for the 1990 World Census of Agriculture.

118. The Committee agreed with the priority attached to the strengthening of food security at the global, regional and national levels, particularly in view of the gravity of the overall food situation. Special emphasis should be placed on action-oriented programmes to improve national and global preparedness to meet food emergencies, action to promote collective self-reliance of developing countries in this vital area, and the extension of the activities of the Food Security Assistance Scheme to meet growing demands for assistance in designing and implementing national and regional food security programmes.

119. The Committee underlined the importance of resolving commodity trade problems and of developing effective commodity development programmes, including consultations between producing and consuming countries, on specific commodity problems. The Committee stressed the need to avoid duplication of work on commodities covered by other specialized organizations and on this basis supported the role and activities of FAO in the field of commodity policies and trade, technical support requested by UNCTAD, and commodity project preparation relating to the Second Account operations of the new Common Fund for Commodities.

120. The Committee noted that the bulk of the increased allocations to the programme 2.1.8. Food and Agriculture Policy, for 1982-83, and the resource shifts proposed were intended to provide direct and practical assistance to Member Nations in priority areas of work, particularly in the vital sector of world food security. A number of countries noted that Programme 2.1.8 amounted to about twenty-one percent of the total resources of Major Programme 2.1 and some of them considered that the increase was perhaps high in relation to the increase proposed for other programmes. While noting that the resources proposed for global perspective studies had been considerably reduced, the Committee recognized the need to pursue the development uses of the FAO Study "Agriculture: Toward 2000" (AT 2000) report at regional and country levels and for other purposes such as the proposed work on energy.

FOOD AND NUTRITION

INTRODUCING NUTRITION IN AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

121. The Committee, having before it the paper COAG/81/6 - Introducing Nutrition in Agricultural and Rural Development, reviewed the progress made on this subject since its last session. This item was placed on the Agenda in furtherance of the decisions taken by the Conference at its Twentieth Session that food and nutrition be a standing item on the Agenda of every COAG session and as a follow-up to the suggestions and recommendations of the Committee at its Fifth Session. At that session, the Committee had expressed unanimous support to the paper COAG/79/6 - Nutrition in Agriculture, which included an adequate, albeit initial response to Conference Resolution 8/77 on Nutrition. In particular, the Committee had recommended that FAO prepare a report on the results of the provisional guidelines for the introduction of nutritional considerations into agricultural and rural development programmes and projects, after testing their usefulness and applicability with the participation of Member Nations.

122. The document under discussion reported on the progress made in improving the provisional guidelines on the basis of applying the method under field conditions and identifying issues for consideration by the Committee. The document also indicated areas for further work on the method and its application at country level as well as within FAO. Finally, it made suggestions for continued action by FAO and Member Nations towards better nutrition of vulnerable population groups through adequately designed development projects.

123. The Committee confirmed its full acceptance of the importance of this activity and expressed appreciation for the quality of this paper which provided evidence of the progress made in implementing Conference Resolution 8/77 and in following the recommendation made by COAG at its Fifth Session.

124. The Committee emphasized that, while the immediate causes and the expressions of malnutrition vary among and within countries' socio-economic factors such as economic inequality, poverty and socio-economic dependency were always to be found at the root of the problem. Therefore, the application of the proposed approach which aims at integrating nutrition in socio-economic development planning was imperative, to effectively pursue the eradication of hunger and malnutrition. In this connexion, the Committee reiterated the view that nutrition should indeed not be tackled in isolation, but that nutrition objectives and perspectives must be incorporated into all relevant development programmes and projects.

125. The Committee confirmed the leading role played by FAO in promoting this approach and expressed the wish that FAO take initiatives to share its experience and exchange views with UN, other international organizations and bilateral agencies concerned, especially on method development, training procedures and supporting materials.

126. In view of the complexity of the task and of the number of units concerned within FAO, the Committee felt that all Departments and Divisions should cooperate with the Food Policy and Nutrition Division in the application of the procedures for nutrition assessment of their programmes and projects. This would require further strengthening of existing mechanisms.

127. The Committee noted with satisfaction that nutrition was considered not only in relation to agriculture but also in relation to fisheries and forestry and that the subject was appropriately put on the agendas of the next sessions of the Committees on Fisheries (COFI) and Forestry (COFO).

128. The Committee recognized the general usefulness of the Guidelines for introduction of Nutrition Considerations and the practical character of the step by step approach of the procedures. Phases one to three of the FAO procedures were generally considered as particularly useful and of easy application while the in-depth studies described as phase four needed further work towards simplification of the procedures which, as experience had

shown in some countries, were too demanding in terms of time and resources. The Committee emphasized the need for further development of the Guidelines as an outcome of more field experience reflecting specific conditions at the country level.

129. The Committee stressed the need for Member Nations to set up the necessary mechanism for the introduction of nutritional considerations in their development plans, especially in agricultural sector planning. It was important that national institutions and experts participate in using the current Guidelines with a view to improving the applicability of the methodology.

130. The Committee stressed the need for the collection and analysis of disaggregated nutrition data necessary for meaningful nutrition impact assessment. This could be done through the linkage of nutrition surveys with other data collection systems, especially socio-economic and agricultural surveys.

131. The Committee noted that FAO was giving particular attention to the role of women in its nutrition and related programmes and that nutrition activities were closely coordinated with the work in the area of home economics. In view of the importance of women both as essential participants in rural development and as a target group for nutritional improvement, the Committee stressed the need to emphasize the role of the rural women in the Guidelines.

132. The Committee recognized that the meaningful participation of rural people, men and women, should be encouraged in the design, implementation and evaluation of the projects in which they were involved. This was an essential condition for the successful application of the proposed methodology. In this connexion, the Committee stressed the need for organizing general educational programmes at grass root level with special regard to nutritional aspects. To this end the Committee urged FAO to incorporate appropriate procedures for people's participation in the Guidelines.

133. The Committee endorsed the continued FAO efforts in building up the expertise of national staffs concerned with food and nutrition problems. It considered this as a new and efficient way of ensuring an understanding of nutritional implications of development efforts by people engaged in the design and implementation of agricultural and rural development. In support of this approach the usefulness of technical cooperation among developing countries was emphasized. The Committee highlighted the need for training medium-level trainers, male and female, who would multiply the impact of training activities on rural people.

134. The Committee pointed out that training should also emphasize the procedures for selecting and incorporating appropriate nutrition components to supplement the potential impact on the nutrition situation of the worst-off population groups of development projects. Close attention should also be paid to safe drinking water, which was a primary requisite for healthy rural life, and to the availability of fuel wood, the scarcity of which affects cooking practices and, in turn, the quality of the family diet.

135. In view of possible conflicts between economic and social considerations in project formulation, the Committee stressed the need for an evaluation method, linking both economic and nutrition indicators with a view to assist in their resolution. Further development should deal with nutrition-related indicators to be incorporated into project appraisal procedures. Quantifying nutrition impact would facilitate the interaction with project planners. This would also lead to the establishment of effective evaluation and surveillance systems.

136. In order to promote the work of FAO in further developing the method and in enhancing its wide application in countries, the Committee recommended that:

- (i) Case studies be undertaken by FAO in cooperation with the Governments of Member Nations at an early stage in project planning in order to gain further experience in effectively influencing project design for improved nutrition and as a tool for in-service training;

- (ii) FAO take the initiative to organize expanded consultations with international agencies and national institutions engaged in method development, so as to exchange experiences and develop a common body of practical approaches and procedures;
- (iii) National data collection systems be strengthened to identify groups at risk of malnutrition, help prepare periodical country nutrition statements, facilitate nutrition assessment of projects, and provide an effective nutrition surveillance system;
- (iv) Attention be given to the development and publication of training materials as the first step in a comprehensive training programme, with emphasis on middle-level training.

SELECTED DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS

FOLLOW-UP TO WCARRD

137. This item was included in the Agenda by the Fifth Session of the Committee. It was discussed on the basis of document COAG/81/7, which the Committee commended for its comprehensiveness and clarity.

138. The Committee appreciated that FAO, by its follow-up of the WCARRD Programme of Action, had risen to the challenge of its timely and planned implementation. The Committee expressed satisfaction that FAO had actively assumed the responsibilities conferred upon it by the WCARRD Programme of Action and the FAO Conference Resolution 7/79 of November 1979, both in regard to the mandate given to it in areas of its own competence, as well as in regard to its responsibilities as the lead agency in the UN system for rural development. Considering the multi-dimensional nature of this endeavour, the Committee welcomed that suitable institutional arrangements had been made within FAO, including the establishment of the Inter-Departmental Committee for Rural Development, to effectively follow-up this multi-disciplinary programme and that many parts of the Organization had been involved in this work. The importance of having all the Departments of FAO involved in this work was underlined.

139. The Committee expressed its appreciation of FAO's efforts to reorient its own programme of work in the direction of WCARRD priorities, focussing especially on the eradication of rural poverty. The Committee felt strongly that such a reorientation should permeate the whole programme of FAO and all of its units which, in their field activities, should be geared to the needs of the rural poor, small farmers, pastoralists, landless agricultural workers, rural women and youth.

140. The Committee recognized the need for a similar reorientation of the work of the ACC Task Force on Rural Development, for which FAO is the lead agency. The Committee noted that the Task Force had carried out a review and assessment of the whole range of activities including successes achieved and difficulties encountered, especially in its efforts at the country level. In the light of lessons of past experience the Task Force had formulated under FAO's leadership a new programme of work for 1981-83, which concentrates on three major areas of emphasis, country support programme, people's participation, and monitoring and evaluation. These selected activities also reflected priorities as laid down in the WCARRD Programme of Action.

141. The Committee welcomed the inter-country consultations at the regional level as providing an opportunity for countries to plan and coordinate their programmes for WCARRD follow-up. One of the institutions for WCARRD follow-up at the regional level was to be the Regional Rural Development Centres. The Centre for Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) had already been established. Similar centres were in the process of being established in the other three developing regions. It noted that the regional centres would be kept small and that their efficiency would depend on their operation through a network of national institutions, which thus, in fact, would be

strengthened. In regard to the funding of these centres, they were to be financed from a number of sources, including contributions from the countries themselves, as well as earnings from sub-contracts undertaken by the centres.

142. The Committee emphasized the importance of action at the country level as the main focus for WCARRD follow-up. Each country was required by the Programme of Action to formulate strategies and policies for rural development with a focus on poverty alleviation. It urged FAO to help Member Nations, at their request, to review their plans, strategies and programmes or policies. The Committee noted that some countries had already set up National Coordinating Committees to oversee and coordinate plans, policies and action on rural development in the light of WCARRD follow-up. This had to be followed by project formulation and implementation. The Committee supported the assistance provided by the WCARRD follow-up missions to countries in this regard.

143. The Committee, in reviewing the finances available for WCARRD follow-up expressed disappointment that total pledges made by only six donors, amounted so far to only US\$ 9.29 million, which was less than fifty percent of the target of US\$ 20 million. While expressing appreciation to the donors who had made these pledges, the Committee appealed to other potential donors to contribute the balance required to make this programme a success.

144. The Committee considered the four major areas of technical activities presented in the document. The Committee strongly supported the view that people's participation should be central to the WCARRD follow-up programme. The Committee felt, however, that this should not be treated as an isolated programme or project, but should be an underlying component of all FAO projects and programmes. In operational terms, it should be the aim to introduce people's participation in all rural development programmes and projects to be assisted by FAO.

145. The Committee attached great importance to the integration of women in development, as a major component of WCARRD follow-up. This again should not be treated as an isolated programme, but should be woven into all FAO's ongoing and future programmes. The Committee expressed satisfaction at FAO's approach in WCARRD follow-up, which was to proceed simultaneously on two lines, with the first, a strong women's component being built into other FAO programmes of WCARRD follow-up (such as rural training, monitoring and evaluation, etc.) and the second, a separate programme especially addressed to the poor and disadvantaged women's groups. The Committee stressed the need for operational purposes in developing countries, to establish village-based centres to serve not only as service centres but also for training and outreach activities to village women and their organizations.

146. The Committee welcomed the active role provided by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the planning and implementation of activities involving people's participation at the grass-roots level. The Committee noted FAO's consultations with NGOs in the past as well as this year and expressed the view that such consultations should be held periodically. The Committee appreciated the arrangements being made by FAO to associate other concerned organizations in the UN system in this aspect of the WCARRD follow-up programme, through an appropriate panel of the ACC Task Force.

147. The Committee stressed the importance of farmers' training and agricultural extension as part of WCARRD follow-up. Some members of the Committee felt the need to move from a narrower concern with "agricultural extension" to the broader concept of "rural extension". The Committee endorsed the great concern introduced by WCARRD with the social and behavioural aspects in agricultural extension and training for rural development. The Committee noted with interest some of the innovative approaches in farmers' training being undertaken by FAO under WCARRD follow-up, and expressed the desire to be kept informed of such approaches and their results. The Committee felt, however, that nutritional concerns should receive greater attention in WCARRD follow-up, especially in regard to extension and training.

148. The Committee stressed the importance of monitoring and evaluation as envisaged by WCARRD, and strongly endorsed FAO's follow-up programme in this respect. The distinction between the monitoring of poverty alleviation as opposed to the monitoring of the impact of rural development programmes and projects, was appreciated. The Committee agreed with FAO's step by step approach to enable countries to undertake this work on a practicable basis and welcomed the pilot studies proposed to test the feasibility of the indicators and monitoring systems before adoption by the countries. The Committee emphasized that all monitoring systems and socio-economic indicators should be kept as simple as possible, to enable them to be adopted easily by the countries.

149. In regard to the overall programme for WCARRD follow-up, the Committee in general expressed appreciation of the overall content of the Programme, and the substantial accomplishments achieved in the short period since the World Conference. Subject to its earlier comments, the Committee supported the type, adequacy and direction of the programmes and activities planned and implemented by FAO under WCARRD follow-up.

150. The Committee recommended the introduction of the socio-economic concerns of WCARRD into the agro-technical aspects, since they would give a different perspective to the latter. Such concerns would necessitate new research and production priorities, institutional and technological systems geared to the production needs and possibilities of the small farmers, rural women and other rural poor. This, in turn, would have implications for different cropping patterns for small farmers, diversified production systems such as integrated production of crops and livestock, aquaculture, and labour-intensive technologies for agricultural and rural development. These concerns should be given adequate attention over the short and medium-term in the FAO's Programme of Work. The Committee stressed the importance of orienting agricultural credit and financing to service the needs of small farmers.

151. Lastly, the Committee felt that it had a positive role to play in WCARRD follow-up, since it was the appropriate forum to examine the agro-technical and socio-economic aspects of development as well as to exchange relevant technical and substantive experience between countries relating to the follow-up to the WCARRD Programme of Action. In view of the need to maintain a high priority for integrated effort in rural development, the Committee agreed that further consideration of this subject take place at its next Session.

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

152. This item had been proposed for discussion as a selected development issue by the Committee at its Fifth Session. The Committee discussed the item on the basis of the paper COAG/81/8 - Soil and Water Conservation.

153. The paper concentrated on the alarming rate of deterioration of agricultural land and water resources through land degradation and soil erosion, especially in developing countries. It outlined the responsibility for action in soil conservation, the strategies for conservation of land resources and the respective action needed by governments, as well as FAO's present and future activities. The paper also contained proposals for four different projects on soil conservation, which were offered as examples for consideration by interested countries. In Addendum 1 a first draft of a World Soil Charter was proposed for discussion.

154. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the concise treatment of this complex issue. It stressed that soil degradation was a major threat to world food production and the expansion and intensification of FAO's involvement in this field was therefore welcomed by the Committee.

155. The Committee noted that land degradation directly affected agriculture by diminishing crop yields, food supplies and water resources. However, other sectors of the economy and the environment as a whole were often seriously affected as well. Thus, the measures

necessary to arrest and reverse the land degradation process were the concern of both rural and urban communities. It is a national and international problem of concern to all governments and planners as well as farmers.

156. The Committee discussed the important causes of soil degradation and soil erosion. It recognized that many of the problems basically stemmed from socio-economic causes, mainly related to the pressure of human and animal populations.

157. The Committee stressed the need for more socio-economic surveys to balance available information on land use studies, even though such surveys might touch on sensitive areas, e.g. social customs and political considerations.

158. The Committee noted with alarm that large areas of mostly good agricultural land were being increasingly lost to non-agricultural land use, such as urbanization, mining and industry. These constituted a threat to hard-earned gains from increased agricultural productivity in recent years.

159. The Committee stressed the urgent need for creating amongst politicians, administrators, planners, extension workers and farmers, and amongst the community as a whole, awareness of the scope, danger and problem of soil degradation and of the possibilities of preventing it. FAO was urged to mount a worldwide publicity campaign on the subject, including a massive training effort.

160. The Committee fully agreed that the main responsibility for initiating and carrying out soil conservation programmes remained with governments, in view of the complexity and the importance of such programmes for the community as a whole. The active participation of land users was essential for the successful implementation of erosion control programmes, but this issue required the introduction of incentives such as credit, subsidies and tax relief.

161. The Committee noted that more information was required on the economics of land degradation and soil conservation practices, and urged that there should be more research in this field. At the same time, it was pointed out that conservation works need not always be complicated and expensive, and that small farmers were often able to undertake simple and effective erosion control measures at low cost.

162. The Committee agreed that the principles of using the land in accordance with its capabilities, and comprehensive land use planning, should form the basis for any long-term land use policy. It urged that integrated improved land use practices be introduced in conjunction with soil erosion control techniques. It also urged that special attention be given to the problems of arid and semi-arid regions and to those areas affected by shifting cultivation. The role of afforestation, forest management and agro-forestry in establishing appropriate land management was stressed. The Committee welcomed FAO's approach that soil conservation must be based on a better understanding of the environment and not on simply mechanical methods of erosion control.

163. In the future, soil conservation activities should be based more on the development of better cropping systems and land husbandry which would lead to increased productivity as well as the conservation of the soil. Greater efforts should be made to increase the productivity of the higher grade land so that pressure could be taken off marginal lands. Good productive land should be protected at all times and the introduction of soil conservation methods should not be delayed until the land had already begun to erode.

164. Recognizing the extreme shortage of trained soil conservation staff at different levels in most countries, the Committee recommended that FAO and the countries themselves place greater emphasis on training and that a training component be incorporated in all soil conservation programmes. The dissemination of information to extension workers and farmers should be intensified. Some Members of the Committee offered the use of facilities for training in their countries.

165. It was suggested that FAO further develop and strengthen its contacts with well established Soil Conservation Services and avail itself of their expertise and experience.

166. The Committee noted that research had fallen behind in some cases. More research was required to develop farming systems which give viable alternatives to shifting cultivation and the use of marginal agricultural lands. It was stressed that research should be adaptive and lead to simple recommendations that were easily understood by land users. Further research was also required to develop conservation methods which did not result in the loss of agricultural land.

167. The Committee recognized the importance of preventing soil erosion but also emphasized that other forms of land degradation, such as salinity and waterlogging, should not be overlooked. In some countries, degradation was now so far advanced that the emphasis must be on reclamation rather than merely soil conservation. More emphasis should be placed on prevention since reclamation and restoration of degraded soil had proved to be expensive.

168. Attention was drawn to the important role of the establishment of forage crops to reduce grazing pressures and to improve vegetative cover, and also to the establishment of tree plantations as an effective tool for controlling erosion.

169. The Committee stressed the need to build administrative units, as required, and appropriate, responsible for the institutional capability for carrying out soil conservation programmes, as an important step in tackling national land degradation problems and/or strengthening existing units in this field.

170. The Committee fully recognized the importance of soil conservation legislation as a means of supporting soil conservation programmes.

171. The Committee drew attention to the concept of catchments and watersheds as the management units for soil and water conservation. Within watersheds, the protection of reservoir catchments must receive early consideration, ahead of dam construction, to safeguard the investment against the damage due to erosion and sedimentation.

172. Attention was drawn to the usefulness of establishing pilot demonstration areas, in combination with other extension activities, to disseminate information on erosion control methods to rural populations. Conservation activities should not be looked at in isolation but should be included in normal extension work.

173. In view of the multi-disciplinary nature of soil conservation, catchment and watershed management activities, the Committee strongly supported an inter-disciplinary approach to soil and water conservation, in which it hoped the work of FAO's Inter-departmental Working Group would be effective.

174. The need for regional projects in the field of soil conservation and watershed management was fully endorsed by the Committee as a means of creating further awareness of the problem and of developing national soil conservation programmes to provide the opportunity of sharing experiences amongst participating developing countries and to strengthen training activities in the context of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC). Attention was drawn to the Regional Project on Soil Conservation for Latin America, which was at an advanced preparatory stage, and which was discussed and supported by a resolution at the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America, in Havana, Cuba, in September 1980. Similar Regional Projects were in preparation for Africa, Asia and the Near East.

175. The Committee considered the four country project proposals, as outlined in COAG 81/8, to be useful, although it was pointed out that any complete soil conservation programme should contain components from all four proposals and be adjusted to the requirements and to the activities already underway in the countries concerned.

176. The Committee considered a draft proposal for a World Soil Charter (COAG/81/1-Add.1) and considered it to be a satisfactory first draft. It agreed to Annex this draft, to the present Report (as Appendix F) so as to bring it to the attention of the Council. The suggestions made by the Committee would be taken into account in the preparation of a second draft.

177. The Committee suggested that in the report on follow-up activities on this item to be presented at the Seventh Session of the Committee on Agriculture, an evaluation of the performance, the impact of FAO's activities in the countries, and the problems encountered should be included.

ENERGY IN AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

178. This item was placed on the agenda at the request of the Director-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee after the Director-General identified energy as one of the priority areas requiring the attention of FAO in the 1982-83 biennium and beyond. Discussion of the subject by COAG as the technical body concerned was considered by the Director-General as an important prelude to the formulation of FAO's policy on the subject by the Twenty-First Session of the FAO Conference.

179. The Committee expressed its appreciation of the inclusion of this topic on its Agenda, as in its view this problem was one of focal interest in the current situation of agriculture and for its future development around the world. The Committee also felt that the concise presentation of this complex and important topic in the background paper, COAG/81/9, had greatly helped in its deliberations.

180. The paper concentrated on the complex issues of energy and agriculture including the use of energy in agriculture, the production of energy from agriculture, and the role of agriculture within rural energy systems. National and international issues related to energy and agriculture and the medium-term action needed to respond to these issues were also presented.

181. The Committee noted the relatively small quantity of commercial energy used in agriculture at present but also noted that demand was increasing. It recognized the importance of commercial energy-based inputs such as fertilizers, farm machinery, pesticides and pump irrigation in agricultural production. It also noted the close link between energy use and agricultural production in which each one percent growth of production is associated with a rise of more than two percent in the input of commercial energy as shown by the FAO Study "Agriculture: Toward 2000". The Committee fully supported the emphasis on the need for countries to ensure that their agriculture sectors received the supplies of commercial energy required to develop and exploit their production potential.

182. While supporting increased energy inputs in agriculture in developing countries, the Committee also supported the need to place emphasis on the conservation of energy and to adopt energy-efficient practices, techniques and production systems.

183. In this context, more effective use of farm machinery, more precise and timely fertilizer placement, more efficient use of irrigation water, and the rational use of pesticides through integrated pest control were particularly emphasized. The Committee supported FAO activities in this area and identified energy conservation in agricultural production as a priority area for FAO attention.

184. Some Members of the Committee mentioned that an important area for saving energy was in the off-farm parts of the food systems of developed countries. In some cases higher transport costs might make it necessary to relocate the production of certain commodities. The developing countries should be on their guard against the growth of high energy-using food systems of the kind found in developed countries.

185. Strong efforts to substitute and supplement non-renewable energy sources with renewable sources was singled out by the Committee as a priority area both for FAO and national action. Plant breeding for better energy conversion and biological nitrogen fixation ability; greater utilization of crop and livestock residues as organic fertilizers; and increased use of legumes and other nitrogen fixing plants in appropriate farm systems, such as crop-rotations, were important means for achieving those objectives.

186. The greater use of alternative sources of energy, such as solar, wind, small scale hydro-power, peat and geothermal energy in agriculture and rural development were also stressed as areas requiring the attention of FAO, other international organizations and Governments of Member Nations.

187. A number of Members of the Committee requested that FAO encourage: (i) the establishment of pilot projects based on appropriate renewable energy systems at the village and farm level in developing countries, and (ii) the establishment of joint coordinated applied research and development programmes between national institutions of developed and developing countries in order to define appropriate technologies for the production and use of renewable energy in agriculture and rural development.

188. The Committee noted the importance and suitability of draught animal power (DAP) in many countries, especially in small farming operations, as a tool for increasing agricultural production. As one of the main sources of power to the small farmer, it was more fairly and evenly distributed as a source of energy in the developing countries.

189. The Committee noted that the Secretariat of the UN Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy (UNCNRSE) had asked FAO to undertake a survey of the state of the art of DAP on a global scale. The Committee felt that more support by FAO for specific action programmes were required to increase the spread and effectiveness of DAP in Member Nations; however, some Members of the Committee noted that caution must be exercised when expanding or introducing DAP as in some situations land would be required to produce animal feed which could be used to produce additional food.

190. The Committee agreed that the move from non-renewable to renewable energy sources would have to rely on a wide range of diverse sources of energy. Besides wind, sun and hydro-energy, bio-mass provided the largest potentials. Within the bio-mass available wood was dominant, but locally available by-products from crop and livestock production, or products from energy cropping were important, and should be increasingly used.

191. The Committee stressed the continuing importance of wood as a major source of renewable energy in the rural sector. While recognizing this, some Members of the Committee however have questioned whether wood was the most effective energy source. Fuelwood was traditionally the major source of energy for cooking and heating for hundreds of millions of households in developing countries. With increasing population pressures fuelwood resources were being rapidly depleted with serious consequences not only for the subsistence of rural people but also on the stability of the environment on which agriculture depended.

192. The Committee emphasized the need for practical action to increase fuelwood production and to improve the efficiency of its conversion into energy: this would contribute to solving the rural energy problem and it would also have beneficial environmental effects on food crops.

193. Solutions existed for combining energy with other production and protection objectives in forest establishment and management and for integrating tree growing for fuel in agricultural practices. This was identified as an important area of concern for FAO and the Committee supported the stand and the recommendations adopted by the Fifth Session of the Committee on Forestry and thereafter endorsed by the Seventy-Eighth Session of the FAO Council.

194. Many cases were quoted to the Committee of successful national efforts to utilize crop and livestock production by-products as sources of energy. Biogas production from dung was holding out great promise. An exchange of information on technologies developing in different parts of the world for this purpose was also seen as worthy of additional support. Some Members of the Committee affirmed that dung was better used as fertilizer than as fuel, since dung was frequently the major source of fertilization in many poor regions of the world.

195. The Committee took note of the information provided on the development of programmes for producing commercial liquid fuels from agriculture through energy cropping, and drew attention to both the benefits and potential disadvantages of such programmes.

196. The Committee recognized that, with the exception of a very few countries, energy cropping was in a pilot or experimental stage, but it agreed that major expansion of the conversion of food commodities or the use of food production resources for energy production might in some cases have detrimental effects on food importing countries, especially among the poorest strata of their populations.

197. The Committee recognized that the development of energy cropping would be strongly influenced by future relative prices of energy and the evolution of conversion technologies, and the land potential for producing the relevant raw materials. In this connexion, it was emphasized that there were large differences between individual countries and they might have different approaches towards energy cropping, depending on the level of their self-sufficiency in food and energy sources, especially liquid fuels.

198. The potential competition between food production and energy cropping was seen by the Committee to be directly relevant to issues of World Food Security. The Secretariat was requested to forward the relevant parts of the present Report to the session of the Committee on World Food Security to commence on 8 April 1981 in Rome.

199. The consensus of the Committee was that FAO should become active in monitoring price and supply changes in cereals and other basic food staples under the impact of increasing energy use of food commodities so that timely action could be taken to avert major food shortages for the vulnerable segments of the world population. This also made it desirable that when governments planned national action for energy cropping, they should bring into their decisions the potential international effects of such programmes.

200. The Committee also suggested that FAO should extend technical assistance, within the availability of resources, to countries which plan to embark on energy cropping programmes, and in general should act as a clearing house for technical and economic information relevant to energy cropping and the related conversion process technologies.

201. It was considered that effective development and management of rural energy use and production could be best achieved within the framework of total rural energy systems. This called for a better understanding of the energy flows in local rural economic and social units, such as villages or small market towns and their environs. It also called for those who dealt with the individual components of the system to take the whole picture into account when considering changes.

202. The Committee supported the view that the analysis of rural energy use and production within the conceptual framework of "rural energy systems" helped to understand complex interrelations and provide a clearer perception of opportunities for improvements. It emphasized that the use of such a concept would require refinement, if it were to have practical applications.

203. Seeing rural energy use and production as a system greatly helped in considering a wide range of use of different available sources. Such use included cooking and heating. The opportunities to increase greatly the efficiency of energy used in the household was emphasized by the Committee, thereby reducing pressure on local biomass fuels.

204. The Committee agreed that in the formulation of rural energy policies it was necessary to take cognizance of the specific situation of each country and the need for an overall national energy policy framework with particular emphasis on the needs of agriculture. International technical assistance, including that of FAO, would be useful for this purpose.

205. Priority to monitoring and assessing the impacts of changing energy prices on agriculture in support of adjustments necessitated by the changing energy situation, was considered desirable. Guidance should be given on the choice and development of alternative energy sources for agriculture and energy output from agriculture.

206. A number of Members of the Committee expressed support for the European Cooperative Research Network for Rural Energy, the establishment of which was agreed upon in the FAO Regional Conference for Europe in Athens in 1980. The Committee was also informed about the First Session planned for October 1981 and expressed its thanks to France for offering to host the session and for its financial support towards it. The Committee felt that this network could also provide useful information for developing countries and might also serve as an example in the formulation of similar regional networks among developing countries.

207. It was noted that FAO was actively collaborating with the Secretariat of the UN Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy in the preparations for the Conference. In particular FAO had provided the technical secretariat of the Fuelwood and Charcoal Panel with basic material and assisted in the preparation of the report on draught animals. It had also actively participated in the panel meetings on biomass and solar energy, and in the ad hoc Expert Meetings on rural energy, including agriculture, finance and information.

208. The Committee took note that along with its recommendations, a plan of action to be adopted by the Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy would contribute to the formulation of FAO's programme activities in the field of energy for rural development.

209. The Committee accepted the relevance of the medium-term action programme to the issues of energy and agriculture and felt that it provided useful guidelines for the medium-term programme of FAO in this area.

210. The Committee noted that the energy related components of the work of COAG, COFO and COFI were to be effectively coordinated through the existence of the Interdepartmental Working Group on Natural Resources and the Human Environment whose mandate had been recently extended by the Director-General to cover also the area of energy and agriculture.

211. The Committee suggested that a report on follow-up activities on this item be presented at its Seventh Session.

OTHER MATTERS

Other business

212. 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, would prepare a provisional agenda for its Seventh Session.

213. The Committee reiterated the recommendation made at its Fifth Session that the final selection of subjects should take into account the need to ensure a satisfactory balance between technical and socio-economic areas of work and a reasonable coverage over time of the various Programmes falling within the competence of the Committee.

214. In addition to the standing agenda items dealing with the Implementation of the Programme of Work, the Medium- and Long-Term Outlook for Food and Agricultural Development, the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for Chapter 2.1 and Nutrition respectively, the Committee recommended that the following topics be considered for possible inclusion in the provisional agenda dealing with selected development problems:

- Plant Protection - Development of a Global Strategy
- Animal Health (National and International Strategies of Action)
- Follow-up to WCARRD with special reference to the Role of Women in Agricultural Production

215. A large number of members of the Committee suggested that follow-up of WCARRD be considered again as a topic for the next COAG Session and a few among them felt that this should become a standing item of the agenda. It was also suggested that the role of women in agricultural production as well as people's participation, should be discussed as part of the proposed item on the follow-up to WCARRD. Other Members of the Committee, however, supported the proposal for a separate item on the Role of Women in Agricultural Production.

216. A number of Members of the Committee suggested that Agro-industries and Food Processing be an agenda item at the next session.

217. Some Members of the Committee expressed the view that the number of technical topics for in-depth discussion be limited as it was not possible to provide too wide a range of technical expertise in the delegations. A possible approach to this matter in future sessions would be to review in-depth at each COAG Session one of the eight programmes constituting Major Programme 2.1 Agriculture.

Date and Place of Next Session

218. In accordance with Rule XXXII-3 GRO and Rule II of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee recommended that its Seventh Session should be held in Rome in March-April 1983. It further recommended that the Director-General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, propose the exact dates and ensure that the Session was scheduled before the Spring sessions of the Programme and Finance Committees to enable them to consider the recommendations of COAG.

APPENDIX A

AGENDA FOR THE SIXTH SESSION

INTRODUCTION

1. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen
2. Adoption of the Agenda

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

3. Implementation of the Programme of Work 1980-81
4. Medium- and Long-Term Outlook for Food and Agricultural Development
5. Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1982-83

FOOD AND NUTRITION

6. Introducing Nutrition in Agricultural and Rural Development Projects

SELECTED DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS

7. Follow-up to WCARRD
8. Soil and Water Conservation
9. Energy in Agriculture and Rural Development

OTHER MATTERS

10. Other Business
11. Date and Place of Next Session

REPORT

12. Adoption of the Report

APPENDIX BLIST OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Afghanistan	Gambia	New Zealand
Algeria	Germany, Fed. Rep.	Nicaragua
Angola	Ghana	Nigeria
Argentina	Greece	Norway
Australia	Guatemala	Pakistan
Austria	Guinea	Panama
Bangladesh	Guyana	Peru
Belgium	Honduras	Philippines
Benin	Hungary	Poland
Brazil	India	Portugal
Bulgaria	Indonesia	Romania
Cameroon	Iran	Rwanda
Canada	Iraq	Senegal
Chile	Ireland	Sierra Leone
China	Israel	Spain
Colombia	Italy	Sri Lanka
Congo	Ivory Coast	Sudan
Costa Rica	Jamaica	Suriname
Cuba	Japan	Sweden
Cyprus	Kenya	Switzerland
Czechoslovakia	Korea, Rep.	Tanzania
Denmark	Lesotho	Thailand
Dominican Republic	Liberia	Tunisia
Ecuador	Libya	Turkey
Egypt	Malawi	Uganda
El Salvador	Malaysia	United Kingdom
Ethiopia	Malta	United States of America
Fiji	Mauritania	Uruguay
Finland	Mexico	Venezuela
France	Morocco	Yugoslavia
Gabon	Netherlands	Zaire
		Zambia

المرفق ج
APPENDIX C
ANNEXE C
APENDICE C
 附件三

قائمة الممثلين والمراقبين
LIST OF DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS
LISTE DES DELEGUES ET OBSERVATEURS
LISTA DE DELEGADOS Y OBSERVADORES
 代表和观察员名单

الرئيس

Chairman : Sidaty Aidara (Senegal)
 Président :
 Presidente :
 主席

النائب الأول للرئيس

First Vice-Chairman : Norman W. Tape (Canada)
 Premier Vice-Président :
 Primer Vicepresidente :
 第一副主席

النائب الثاني للرئيس

Second Vice-Chairman : Jan Schwarz (Czechoslovakia)
 Deuxième Vice Président :
 Segundo Vicepresidente :
 第二副主席

أعضاء اللجنةMEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEEMEMBRES DU COMITEMIEMBROS DEL COMITEAFGHANISTAN/AFGANISTAN

Representative

G.S. AKBARI
 President of Mechanization
 Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reforms
 Kabul

Alternate

M.H. KESHTYAR
 President, Forestry and Pastures Department
 Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reforms
 Kabul

ALGERIA/ALGERIE/ARGELIA/ الجزائر

Représentant

K. NOURREDINE
 Directeur général
 Ministère de l'Agriculture
 Alger

مندوب

السيد / ك ° نور الدين
 مدير عام
 وزارة الزراعة - الجزائر

ANGOLA

Représentant

T.F. ALMEIDA
 Chargé d'affaires
 Ambassade de la République populaire d'Angola
 Rome

ARGENTINA/ARGENTINE

Representante

F. PETRELLA
 Representante Permanente Titular ante la FAO
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Suplente

J. DEL AGUILA
 Buenos Aires

Suplente

C. SANCHEZ AVALOS
 Consejero Agrícola
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Australian Embassy
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Alternate

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Austrian Embassy
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Representative

S. LATIF
Economic Minister and Alternate Permanent Representative
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Embassy of Bangladesh
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Minister Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representation of the People's Republic of
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中华人民共和国常驻粮农组织代表处全权公使

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王 炳 忠

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Embajada de la República de Colombia
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Suplente

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Primer Secretario de la Embajada de Colombia ante la
FAO
Roma

Suplente

J. GODIN DIAZ
Tercer Secretario de la Embajada de Colombia ante la
FAO
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COSTA RICA

Representante

F.J. GUARDIA ALVARADO
Ministro Plenipotenciario
Representante Permanente de Costa Rica ante la FAO
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Suplente

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Representante Permanente Alternativo de Costa Rica ante la
FAO
Roma

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Representante

P.A. MORALES CARBALLO
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Representación Permanente de la República de Cuba
ante la FAO
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Encargada de negocios, A.I.
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General Director of Planning
Ministry of Agriculture
Dokki Giza

مندوب

السيد / م * نور السيد نور
مدير عام التخطيط والمتابعة
وزارة الزراعة
الدقي - جيزة

Alternate

Y.A. HAMDI
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Rome

مناوب

السيد / يحيى يوسف حمدى
مناوب المندوب الدائم لمصر لدى المنظمة
روما

EL SALVADOR

Representante

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Représentant

B. DOUKAGA-KOUMBA
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 Rural
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لدى المنظمة
المكتب الشعبي للجماهيرية العربية الليبية الشعبية الاشتراكية - روما

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السيد م * أ * م * ابراهيم
 مندوب المندوب الدائم للسودان لدى المنظمة
 روما

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OBSERVATEURS D'ETATS MEMBRES NE SIEGEANT PAS AU COMITE
OBSERVADORES DE LOS ESTADOS MIEMBROS QUE NO SON MIEMBROS DEL COMITE

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APPENDIX DLIST OF DOCUMENTS

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3	Implementation of the Programme of Work 1980-81
3 Corr. 1	Corrigendum to above
3 Add. 1	Implementation of the Programme of Work 1980-81
4	Medium- and Long-Term Outlook for Food and Agricultural Development
5	Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1982-83
6	Introducing Nutrition in Agricultural and Rural Development
7	WCARRD Follow-up
8	Soil and Water Conservation
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9	Energy in Agriculture and Rural Development
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	2 Information for Delegates
	3 List of Participants
	4 List of Member Nations of the Committee

OPENING STATEMENTAPPENDIX E

to the

FAO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

by

Dr. Ralph W. Phillips

Deputy Director-General, FAO

Rome, Italy - 25 March 1981

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee,
Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is, indeed, a pleasure to welcome you, on behalf of the Director-General, to this Sixth Session of the Committee on Agriculture.

When I opened the Fifth Session in April 1979 some of you will recall that I gave a rather detailed account of the history of the Committee and its predecessor panels and committees in the Conference from 1945 through 1967. I shall not repeat those details here, but will again make one point I made at the beginning of my statement two years ago - that the Committee on Agriculture provides the most important single channel through which you, as professional agriculturalists and as agricultural spokesmen for FAO's member countries, may make your contributions to the policy-making and planning of this Organization.

Interest in the work of the Committee on the parts of member countries has generally been high, although it has been somewhat variable, as measured by the numbers of member countries formally represented by Delegations. In the First and Second Sessions there were 64 and 63 Delegations, respectively. In the Third Session the number dropped back to fifty-one. This may have been a consequence of some of the growing-pains encountered in the early sessions, when the Committee was still finding its feet; problems which arose to a considerable extent from the fact that the Committee is called upon to deal with a very broad field of work, and the related fact that - owing to the breadth of the agricultural field - there is not the same cohesion and community of interest and the sense of fraternity that prevails in the sister committees dealing with Fisheries and Forestry. But, as those initial problems were overcome, participation increased to sixty-eight Delegations in the Fourth Session and 75 in the Fifth Session.

As of 20 March, the number of member countries that had signified a desire to participate in the work of the Committee during the present biennium was eighty-six.

Before turning to the substance of your Session, I should perhaps add just a bit of additional historical information, for the benefit of those who are new to the Committee. In June 1970, following the establishment of a Committee on Fisheries, and a decision by the Conference that a Committee on Forestry should be established, the Programme Committee noted that a problem of balance had arisen since there was no comparable body to deal with the work of the Agriculture Department and the Economic and Social Policy Department. I must admit to having been the one who raised that issue in the Programme Committee. The initial expression of concern was followed up in the November 1970 session of the Programme Committee, when it recommended the establishment of a Committee on Agriculture.

The Council endorsed this recommendation at its Fifty-Fifth Session, late in 1970, and a year later the Conference took the formal action to establish the Committee, under Article V-6 of the Constitution. I also participated in these actions of the Council and

Conference, and then had the honor of serving as my country's Delegate to the First, Second and Third Sessions, respectively, of this Committee in April of 1972, 1974 and 1975. So you will understand that I have a certain vested interest in seeing your Committee succeed.

Those of you who have attended earlier sessions will, of course, be aware that - owing to the broad field of work covered by the two Departments - it has been necessary for the Committee to be quite selective and to limit its discussions in each session to a small number of topics of major current interest. In the present session, you will be considering four substantive Items of a recurring nature: Items 3, 4 and 5 which relate to the Organization's Programme of Work in the food and agricultural sector, and one (Item 6) to introducing nutrition in agricultural and rural developments projects. This latter Item on a special aspect of nutrition has been included in line with a decision of the Committee in its Fifth Session that food and nutrition should be a standing item on the Agenda of every COAG session. In addition to these four recurring Items, you will be considering three selected development issues, your Agenda Items 7, 8 and 9. Before turning to these specific Items, let me say a few words about the overall world food and agricultural situation.

Since you met two years ago, there has been a serious worsening in the world food situation. This has led the Director-General to declare a state of global alert. The FAO Council late last year shared the grave concern expressed by the Director-General that the food situation had become alarming, particularly in Africa, and that the world faced a potential food crisis in 1981. There has been virtually no change in world food production in 1979 and 1980 and in the developed market economies, on which food importing countries are now so dependent for their supplies, there was a 1.8 percent decline in food production. In the developing countries, there were some welcome gains in total food output in both 1979 and 1980 but in per caput terms there was a decline in 1979 and virtually no improvement in 1980. Including non-food commodities in the assessment makes the performance of the world's agricultural sector appear, if anything, marginally worse. There was a marked slowing down in the latter half of the 1970s.

For the second year in succession, world cereal production was not sufficient to meet current consumption needs, and as a result, cereal stocks had to be drawn down further. We estimate that by the end of the current crop seasons, total world carryovers of wheat, coarse grains and rice will have declined to 213 million tons, approaching the level relative to consumption they reached in the world food crisis of the early seventies. At this level, they are below the margin of safety needed for world food security. It is, therefore, critically important that cereal production should increase in 1981 to meet growing demand and to replenish stocks. We estimate that world cereal production will have to increase by at least four percent to meet consumption requirements next year and by 8 percent to restore stocks to a reasonable level.

There has been an increase in the area of wintersown grains in the Northern Hemisphere which, with average weather conditions, should ensure some recovery in grain crops in 1981. For wheat, in particular, there are specific indications pointing to a larger crop since crop conditions so far have been good and the harvest is near at hand. Other major world cereal crops, however, especially maize and rice, still have to be sown and we have to wait for several more months before the crop outlook can be assessed.

It is the situation in Africa that causes us most concern. Per caput food production there has declined again, for the third time in the past five years. More than a score of sub-Saharan countries are currently suffering acute shortages resulting from drought conditions, made worse in some instances by influxes of large numbers of refugees. The plight of these African countries led the Director-General to convene an informal meeting in September last year at or following which a number of donor countries made emergency commitments to provide additional supplies of grain. A substantial proportion of the import requirements of the twenty-six countries concerned, however, remains uncovered.

As might be expected, these developments in the grain trade have brought about sharp increases in grain prices which, along with rising freight rates and costs of fertilizers and energy, have added to the difficulties of the developing countries. Of particular concern

is the marked rise in the prices of fertilizers, prices of several important types having increased by 20 to 30 percent over the past year.

Price inflation has become more serious in nearly all countries, both developed and developing, and preliminary data for 1980 show a further acceleration. In developed countries, consumer prices rose by about 11 percent compared with 8 percent in 1979 but some deceleration is expected in 1981. In developing countries there was a considerable increase in consumer food prices in 1980.

Also, unhappily the threats posed to world agriculture by pests and diseases have not abated. However, the major upsurge of the Desert Locust which developed in 1978 was brought under control by early 1979, with FAO playing an important coordinating role. In 1980, it was the turn of the African Migratory Locust, which experienced its first major upsurge in many years in the Lake Chad basin. Again, control measures were taken and the upsurge has been contained. Now an upsurge of this Locust is developing in the southern part of Madagascar, where control measures are being undertaken. The Western Hemisphere is still faced with a threat to its pig industry from African Swine Fever, which was introduced into some Latin American countries in 1978, a further outbreak being reported in 1980. Several new outbreaks of Rinderpest also have occurred in West Africa. In both regions, FAO is providing assistance under the Technical Cooperation Programme.

It is too early to say how far the levels of dietary energy supplies have been affected by the adverse developments of the past two years, since comprehensive data are available only up to 1978. In that year, average daily per caput calorie levels were still below requirements in Africa and in the Far East. In the MSA countries they were estimated to be only 92 percent of requirements. It may be conjectured that in the two following years, with little improvement, or even declines, in per caput food production, the nutritional status in developing countries, with the possible exception of Latin America and the Asian centrally planned economies as a whole, has deteriorated.

Food aid commitments and allocations are still short of the target of 10 million tons proposed in 1974 by the World Food Conference and they now represent a much lower proportion of cereal imports of the developing countries. However, the writing of increased commitments into the new Food Aid Convention which came into force on 1 July 1980 was a positive step. There has been an increase also in contributions to the International Emergency Food Reserve, and a proposal to establish it as a legally binding convention is being discussed. Some worthwhile progress can also be recorded in the collective self-reliance initiatives recommended in the FAO Plan of Action on World Food Security, notably the agreement of the ASEAN governments to establish a food security reserve in the region and the proposal to set up a regional food reserve in the Sahel, on which FAO is completing a feasibility study. It gives us some satisfaction also to be able to report a high level of activity in FAO's Food Security Assistance Scheme aimed at improving food security through training and advice on stock management and the construction of storage facilities. But contributions to this Scheme have not kept up with demand, and retrenchment will be necessary unless the flow of resources is stepped up.

Unfortunately, but as might be expected in a time of economic recession and budgetary stringency, flows of official commitments of external assistance to agriculture have declined. In constant prices, there was a 9 percent decrease in these commitments in 1979, the first decrease since 1975. It does not appear likely that a significant improvement will be recorded for 1980.

Under Agenda Item 3, you will be discussing the "Implementation of the Programme of Work 1980/81". The document that you have received contains an analysis, in terms of the approved programme structures, of the achievement since the last session of COAG with special reference to priority areas. Each section contains a review of linkages with other programmes. Since the document was prepared half-way through the current biennium, it deals fully with 1980 but only contains references to activities envisaged for 1981. These will be more fully analysed in the Organization-wide "Review of the Regular Programme 1980-81" which will be presented to the Twenty-First Session of the Conference next November. In pursuance of a recommendation

by the Committee, you have also been provided with a progress report on each of the selected development problems which were discussed at the Committee's Fifth Session, namely "Nutrition in Agriculture and Rural Development", "On-Farm Use of Water" and "Agricultural Mechanization and its Effects on Employment and Income Distribution". These are being tabled as addenda to COAG 81/3.

Item 4 of your Agenda provides a summary of the long and medium-term outlook for world agriculture, and in turn provides the objectives for development towards which FAO's Programme of Work is oriented. The long-term future of world agriculture would offer truly bleak prospects for developing countries and within them for the poor and hungry if the present and recent past trends continue. On the other hand, FAO's perspective study of world agricultural development "Agriculture: Toward 2000" shows that a better world could be a possibility if governments give agriculture and food a sufficiently high priority in their development plans, policies and programmes and if the world community provides appropriate support for them. Growth of production could be accelerated by extending the area of crops, and above all a major increase in yields would be necessary. This implies considerable increases in those inputs and investments, such as fertilizers and improved seeds, and irrigation, which help intensification. Parallel to the efforts to increase production, large efforts will be required towards better asset and income distribution so that increases in income reach the poor and thereby enable them to more adequately cover their dietary needs.

The General Assembly of the United Nations, at its 1980 Session, adopted the text of a New International Development Strategy to mark the beginning of the Third UN Development Decade. This political-level Strategy indicates certain goals for the food and agriculture sector, and high among them is the elimination of hunger and malnutrition by the end of the century, to be achieved by a targeted average annual rate of increase in agricultural production of at least four percent.

The implications of these longer-term needs for FAO's medium-term programme are clear, and they emphasize the importance of increased and improved actions across a broad front. These are presented to you under the structure of the Programmes of the Director-General's Summary Programme of Work and Budget. The three main priority areas announced by the Director-General need to be kept in mind when translating them into the 1981-83 action proposals of the Organization. Higher food security, calling both for major increases in production and its handling in a manner which reduces losses and provides for lean years, is the first among these. Placing emphasis on the solution for the food problems of Africa is a special case of creating food security on a continent where the recent past has seen increasing food problems. Much of the medium-term programme and outlook reflects the major changes which will have to occur in the institutions serving agriculture and in measures which will reduce the plight of the poor as recommended in the resolutions of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. Finally, the shadow cast by rising energy prices and potential shortages calls for a wide-ranging set of actions to make optimal use of energy in agriculture, whether it comes from renewable or non-renewable sources. Depending on policies, the potential for producing energy from agriculture may be seen as a boon or a threat to world agriculture.

I have touched upon the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1982-83 only in quite general terms, since this is not the place where that subject can be examined in detail. You have only one sector of the overall Programme before you, and in any event, the detailed examination will take place in the Programme and Finance Committees, the Council and the Conference. In this connexion, it should also be recalled that the Council, in June 1975, agreed that the Committee should continue to focus on the general lines of work and broad aspects of agricultural development rather than on a comprehensive review of the various specific activities.

In the past, the Committee has expressed its concern that, despite development efforts, large numbers of people in member countries remain undernourished, and has stressed the need to redress the problem of access to food. The guidelines of Nutrition in Agriculture, which were presented to and discussed by the Committee at its Fifth Session, have since been tested in several diverse settings. The methodology, which basically asks "Do the undernourished benefit from development?", and its application in six country projects, are described in the document

which you will discuss under Agenda Item 6. The work which has been done has shown that there is considerable scope for improving the nutritional effects of development projects if nutritional needs are explicitly taken into consideration in the design of agricultural and rural development projects, in the selection of project beneficiaries and participants, and in the monitoring and evaluation of such projects. Project benefits such as providing of agriculture inputs, generating employment, and improving health and education services must be preferentially directed to those segments of the population where undernutrition is concentrated, thereby ensuring that rural development efforts will effectively raise the level of nutrition and food security of the rural poor.

Under Agenda Item 7, you will review the overall organizational arrangements and activities which have been undertaken as a follow-up to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. Within this framework, FAO is focussing especially on assistance to countries in formulating and implementing their agrarian reform and rural development programmes. The document which has been distributed raises certain issues on the institutional, production and technological systems required to help the small farmers and the disadvantaged rural population in improving their productivity and incomes. Particular emphasis has been given to people's participation, the integration of women in development, farmers' training and agricultural extension, and to monitoring and evaluation. The Committee may wish to express its views and consider the implications of the new orientation of the WCARRD Programme of Action on agricultural development, with special reference to the interrelationships between the socio-economic and the agro-technical aspects in development strategies.

It is in relation to the medium-term prospects and priorities that the importance of the selected development topics of Agenda Items 8 and 9 are to be seen. In Agenda Item 8 the real threat of deterioration in the world's two fundamental basic resources supporting agriculture, soil and water, are analysed, together with the strategy to be shaped and the action to be taken for their conservation. A multi-disciplinary approach is needed which brings to bear on these problems not only programmes of a physical nature but also of a socio-economic nature. The four sample projects presented depict typical activities needed and we hope can help you to focus attention on the practical aspects of taking action.

Under Agenda Item 9, Energy in Agriculture and Rural Development, both an analysis of the complex relationships which characterize this system, and a medium-term programme of action which could give direction to FAO's own programme in this area, are presented. Much uncertainty exists in our knowledge about the path future development in energy use in agriculture, energy production from agriculture and their interlinks within rural energy systems will take. The changes are rapid and the world's agriculture will have to learn to live with growing pressures calling for flexibility and the most economic use of all suitable energy sources in agriculture. This Item, thus, reflects the growing concern of many Member Nations with finding optimal solutions to energy problems.

Although I have merely touched upon the major topics before you, I have certainly said enough by way of a general introduction to them. So it only remains for me to wish you a successful Session, and a pleasant sojourn in Rome.

WORLD SOIL CHARTER (first draft) 1/

1. Among the major resources available to man is land and water systems and their associated plants and animals: the use of these resources should not cause their degradation or destruction because man's existence depends on their continued productivity.
2. Recognizing the paramount importance of soils for the survival and welfare of people and economic independence of countries, and also the rapidly increasing need for more food production, it is imperative to give high priority to promoting optimum land use, to maintaining and improving soil productivity and to conserving soil resources.
3. Soil degradation means partial or total loss of productivity from the soil, either quantitatively, qualitatively, or both, as a result of such processes as soil erosion by water or wind, salinization, waterlogging, depletion of plant nutrients, deterioration of soil structure, desertification and pollution. In addition significant areas of soil are lost daily to non-agricultural uses. These developments, in the light of the urgent need for increased food production, are alarming.
4. Soil degradation directly affects agriculture by diminishing crop yields and water resources, but other sectors of the economy and the environment as a whole, including industry and commerce, are often seriously affected as well, through, for example, floods, or the silting up of rivers, dams and ports.
5. At the country level it is a major responsibility of governments that agricultural production efforts, as well as other economic ventures, include measures towards the best possible use of the soils, long term maintenance and improvement of their productivity and at the same time, avoiding losses of productive soils. Non-governmental organizations and land users should be involved, thereby ensuring that all resources available are utilized in the most rational way.
6. The basic condition for success in soil improvement and conservation programmes is technical assistance, adequate finance and the provision of inputs and incentives at the farm level. This is the area where international agencies and bilateral assistance should play an increasingly important part.
7. Assistance given to farmers and other sectors of the economy should be of an adequate technical and practical nature, including the provision of incentives in the form of subsidies, taxation relief and credit facilities.
8. The agricultural sector and the broad public should be well informed of the need and the means of improving soil productivity and conservation. Particular emphasis should be placed on teaching agricultural staff at all levels, and farmers, the most effective and rational approaches in these fields.
9. In order to ensure optimum land use it is essential that a country's land resources be assessed in terms of their suitability for different types of land use and at different levels of inputs.
10. Land having the potential for a wide range of uses should be kept in flexible forms of land use so that future options for other potential uses is not denied for a long period of time or forever.

1/ Drafted by the FAO Secretariat and presented in COAG/81/8 Add. 1 (see para. 176 of the Report of the Sixth Session of the Committee on Agriculture).

11. Urbanization should be organized in such a way as to avoid, as much as possible, the occupation of good quality agricultural soil as well as its degradation.

12. Decisions about the use and management of land and its resources should favour the long-term advantage rather than the short-term expedience that may lead to exploitation, degradation and possibly destruction.

III. GUIDELINES FOR ACTION

Acceptance of these principles would call for the following action to be taken:

By Governments:

- i) Develop a land use policy for a wise agricultural and non-agricultural use of land according to its capabilities and the needs of the country.
- ii) Increase awareness, among all sections of the community, of the importance of soil resources for the benefit of people and development.
- iii) Establish links between local administrations and non-governmental organizations for the execution of the soils policy.
- iv) Investigate both existing cultivated lands and new lands and assess their suitability for different uses and the likely hazards of degradation. Provide decision makers with options on alternative land uses which would both satisfy communities' aspirations and use the land according to its capabilities.
- v) Provide advice, technical assistance and incentives (e.g. subsidies, taxation relief, credit) particularly to groups of land users willing to work in cooperation with each other and the government to achieve appropriate land use, improvements of soil and soil and water conservation.
- vi) Carry out research programmes which will provide sound scientific backing to practical soil improvements and soil conservation work in the field compatible with socio-economic conditions.
- vii) Emphasize the need to put known techniques into practice and execute intensive training programmes in soil development and conservation at all levels.
- viii) Establish an adequate legislative and institutional framework for monitoring and supervising development and management and soil conservation, and for coordination with other organizations involved to ensure the most rational use of land and related resources.
- ix) Seek foreign technical and financial assistance if required.

By International Agencies

- i) Continue to intensify efforts to create awareness among all sections of the world community, including governments and non-governmental organizations. Assist where required to mount publicity campaigns, seminars, conferences and the provision of publications.
- ii) Intensify efforts to promote optimum land use for sustained production on a worldwide basis and promote interregional and international cooperation in the use and development of land and water resources.
- iii) Promote cooperation between governments in adopting sound land use practices, particularly in the large international watersheds.

- iv) Pay particular attention to the needs of agricultural development projects which include the conservation and improvement of soil and water resources, the provision of inputs and incentives at the farm level, and establishment of the necessary institutional structures as major components.
- v) International agencies should be ready to assist governments, on request, to establish appropriate legislation, institutions and procedures to enable them to mount, implement and monitor appropriate land use and soil and water conservation programmes.
- vi) Consideration could be given to incorporating principles of national land use and the conservation and development of soil and water resources into international resource legislation.

