

council

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

(Rome, 18 - 27 March, 1985)

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MATTERS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides

The Committee gave broad general acceptance to the Code and agreed that the Code be presented to the Council (para. 217).

Furthermore the Committee, noting that it would be for the Council to consider and decide on the transmission of the Code to the Conference, recommended that the Director-General take the comments in its Report into consideration and take such initiative as he deemed favourable to achieving a consensus in the Council (para. 218).

In addition to the above matter, the Council may wish to note the following points in the Report of the Committee.

The Committee:

Implementation of the Programme of Work 1984-85

- (i) endorsed the objectives of the Major Programme which were designed to improve rural incomes, levels of nutrition, security of food supplies and the balance of trade (para. 9).
- (ii) stressed the importance of improved nutrition, food conservation and processing, and the involvement of small farmers, women and youth in the developmental process (para. 9).
- (iii) urged the Director-General to continue his consultation with UNDP to increase UNDP resources for agriculture (para. 11).
- (iv) emphasized the role of TCDC, in the context of declining resources, and requested the Organization to further assist Member Countries in this area (para. 11).
- (v) commended the continued increase in training activities and the emphasis on smaller groups (para. 14).
- (vi) requested further increases in the Africa and Near East Regions of training activities undertaken by Regional Offices (para. 14).
- (vii) recommended that maximum use be made of the results and recommendations of field projects and that project reports be systematically maintained for this purpose (para. 18).
- (viii) reviewed the eight programmes coming under Major Programme 2.1 Agriculture and made a number of recommendations concerning them (paras. 20 through 73).

Medium- and Long-Term Outlook for Food and Agricultural Development and Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87

- (i) endorsed the selection of strategies, priorities, programme changes and means of action as embodied in the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for Major Programme 2.1 - Agriculture (para. 80).
- (ii) endorsed the special recognition of the problems of Africa (para. 80).
- (iii) endorsed the thrust and balance of the programme proposals of the Director-General as presented in document COAG/85/5, welcomed his expression of priorities for the work programme and supported the Secretariat's continuing efforts to optimize the use of the finite resources available to FAO (para. 81).

- (iv) agreed that the proposed increases in the technical and economic programmes were fully justified in the light of their importance for developing countries and of FAO's role in this respect (para. 84).
- (v) stressed the major importance of the contribution of the Organization to the mobilization of investment resources (para. 85).
- (vi) made observations on individual programmes 2.1.1 through 2.1.8 (paras. 86 through 154).

The Role of Minor Crops in Nutrition and Food Security

- (i) suggested that the document should be widely distributed, including to FAO field experts (para. 156).
- (ii) stressed the need to fill the information gap, concerning minor crops, in the statistics on production and trade, and to assess the nutritional and socio-economic significance of these crops, notably through food consumption surveys (para. 158).
- (iii) emphasized that legumes, vegetables and fruits contributed to nutrition and food security in several ways (para. 162).
- (iv) emphasized that simultaneously with the promotion of new research, the exchange of information and experiences should be stimulated, as indicated in the paragraph (para. 166).
- (v) stressed the need for preparing easily understandable information material on the importance of production, consumption, marketing and processing of minor crops for field and village personnel (para. 167).
- (vi) recommended the existing mass media be mobilized to promote the image of minor crops to the public at large, the primary and secondary schools, extension services and in particular the various non-governmental organizations (para. 167).
- (vii) stressed that policy measures to promote minor crops should include, to be effective, the provision of powerful incentives (para. 168).
- (viii) made four recommendations to Member Governments (para. 169).
- (ix) recommended urgent action at national level with the support of FAO and of bilateral and multilateral cooperation (para. 170).

Processing of Food and Non-Food Agricultural Products

- (i) endorsed the importance of the role played by agro-industries in agricultural and general economic development of countries (para. 173).
- (ii) stressed the importance of relevant government policies in providing incentives and links between agricultural production, agro-processing, credit facilities and distribution (para. 174).
- (iii) emphasized that the successful establishment of agro-industries required that full attention be given to the compilation of relevant statistical data; appropriate infrastructure; availability of sufficient raw material supply; quality standards and control; socio-economic impact; manpower availability of appropriate skills in planning, execution and evaluation of the industry and the respective roles of the public and private sectors (para. 175).
- (iv) stressed the need for research and development and emphasized the potential for TCDC and ECDC activities in agro-industrial development at regional and sub-regional level (para. 177).

- (v) recommended that more attention should be accorded to development of packaging materials from local resources (para. 179).
- (vi) stressed the present importance and future potential of apiculture and recommended that the Director-General give consideration to the feasibility of establishing an expert panel on apiculture, as well as to alternative means of supporting apicultural development (para. 180).
- (vii) emphasized the need for training of local personnel, including women, in all aspects and at all levels of agro-industrial development (para. 181).
- (viii) recommended that present efforts related to the Composite Flour Programme be pursued and further collaboration encouraged (para. 183).
- (ix) recommended that collaboration with UNIDO in the field of agro-industrial development be extended and reinforced with other UN organizations and non-governmental organizations (para. 185).
- (x) endorsed FAO's strategies and policies related to agro-industries' development and recommended that FAO continue to strengthen its activities in this field (para. 186).

Agricultural Price Policies

- (i) agreed with the specific objectives of the study of price policies which the Director-General had decided to undertake (para. 188).
- (ii) agreed that the document to be submitted to the 1985 FAO Conference should be a basic guide to all countries, particularly developing countries, in their formulation and application of food and agricultural price policies (para. 189).
- (iii) drew attention to a number of issues of primary importance on price policies, e.g. multiplicity and ranking of objectives; agricultural price policy and the economy as a whole; complementarity of price and other policy measures; input subsidies; consumer food pricing; regional pricing; and implementation of price policies (para. 191).
- (iv) requested the Secretariat to keep in mind, to the extent possible within the constraint of the time limit, the Committee's suggestions, as tabulated in the paragraph, for the completion of the report for the Conference (para. 197).
- (v) endorsed the intention of the Director-General to submit the revised report on agricultural price policies, taking into account its views and suggestions, to the FAO Conference in November 1985 (para. 200).

International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides

- (i) unanimously agreed with the need for the Code in view of the continuing and increasing use of pesticides essential for agricultural development and of the potential serious risks for human and animal health and their effects on the environment as a result of indiscriminate or uninformed applications or misuse (para. 204).
- (ii) endorsed the basic objectives of the Code which were to identify potential hazards in the distribution and use of pesticides, to establish standards of conduct and to define responsibilities for all those engaged in the regulation, distribution and use of pesticides (para. 205).
- (iii) stressed the importance of adequate training and instruction for users of pesticides and appreciated that the Code covered these aspects (para. 209).
- (iv) agreed that endorsement of the Code should not be delayed (para. 216).

- (v) gave broad general acceptance to the Code and agreed that the Code be presented to the Council (para. 217).
- (vi) noting that it would be for the Council to consider and decide on the transmission of the Code to the Conference, recommended that the Director-General take the comments in its Report into consideration and take such initiative as he deemed favourable to achieving a consensus in the Council (para. 218).

Other Business

- (i) confirmed, for its Ninth Session, the standing agenda items dealing with the Implementation of the Programme of Work, the Medium- and Long-Term Outlook for Food and Agricultural Development and the Summary Programme of Work and Budget (para. 221).
- (ii) recommended that under its standing agenda item "Food and Nutrition" it should discuss the "Role of Food Quality and Standards in Food Security, Trade and Health" (para. 222).
- (iii) recommended that the following topics be considered for inclusion in the provisional agenda dealing with selected development problems: dryland farming systems; the effect of tenure and fragmentation of farm holdings on agricultural development; requirements and strategies for improved production of roots, tubers and plantains (para. 223).

Date and Place of Next Session

- (i) recommended that its Ninth Session should be held in Rome in March 1987, and 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 sessions of the Programme and Finance Committee in the spring of 1987 to enable them to consider the recommendations of the Committee (para. 225).

INTRODUCTION

1. The Eighth Session (Rome, 18-27 March 1985) was attended by representatives of 88 of the 103 Member Nations of the Committee, by observers from 3 other Member Nations of FAO, by observers from 1 Member Nation of the United Nations and by the Permanent Observer of the Holy See. Representatives of 8 other bodies and organizations of the United Nations, representatives of the European Economic Community, and of 2 intergovernmental organizations, and observers from 13 international organizations also participated. The list of Members of the Committee is attached as Appendix B, and the list of delegates, representatives 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 Horacio M. Carandang (Philippines) as Chairman of the Committee, Wolfgang A.F. Grabisch (Federal Republic of Germany) as First Vice-Chairman, and Mohammed Abdelhadi (Tunisia) as Second Vice-Chairman.

In Memory of Josef Majcher

3. The Committee observed one minute of silence in memory of Mr. Josef Majcher, Alternate Representative of Poland to the FAO, who died tragically on Saturday, 16 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, and the list of documents is given in Appendix D.

5. The Committee appointed the following members to the Drafting Committee:

Algeria, Brazil, Cuba, Egypt, Finland, France, Gabon, India, Japan, Kenya, New Zealand, and the United States of America. Jean-Pol Nême (France) served as Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

Statement by the Director-General

6. The Committee heard a statement by Mr. Edouard Saouma, Director-General, which is attached as Appendix E.

REVIEW OF FAO'S PROGRAMME OF WORK IN THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SECTORImplementation of the Programme of Work 1984-85 1/

7. The Committee reviewed the implementation of the biennial Programme of Work of the Organization, within its mandate. The discussion was based on Document COAG/85/3 "Implementation of the Programme of Work 1984-85" which dealt with activities implemented in 1984-85 by the Agriculture Department and the Economic and Social Policy Department, and joint activities with the Regional Offices and joint divisions which fall under Major Programme 2.1 - Agriculture. The Committee also considered the document COAG/83/3-Sup.1 which contained progress reports on selected development problems discussed at its Seventh Session, i.e. (a) malnutrition: its nature, magnitude and policy implications; (b) follow up to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD): role of women in agricultural production; (c) plant protection: development of a global strategy; (d) animal health: national and international strategies for action; and (e) proposals for the establishment of a Draft International Convention for Plant Genetic Resources.

8. The Committee noted that the general format of the document, approved at its Seventh Session, had been retained, and welcomed the addition of brief examples of previous FAO activities. It appreciated the statistical analysis provided in Annex Tables 1-9 of COAG/85/3 and recommended that such analyses continue to be provided in the future. Some members urged that continued efforts should be made to provide tables with more disaggregated data. The Committee also appreciated the fuller identification of regional activities in accordance with the request made at its Seventh Session.

9. The Committee endorsed the objectives of the Major Programme which were designed to improve rural incomes, levels of nutrition, security of food supplies and the balance of trade. It stressed the importance of improved nutrition, food conservation and processing, and the involvement of small farmers, women and youth in the development process. It emphasized the need for greater consideration of environmental concerns such as the maintenance and restoration of the ecological balance.

10. The Committee welcomed the focus on optimal use of land and improved inputs, conservation of natural resources, control of epidemic livestock diseases, food security, the fight against food shortages and famine in Africa, participation of the rural poor and women in the development process, and improved management for agricultural development.

11. The Committee noted that during 1983-84, the Major Programme 2.1 - Agriculture supported an extra-budgetary field programme of US\$ 375 million. It noted with concern the decline of 13 percent in these resources from the 1980-81 level, mainly as a result of the fall in United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) funding. It urged the Director-General to continue his consultation with UNDP to increase UNDP resources for agriculture. The Committee appreciated the catalytic nature of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) in support of the Major Programme at field level amounting to US\$ 38 million, or 9 percent of total field programme expenditure in 1983-84. The Committee emphasized the role of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC), in the context of declining resources, and requested the Organization to further assist member countries in this area.

12. The Committee commended the increase in direct support to Member Countries, through FAO staff and consultants, which amounted to about 15 percent of Headquarters professional staff time in 1984. It noted with satisfaction the major contributions of the Regional Offices, accounting for about 25 percent of the total. The Committee endorsed the greater use of consultants and appreciated that this had enabled an increased output with a minimal increase in Headquarters staff. The need for FAO to have adequate capacity to monitor an increased number of consultants was noted.

13. The Committee commended the increase in technical staff time devoted to back-stopping field projects, which included over one third of Headquarters staff time under the Major Programme in 1984 and highlighted the increasing role of the Regional Offices in this work.

1/ COAG/85/3; COAG/85/3-Sup.1

14. The Committee commended the continued increase in training activities and the emphasis on smaller groups, which allowed more participatory learning. It especially appreciated the inclusion of more women in these training activities. The Committee noted with satisfaction the expanded training activities undertaken by the Regional Offices and requested further increases in the Africa and Near East regions. The Committee endorsed the greater use of national institutions and of the Regional Rural Development Centres in Africa and Asia, in implementing training activities.

15. The Committee noted that, while there had been an increase in the number of meetings in 1984, the emphasis had been on meetings with a smaller number of participants. It commended the increase in meetings concerned with TCDC networks and recognized the contribution of the Regional Offices in this regard.

16. The Committee endorsed the publication programme and supported the emphasis given to training and research manuals, case studies and short booklets rather than voluminous publications.

17. The Committee appreciated the efforts made under the Major Programme to mobilize assistance for agricultural development and agricultural services in developing Member Countries and to ensure the most effective use of FAO's limited resources. The Committee supported the priority given to the following key areas: methodologies for involving the rural poor and women in development; improved planning at all levels; increased awareness of the balance between population, agricultural production, consumption and welfare; optimization of delivery systems for agriculture; the use of low capital intensive technology; and the effective application of research and technology at farm level.

18. The Committee recommended that maximum use be made of the results and recommendations of field projects and that project reports be systematically maintained for this purpose. It supported the efforts to maintain the high quality of field inputs through the introduction of more rigorous procedures of field evaluation.

19. The Committee expressed its appreciation of the comprehensive overview of FAO's activities, as presented in COAG/85/3. However, some members suggested that statistical information be provided in a way consistent with the biennial budget period. The Committee was informed that the Review of the Regular Programme, submitted to the Council and Conference, provided a performance appraisal of each major programme and evaluations of specific activities. Some members considered that a quantitative, more in-depth assessment of selected areas on the implementation and success of the programmes in meeting their objectives was needed in future reviews of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG).

2.1.1 Natural Resources

20. The Committee fully supported the priority activities under this programme which focused on improved assessment of data on land and water resources, greater use of renewable sources of plant nutrients combined with efficient fertilizer use, improved water use, irrigation systems and organizations, and support to soil conservation programmes.

21. The Committee commended the study on the "Potential Population Supporting Capacities of Lands in the Developing World" and endorsed the application of the methodology at the country level concentrating initially on those needing it most. It supported the work on assessment of water resources and irrigation potential.

22. The Committee supported efforts to promote integrated plant nutrition systems, combining renewable sources of plant nutrients and mineral fertilizers. It endorsed increased attention to symbiotic nitrogen fixation, particularly the local production of inoculants and to the expanded use of Azolla.

23. The Committee endorsed the emphasis on demonstration and training in efficient fertilizer use through the Fertilizer Programme. It commended FAO's efforts to attract extra-budgetary support for such activities, particularly to the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme (IFS). It was urged that donors provide increased support to this programme.

24. The Committee recognized the importance of giving greater attention to the institutional aspects of irrigation. It agreed on the need to improve irrigation organizations through increased farmers' participation and to increase the involvement of women in irrigated agriculture. The Committee stressed the importance of small-scale irrigation in promoting food self-sufficiency in areas of difficult access. A large number of members stressed that the development of large-scale irrigation projects, particularly in Africa, were also important.

25. The Committee appreciated the support given to field projects in soil and water conservation and endorsed efforts to include soil conservation in national development programmes. It supported the increased use of national institution for undertaking research on the effects of soil erosion on land productivity and seeking improvements to shifting cultivation systems.

26. The Committee endorsed the gradual reorientation of farm management activities towards strengthening farming systems development, especially for small farmers. It stressed the importance of training programmes at regional and national levels, as well as the practical field application approach which encouraged better planning, monitoring and evaluation.

27. The Committee recognized the need for training in all fields under this programme and recommended increased emphasis in this area.

2.1.2 Crops

28. The Committee supported the priorities established for the programme which focused on increasing crop production in food deficit countries and encouraging Member Countries to adopt modern production processing and marketing techniques, especially in the small-farm sector where special attention was given to the participation and training of women. It welcomed the progress made in the field of food production and appreciated the research results which had been demonstrated within different socio-ecological environments.

29. The Committee recognized the important contribution made by FAO in increasing food crop production. It supported the development efforts concerning crops such as vegetables and roots and tubers which were considered as fundamental staple foods in many agro-ecological zones of the tropical world, particularly in Africa.

30. The Committee recommended that more attention be given to local food crops, which contributes considerably to national food security and improvement of nutrition.

31. The Committee supported FAO's efforts in the improvement of cultivars through plant breeding, and in plant genetic resources to improve the use of land races and wild plants in such breeding programmes. It noted that materials which might be lost under modern cultural practices were being collected, mostly by local institutions, but also by regional and international institutions.

32. The Committee recognized the significant efforts made under the programme in the field of plant protection by giving emphasis to the provision of technical information to Member Countries in the framework of activities related to locust and migratory pests, plant diseases, pre-harvest crop losses, plant quarantine, entomology and integrated pest control, as well as weed management.

33. The Committee recognized efforts in the formulation and implementation of seed production, quality control and distribution programmes to ensure the availability of seed of the necessary cultivars and stressed the need to provide increased support, particularly to Africa through FAO's Seed Programme.

34. The Committee supported the assistance given to national institutions in the formation of networks or regional groups through which technology transfer could take place under TCDC arrangements and thereby strengthen their competence in applied research, development and training. The Committee also supported the important efforts under way in carrying out demonstration activities in cooperation with local and regional institutions, and in using national institutions and consultants from developing countries.

35. The Committee commended the emphasis given to assisting Member Countries to develop comprehensive agricultural mechanization strategies. It recognized that the adoption of new policies had favoured more cost-effective mechanization which had opened up new areas of cultivation in several food deficit countries, and through joint ventures had established local manufacture of tractor units and equipment. The Committee supported the expanded training of village blacksmiths to repair and produce hand tools and animal draught equipment.

36. The Committee noted the support being given to the Asian network on farm mechanization, an activity jointly implemented with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the efforts, together with the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNIDO and Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), to establish a similar regional network for Africa.

37. The Committee commended the special emphasis on the utilisation of local building materials employed in the rural structures and storage activities and supported the regional training programme on rural buildings in Africa.

38. The Committee commended the contribution of the Special Action Programme for the Prevention of Food Losses (PFL) in focusing attention on the magnitude of food losses and in extending technologies and institutional capacity to reduce them. The Committee noted the regional PFL training programmes being conducted at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and the African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT).

39. The Committee stressed the importance of improving traditional food processing technologies and recognised that the agro-industrial sector in developing countries will have to expand rapidly to keep pace with demands for processed foodstuffs. It welcomed the increase in sericulture and apiculture activities, both of which provided additional income for the small farmer. The Committee recognized the importance of Regional Training Courses and workshops on the practical application of appropriate technologies and the utilization of agricultural by-products and wastes. It also stressed the need to continue work on rice processing and on hides and skins improvement.

2.1.3. Livestock

40. The Committee endorsed the priorities of the livestock programme with its major components on animal disease control, animal production improvement and meat and milk development. It fully supported the actions regarding the important socio-economic role of livestock development in the farming pattern of developing countries. The Committee, in particular, expressed satisfaction with the activities implemented for alleviating the critical health and feed situation for livestock populations in many African countries.

41. The Committee confirmed the importance of animal health in livestock production and in livestock trade and livestock products. It commended FAO for the prompt action taken in regard to rinderpest in Africa and the Near East, as well as the support given to the preparation of the Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign (PARC). It urged FAO to continue its efforts to mobilize funds for the implementation of the large-scale Campaign in Africa. The Committee appreciated that comprehensive work had also been carried out regarding other important animal diseases, as well as on longer term control measures, in particular trypanosomiasis and tick and tick-borne diseases.

42. The Committee recognized the importance of activities carried out on fodder trees and shrubs, application of remote sensing to grazing land management and integration of forage legumes into cereal rotations. The Committee welcomed the activities on feed utilization including the emphasis given to animal feed security in drought-prone countries in Africa.

43. The Committee appreciated the successful work carried out under the Artificial Insemination and Breeding Development Programme (AIBDP). It noted that the activities on animal genetic resources, conservation and management were implemented partly in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and included the preparatory work for the establishment of data banks.

44. The Committee supported the activities carried out on improved animal production, in particular the work on small animal development, on buffaloes and on the regional networks for the exchange of experience on draught animal power.

45. The Committee reconfirmed its support for the International Meat Development Scheme (IMDS) and the International Scheme for the Coordination of Dairy Development (ISCDD) and welcomed the assistance provided to a large number of developing countries through these schemes.

46. The Committee welcomed the results of the evaluation of the FAO/DANIDA Dairy Development and Training Programme and fully supported the continuation of this very important activity in line with other specific training and education activities related to animal production and health.

2.1.4 Research and Technology Development

47. The Committee welcomed the establishment of the Research and Technology Development Division and endorsed the Division's role as the focal point for FAO's work in this important area. It noted that the Division brought together the activities of the Centres for Research Development, Remote Sensing, Environment and Energy Programmes Coordination and the Executive Secretariat of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research.

48. The Committee supported the emphasis given to research management and the increased number of training activities in this area. It appreciated the support given to inter-country research cooperation and to research development by review and planning missions to Member Countries and endorsed the active role of FAO in the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and the support provided through the Executive Secretariat of the Technical Advisory Committee. The Committee recognized that research support was integrated in the field programme activities of other technical divisions and that the contribution of the research development sub-programme to the field programme was, therefore, substantially larger than indicated in the Annexes to COAG/85/3.

49. The Committee recognized the increasing application of remote sensing to the monitoring of agricultural drought in Africa, particularly its contribution to the Global Information and Early Warning System and welcomed the strengthening of the remote sensing geographic database and training programme.

50. The Committee welcomed the cooperation between Headquarters and Regional Offices in the development of energy activities and agreed with the emphasis given to the development of regional and subregional networks on various aspects of rural energy. It commended the work of the European Cooperative Network on Rural Energy.

51. The Committee noted that activities concerning the environment contributed to strengthening the Organization's work in arid-land management, natural conservation strategies, natural resource assessments and biological nitrogen fixation, and welcomed the contribution of joint FAO/UNEP projects in these areas. The Committee stressed the importance of environmental concerns, particularly the maintenance and restoration of the ecological balance, in agricultural and rural development.

52. The Committee recognized the contribution of isotope and other research techniques in plant nutrition, plant breeding, biological pest control, pesticide residues and noted the increasing requests from developing countries for training in the use of these techniques. It endorsed FAO's efforts, together with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in furthering the use of irradiation for food conservation and disinfection.

53. The Committee noted the success of the Current Agricultural Research Information System (CARIS) in furthering, in many countries, the collection and dissemination of information on their ongoing research activities.

2.1.5 Rural Development

54. The Committee supported the emphasis given to programmes towards the alleviation of poverty and hunger in rural areas and felt that such an orientation should continue.

55. The Committee welcomed FAO's efforts in assisting countries in the implementation of the WCARRD Programme of Action.

56. The Committee endorsed the importance given to projects on people's participation and emphasized the need to collaborate with non-governmental organizations in this regard. It stressed the importance of the decentralization of administrative machinery to strengthen the involvement of people in development.

57. The Committee appreciated the increase in training activities, and their expanded coverage of small and women farmers. It welcomed the assessment of trained manpower and agricultural training institutions carried out by FAO in Africa and requested that necessary follow-up activities be undertaken.

58. The Committee welcomed the importance given to the programmes concerning women in development and noted the change in the title of the Service to "Women in Agricultural Production and Rural Development". It welcomed the promotion of activities supporting women as agricultural producers and active participants in development.

59. The Committee supported the assistance given to the Regional Centres for Rural Development, which had already been established in Asia and the Pacific and in Africa, and hoped that the Centres for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Near East would be established soon.

60. The Committee endorsed the important role played by FAO as the lead agency in rural development which facilitated the coordination of the activities of the UN system.

61. The Committee endorsed the work carried out on crop and livestock market organization and the conduct of national seminars on marketing constraints. It commended the practical training programmes and the issue of training manuals. The Committee welcomed the regular collection and analysis of fertilizer marketing costs in Asia and the Pacific as a basis for more cost-effective supply of fertilizer and other inputs to the small farm sector. The Committee further endorsed the support given to the association of Food Marketing Associations in Asia and the Pacific, and in Latin America and the Caribbean, to the Network for Technical Cooperation in Agricultural Marketing and Food Supply.

62. The Committee endorsed the agricultural banking activities and noted that these are mainly channelled through the Regional Agricultural Credit Associations. It commended the TCDC activities - study tours, staff exchanges and training courses - of the associations, which receive limited financial support from the FAO sponsored Scheme for Agricultural Credit Development. The Committee stressed the importance of continued work to ensure the access of rural women to agricultural credit.

2.1.6 Nutrition

63. The Committee recognized the need to improve the level of nutrition, especially of rural low-income groups, and expressed appreciation of the Organization's activities in this field. The Committee supported the integration of nutritional aspects in agricultural and rural development programmes, and the assistance given to countries in nutrition planning. It appreciated the support given to national institutions in incorporating nutritional aspects in their programmes and training activities.

64. The Committee noted with satisfaction the work accomplished by the Codex Alimentarius Commission as well as the increased participation of developing countries in its efforts. It appreciated the dialogue between the Codex Alimentarius Commission, European Economic Community (EEC) and Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) secretariats in view of facilitating the implementation of Codex standards. It also welcomed the technical support given by FAO to developing countries in implementing such international standards.

65. The Committee stressed the continued need for training in nutrition and nutrition related aspects, and welcomed the increase in the number of women participating in such training. It also expressed satisfaction with the training materials prepared.

2.1.7. Food and Agricultural Information

66. The Committee commended the role of the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (GIEWS) in alerting governments of imminent food shortages. It noted with satisfaction the issue of timely warnings by FAO of a deepening famine situation and widespread food shortages in Africa in 1983-84 and the role of the Joint FAO/WFP Task Force on Africa in closely monitoring the food supply situation. The Committee fully supported the Director-General's proposal to strengthen GIEWS further to enhance its capability in assessment of crops, pre-famine conditions, and food aid requirements as well as the identification of affected populations. It also agreed on the need to provide assistance to governments in setting up national and regional early warning systems.

67. The Committee noted the continuing work in expanding and improving FAO's agricultural data base. The Committee welcomed the more analytical approach to examining problems and prospects in food and agriculture in the regular situation and outlook reports and specific studies. Such analyses required a more comprehensive and reliable data base and therefore the Committee further supported efforts to improve the collection and handling of data to complement this work. It urged even greater emphasis than in the current programme of work on training in statistical data collection, processing and analysis.

68. The Committee noted the broad range of situation and outlook reports and publications and stressed the need for them to contain timely and up to date information useful to Member Countries in formulating policies and investment programmes. The Committee welcomed the fact that annual publications such as Commodity Review and Outlook included special features on topical commodity and trade issues. It also endorsed efforts being made to improve information on commodities of particular interest to developing countries.

2.1.8 Food and Agricultural Policy Analysis

69. The Committee agreed to the priority given under this programme to activities relating to the attainment of national and international food security. It endorsed the efforts to improve world food security, particularly as follow-up to the revised concept of world food security, which aimed at increasing food production, stabilizing supplies and improving access to food. It agreed that in view of the widespread food shortages in Africa, special attention should continue to be paid to the problems and constraints affecting food production and supplies in that continent. The Committee supported efforts being made under the Food Security Assistance Scheme to assist low-income countries in establishing national food security policies and programmes.

70. The Committee agreed that the FAO intergovernmental commodity bodies were performing a useful function both in improving the information available on the commodity situation and outlook and in providing a forum for consultations on crucial commodity and trade policy problems. It endorsed the technical support provided to other organizations in such areas as preparation of commodity research and development projects, and assistance to developing countries in the formulation of national commodity policies under the programme on Commodity Policy at the Country Level (CPCL).

71. The Committee stressed that countries themselves, particularly in Africa, should evolve strategies of agricultural development that took past experience into account. Such planning had to be complemented by improved monitoring of project implementation. It therefore supported the substantial direct input into national training efforts provided by planning assistance and training projects conducted by FAO. It welcomed direct offers of TCDC activities made in this area.

72. The Committee also emphasized the need to promote Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (ECDC), to accelerate economic progress, particularly in Africa, and stressed the need to strengthen FAO programmes in this field.

73. The Committee welcomed initiatives taken by several countries to increasingly decentralize their planning and development activities in the agricultural and rural sector. It supported FAO's efforts to prepare guidelines, drawing from the experience of these countries in implementing such multi-level planning, to assist countries to decentralize their planning.

Medium- and Long-Term Outlook for Food and Agricultural Development 1/
and Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87

74. The Committee discussed Agenda Items 4, Medium- and Long-Term Outlook for Food and Agricultural Development, and 5, Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87 together, in line with its own established practice as well as that of the Council and Conference.

75. The discussion was based on two documents: COAG/85/4 "Medium- and Long-Term Outlook for Food and Agricultural Development", and COAG/85/5 "Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87".

76. Document COAG/85/4 on Medium-Term Objectives followed closely the format of its predecessor, as well as of similar sections contained in the Programme of Work and Budget document. The Committee noted that the document provided a useful review of long-term goals and strategies for world agricultural development followed by a presentation of the medium-term outlook and related objectives for the eight programmes of Major Programme 2.1 - Agriculture. Due account had been taken of the effects of most recent international policy developments, including the disappointing results in the implementation of the International Development Strategy (IDS) for the Third United Nations Development Decade. The Committee agreed that it was imperative to apply these strategies and seek achievement of the Organization's objectives in the remainder of the Decade.

77. It was stressed that developed countries and international organizations should continue to offer timely technical and financial assistance in terms, conditions, amounts and composition that would make such assistance really effective.

78. The Committee noted that document COAG/85/5, entitled "Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87", was an extract from the document bearing the same title which was to be submitted to the Eighty-seventh Session of the Council in June 1985. The document before the Committee was restricted to the strategies, priorities, means of action and proposed programme activities under Major Programme 2.1 - Agriculture, and was intended to enable the Committee to analyse and assess the general lines of work and programme changes regarding the Agriculture and Economic and Social Policy Departments, and the related work of Regional Offices and Joint Divisions.

79. The Committee expressed satisfaction that both documents provided comprehensive information for this purpose. In particular, the tabular information therein provided details of original 1984/85 allocations, net proposed changes and 1986-87 allocations at all levels of FAO programme structure down to the sub-programme level. Programme narratives, moreover, made specific mention of foreseen outputs to the extent feasible at this stage.

80. The Committee fully endorsed the selection of strategies, priorities, programme changes and means of action as embodied in the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for Major Programme 2.1 - Agriculture which reflected the wishes of Member Countries as expressed in the recommendations and resolutions of the Conference and Council, the Regional Conferences and other intergovernmental fora. The Committee fully supported these programme priorities which centered on the two pivotal themes of promotion of food production and increase in food security, and noted programme of action would focus particularly on the achievement of impact at field level and support to ECDC. The Committee endorsed the special recognition of the problems of Africa which was apparent throughout the proposals. The Committee appreciated the assurance of the Director-General that its views would be taken into consideration in formulating his full proposals for the Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87.

1/ COAG/85/4; COAG/85/5

81. The Committee recognized that the proposed Programme of Work for 1986-87 for Major Programme 2.1 was a coherent response to FAO long- and medium-term objectives. Without prejudice to the respective positions of the Member Nations regarding budgetary considerations which were not the object of discussion in COAG, the Committee endorsed the thrust and balance of the programme proposals of the Director-General as presented in document COAG/85/5. The Committee welcomed the Director-General's expression of priorities for the work programme and supported the Secretariat's continuing efforts to optimise the use of the finite resources available to FAO. In this regard the Committee acknowledged the importance of maintaining an adequate focus and balance between programmes which reflect these priorities.

82. The Committee was informed that the proposals for Major Programme 2.1 implied a budgetary increase in real terms of 3.7 percent. This increase was to be largely offset by reductions in other Chapters, in line with the Director-General's strenuous efforts to transfer resources from administrative and other areas to FAO technical and economic programmes, without prejudice to the Organization's effectiveness in delivering its range of services and executing its programmes.

83. In view of the importance of programmes under 2.1 - Agriculture, the magnitude of problems faced by most developing countries in ensuring sustained agricultural growth and adequate nutritional levels in the current world economic situation, and given the enormous requirements of Africa, the Committee agreed that such an increase had to be seen as the result of severe budgetary restraint rather than as a reflection on the capacity of the Organization to respond to Member Countries' requirements. Some members stressed the favourable development of the current international economic situation in the developed countries which was more propitious to an increase in resources.

84. The Committee agreed that the proposed increases in the technical and economic programmes were fully justified in the light of their importance for developing countries and of FAO's essential role in this respect.

85. The Committee recognized the invaluable support of the Regular Programme for the Field Programme and their inextricable links. It noted with satisfaction the growth of Trust Funds. It also stressed the major importance of the contribution of the Organization to the mobilization of investment resources. The Committee noted with satisfaction that in 1984 alone, 41 projects prepared by FAO had been approved by financing institutions with the mobilization of some US \$2.4 billion for food and agricultural development.

2.1.1 Natural Resources

86. The Committee noted the need for further expansion of land and water resources as well as increased production from presently cultivated areas in order to meet the food production targets in the medium term. It agreed that further quantification and evaluation of the different potentials and limitations of lands for increased production was necessary. It stressed the need for increasing soil productivity and more intensive and rational use of land and water resources. It endorsed FAO's approach to ensure these objectives are achieved while conserving the productive capacity of land.

87. The Committee endorsed the medium term objectives of this programme and supported the activities and priorities as proposed for the 1986-87 biennium.

88. The Committee supported the development, through application of modern techniques, of Geographic Resource Data Bases as important tools for planning agricultural development, both by FAO and Member Governments. It recognized the particular importance of such systems for national assessments of crop and population potentials incorporating socio-economic, cultural and other factors as recommended by the 1983 FAO Conference. It recommended that high priority be given to training national staff in the use of these techniques to ensure sound planning and optimum use of available land and water resources.

89. The Committee endorsed the need for increased and more efficient use of fertilizers to improve soil fertility. It urged donors to increase their support to the Fertilizer Programme and the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme. It supported the

greater use of renewable sources of plant nutrients in the context of an integrated plant nutrition system. It welcomed the additional emphasis on Biological Nitrogen Fixation, organic recycling and promotion of improved soil management practices.

90. The Committee emphasized support to irrigation development, particularly small-scale irrigation in Africa. It welcomed the regional consultation on irrigation development in Africa.

91. The Committee agreed that to optimize returns from investments in irrigation, greater attention should be focused on increasing irrigation efficiency. It supported the work of the International Support Programme for Farm Water Management in the transfer of experiences in water use and management.

92. The Committee noted the activities to promote soil conservation and welcomed the increased collaboration with the Forestry Department in this field. It supported the study to identify constraints on successful development of soil conservation programmes and on quantification of soil loss and long-term productivity loss. It recommended continued assistance in the reclamation of degraded lands, including activities for improvement of waterlogged and saline lands.

93. The Committee stressed the importance of integrated farming systems involving complementary relationships between the various enterprises of crops, livestock, horticulture, fish and forest and it agreed that the development of such farming systems using a systems approach should be given high priority.

94. The Committee agreed that farming system development required a multi-disciplinary whole-farm approach and the establishment of benchmarks through farm analysis. It noted that particular attention would be given to the socio-economic acceptability of any changes in farming systems. It supported the Farm Analysis Package (FARMAP) training programmes, the collection and analysis of input/output data, and the promotion of TCDC amongst Member Countries.

95. The Committee welcomed the shifts in resources to strengthen priority areas and the efforts to attract extra-budgetary resources for activities under this programme. It noted with satisfaction the overall emphasis on multidisciplinary training which was a priority activity under this programme.

2.1.2 Crops

96. The Committee agreed that the long-term goals and medium-term objectives and strategies of the programme would contribute to increasing production of basic food crops. It stressed that in order to attain sustained crop production increases, Member Countries should be encouraged and assisted, particularly the developing countries, to adopt appropriate techniques with respect to production, processing, marketing and extension, with particular attention to the small farmer. It agreed that emphasis should be given to the diversification of food crops and the development of projects related to seeds of the appropriate cultivars, which are important factors in increasing food production and food security. It strongly supported the approach to demonstrate applied research results at the grass-root level, particularly those which would increase yield levels of the most important food crops through better breeding and agronomic practices, based on improved integrated crop production/protection technology.

97. The Committee welcomed the proposed activities which would contribute to the promotion of food crop production through assistance to governments in multiplication and distribution of good quality seed with particular emphasis on Africa. It noted with satisfaction the strengthening of ongoing field projects in the African region and the launching of further pilot activities for the transfer of appropriate technologies covering staple food crops, grain legumes and root crops. It recognized the important contribution in the development of minor crops, which were fundamental staple foods in many agro-ecological zones of the tropical world and enhanced the food security of many developing countries.

98. The Committee supported the continued emphasis on plant genetic resources particularly related to major food crops, vegetables, fruits and cash crops, oriented to collection, conservation, documentation and training. The Committee agreed that such

activities should be expanded particularly in developing countries. Special emphasis should be given to the evaluation of plant genetic resources and their use in plant breeding. The results of the first session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources were recalled and it was suggested that its recommendations be taken into consideration.

99. The Committee reconfirmed its support to the Seed Improvement and Development Programme aiming at strengthening institutions in developing regions for production, quality control and distribution of seed and planting material. It endorsed the organization of seminars, workshops and training courses on various aspects of seed production in cooperation with national and international organizations. The Committee stressed the importance of financing for the production and timely supply of good quality seed to farmers and supported the allocation of additional resources to this area.

100. The Committee stressed the need to strengthen work on agrometeorological applications through monitoring and forecasting basic food crops production, especially in drought-affected areas, thereby contributing to the Global Information and Early Warning System.

101. The Committee stressed the need for investment in farm mechanization along with the establishment of sound mechanization policies, careful selection of equipment, development of appropriate mechanized farming systems and related training.

102. The Committee supported the launching of pilot programmes based on improved integrated crop production/protection technology, to be carried out in farmers' fields in close cooperation with national extension services.

103. The Committee also supported crop protection activities with regard to the prevention and reduction of yield losses caused by crop parasites, and the programme on Cooperative Action for Plant Health.

104. The Committee recognised the importance of storage, drying, handling, processing and distribution systems particularly in support of post-harvest food loss prevention. It supported the promotion of local construction skills and the expansion of training in rural structures.

105. The Committee stressed the importance of the PFL Action Programme developing new regional cooperating mechanisms for research and development, and increasing awareness of post-harvest loss prevention. It welcomed the extended commodity coverage to include perishables.

106. The Committee fully supported the strengthening of national capabilities for conserving and processing agricultural products concurrently with increasing food production. It recognised that agro-industries had an important role in making better use of raw materials and by-products and in increasing employment and export earnings.

107. The Committee welcomed the new emphasis on training and application of biotechnology to agro-industries.

108. The Committee supported the continuing work on sericulture and apiculture.

2.1.3 Livestock

109. The Committee agreed that livestock played a vital multi-purpose role in developing countries both in the medium and long term. It stressed that the rapidly growing demand for animal products in these countries called for major efforts to develop their considerable potential for livestock production. Over the medium-term, livestock production in developing countries ought to grow by more than 4 percent annually.

110. The Committee also stressed that, since deficiencies in feed and feeding systems were a most important factor limiting livestock development in the developing countries, particular emphasis should be given to the adoption of appropriate strategies for livestock feeding, with particular emphasis on the improvement of grasslands and forage resources with a view to reducing dependence on grains. Such strategies would also enhance the use of any breeding programmes and genetical livestock improvement through selection or upgrading. The economically useful indigenous stock such as trypano-tolerant livestock should be given special attention and be rapidly multiplied.

111. The Committee endorsed the priority and emphasis given to animal health and urged that support be given to the improvement of veterinary services and disease control as this would contribute significantly to supporting increased animal production in the future.

112. The Committee agreed that full use should be made of the planning assistance available through the International Meat Development Scheme (IMDS), the International Scheme for the Coordination of Dairy Development (ISCDD) and the Programme for the Control of African Animal Trypanosomiasis and Related Development in order to generate action programmes for production increases in the medium and long term. Some members urged that the level of activity of IMDS be not reduced in future.

113. The Committee fully supported training activities as the continuing backbone of the livestock programme.

114. The Committee endorsed the activities included in the livestock programme in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1986/87. It welcomed the emphasis given to small farmers through active support for rural development in all aspects of animal production and health and animal products processing and marketing.

115. The Committee welcomed the intensification of the work on the control of rinderpest and on vaccine production. It urged that FAO continue and further strengthen its active participation in the Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign (PARC), in particular with major efforts to mobilize the substantive financial resources required for the implementation of the large-scale Campaign. The Committee also stressed the importance of continued support to other emergency diseases and longer term disease control campaigns, including foot-and-mouth disease and tick-borne diseases. The Committee reconfirmed its support for the activities under the Programme for the Control of African Animal Trypanosomiasis and Related Development.

116. The Committee commended the initiative taken on increased availability and utilization of feed resources, with particular emphasis on feeding systems appropriate to small farm conditions and on the promotion of TCDC programmes. The Committee stressed the importance of the assistance to drought-prone countries in Africa in the preparation of feed security plans and strategies.

117. The Committee supported the activities on the evaluation, conservation and management of animal genetic resources and the development of artificial insemination. Important aspects of this work would continue to be implemented in close collaboration with UNEP. The Committee also supported the proposal to establish four regional gene banks in collaboration with regional organizations concerned.

118. The Committee welcomed the full integration of the dairy development activities under the ISCDD and the Regional Dairy Development and Training Teams in close collaboration with the Regional Offices. It agreed that planning, implementation and coordination of integrated dairy programmes for dairy development, with the active participation of donor countries and the full commitment of recipient countries, would give renewed emphasis to dairy development as a major component of rural development. The Committee also agreed that Africa and the Latin America and Caribbean Regions should receive priority within the IMDS, including the establishment of a TCDC network on meat industry development in the latter Region.

119. The Committee endorsed the focus of animal production activities on improved production systems for small farmers and pastoralists, the promotion of appropriate production technologies and the integration of draught animal power into farming systems. The Committee welcomed the emphasis on sheep, goats and pigs, as well as poultry, ducks and rabbits, better suited to small farms and management by rural women. It strongly supported the active promotion of the TCDC concept in the development and implementation of the animal production activities.

2.1.4 Research and Technology Development

120. The Committee endorsed the priority and emphasis given to research and technology development in both the proposed Programme of Work for 1986-87 and in the medium term.

121. The Committee recognized that research and the development and application of appropriate technologies were key factors in agricultural and rural development. It emphasized the need for strengthening national policies and capabilities in research, technology development, transfer and application. In this respect the Committee stressed the need to intensify efforts to develop appropriate technologies for integrated dry-land farming systems.

122. The Committee agreed that research and technology development should take into account the resource endowments and ecological and socio-economic conditions of each country and that environmental problems associated with maintaining agricultural productivity required additional attention.

123. The Committee emphasized the need for improved methods to relate research priorities to national development and for improved management techniques and approaches to research policy formulation. It agreed that the proposed strengthening of training on research management was fully justified.

124. The Committee stressed the importance of TCDC in research and the application of technology and supported continued efforts to strengthen regional and sub-regional cooperation in this area. It also emphasized the need for continued efforts at the national level to establish functional links between research, extension and the farmer and to increase research cooperation between agricultural research institutions and universities. In this regard, the CARIS was recognized as an important tool in disseminating information on current research activities and existing research capabilities, both at national and regional levels where it helped to foster TCDC.

125. The Committee stressed the importance of the Global Information and Early Warning System and recognized the important contribution of remote sensing technology, both to this system and to the broader area of acquiring information on renewable natural resources as a basis for development and for assessing and monitoring natural resources in agriculture, forestry and fisheries. The Committee agreed that the proposed strengthening of FAO's remote sensing applications at the national, regional and international level, including increased inputs to the Global Information and Early Warning Systems, was fully justified.

126. The Committee recognized the important potential contribution of bio-technology to agriculture in the medium and long term and the essential role of isotope research in this area. It supported the continued use of isotopes, radiation and related technologies in solving various food and agricultural problems in developing regions and endorsed the proposed strengthening of technology transfer and training in nuclear and agricultural bio-technology. The Committee also recognized the value of food irradiation as a means of reducing food losses and urged that increased efforts be made to transfer this technology to developing countries. The Committee highlighted the important function in these areas of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division.

127. The Committee stressed the importance of meeting the growing need for energy supply in developing countries in order to increase food and agricultural production and improve living conditions in rural areas. The Committee recognised the need for both increasing the efficient use of commercial energy in agriculture and the development and promotion of appropriate new and renewable sources of energy, including wood energy, which could provide a complementary or alternative source of energy for rural development. It agreed that in 1986-87 increased emphasis should be given to promoting proven technologies on new and renewable sources of rural energy through regional networks and TCDC approaches in cooperation with the Regional Offices, and to facilitating the exchange of information on proven technologies between developing and developed countries.

128. The Committee recognized the importance of environmental concerns in efforts to increase and sustain food and agricultural production and rural development and emphasized the need to address effectively the problems of pollution and degradation/

depletion of natural resources. The Committee agreed that emphasis should be given, during the next biennium, to technical assistance for the development of national environmental strategies for agriculture and rural development, including forestry and fisheries. It also supported the development of environmental guidelines for agricultural and rural development projects in selected major agro-ecological zones, and strengthening the exchange of environment related information.

2.1.5 Rural Development

129. The Committee agreed that the eradication of hunger and poverty should be the main objective of rural development. A strategy for small farm development was central to rural development as well as to food security. FAO's programme should be aimed at assisting countries to provide the institutional and technological prerequisites for the successful implementation of such a strategy. Programmes for greater income and employment generation, both in the farm and non-farm sectors were considered essential for marginal and landless farmers. The Committee recognized that these aspects, covered in the WCARRD Programme of Action, were fully reflected in FAO's medium and long term strategies and objectives.

130. The action of FAO in promoting a WCARRD-inspired orientation in national policies and programmes was welcomed. The Committee supported assistance to countries in establishing suitable monitoring systems to assess the impact of such policies and programmes on the WCARRD target groups as a basis for policy intervention. It emphasized the importance of TCDC in rural development and requested that FAO's support to the Regional Centres for Rural Development be continued.

131. The Committee emphasized the importance of agrarian structural change for rural development and supported FAO assistance to countries in planning and implementation of agrarian reform and land settlement.

132. The Committee endorsed the programme for people's participation through cooperatives and organizations of small farmers and women, and supported NGO involvement in support of such organizations and activities. It stressed the need for employment generation activities and for improvement in the organization of agricultural delivery systems to small farmers.

133. The Committee strongly supported continued emphasis on the role of women as farmers and rural producers, particularly with regard to food crops, and urged greater efforts to reach them through extension, training, credit and marketing. It stressed the need to introduce technological improvements for promoting the role of women in production, processing and food conservation.

134. The Committee supported the sub-programme for agricultural education, extension and training and its greater orientation to the needs of small and women farmers. It approved the strengthening of agricultural training institutions and extension systems, as well as the promotion of locally appropriate training materials and low-cost group-training and audio-visual materials. The Committee supported follow-up activities to the major assessment carried out in Africa for the development of further trained manpower in agriculture. The Committee emphasized the need to narrow the gap between research findings and their actual application by farmers at field level.

135. The Committee approved the programme for building up national capacities to carry out development support communications programmes and for the use of low-cost communication technology for grass-root level training in support of agricultural and rural development.

136. The Committee supported the programmes for strengthening incentives for small farmers through effective policies and programmes, and marketing extension services. It stressed the need to strengthen food marketing institutions as a contribution to food security and continued attention to the role of women in marketing. The Committee also supported the improvement of input and fertilizer marketing systems.

137. The Committee stressed the importance of more effective domestic resource mobilization and of improving the performance and viability of institutional agricultural credit infrastructures. It welcomed the greater emphasis on linkages between credit,

input supply, marketing and extension services. It supported the attention to crop insurance, credit guarantee and revolving funds schemes, which were closely linked to agricultural credit operations.

2.1.6 Nutrition

138. The Committee agreed that food and nutrition considerations should continue to be incorporated into strategies for agriculture and rural development at all levels and for establishing national food policies. It recommended that a similar strategy be followed for assessing the nutritional impact of projects in the fishery sector. It stressed that nutrition situation in a country depended critically on an equitable access to food.

139. The Committee concurred with the work undertaken to encourage greater use of minor and under-exploited food crops by rural and semi-urban populations in order to improve food supplies, to promote nutritional improvement and mitigate vitamin and mineral deficiencies. It observed that rapid urbanization created nutritionally hazardous situations and supported nutrition policies and programmes required to meet the situation.

140. The Committee recognized the importance of ensuring quality and safety of food supplies and providing consumer protection. It commended the role and significance of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme and noted the active involvement by a large number of governments in support of its activities. It recognized that the impact of food quality control measures and the application of standards on food supply, trade and human health was far greater than was generally realized.

141. The Committee recognized the importance of limiting or eliminating contamination of foods. It welcomed new developments in the use of food irradiation and supported the transfer of this well established technology to developing countries in order to protect the health of the local population and to facilitate international trade. Regarding work on mycotoxins, it was proposed to strengthen international collaboration, also with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

142. In line with the related recommendation at its Seventh Session, the Committee endorsed the reallocation of resources between two sub-programmes to reflect technical assistance requirements of member countries in nutrition policy at the country level, with particular emphasis on urban food systems, nutritional aspects of food security programmes and the formulation of food price policies.

143. The Committee stressed the importance of training in all aspects of nutrition activities, including in the analysis of nutritionally related data as a useful input in formulating food and agricultural policy. The Committee supported the establishment of nutritional data bank and urged that it be maintained and updated on a continuous basis.

2.1.7 Food and Agricultural Information and Analysis

144. The Committee noted the importance of collecting and publishing, timely, reliable and comprehensive food and agricultural statistics to supply basic information for decision-making and monitoring rural and agricultural development, including food security and poverty. It agreed that further improvements were necessary in this field, particularly by strengthening the statistical services in developing countries. It suggested that FAO should endeavour to develop a methodology to estimate the contribution of the subsistence sector to food production. The Committee also stressed the need to give greater attention to the promotion of statistics on local crops. It recommended that FAO should continue to provide technical assistance to Member Countries on integrated food and agricultural statistical programmes, utilizing the 1990 World Census of Agriculture programmes, and focusing on the role of small farmers.

145. The Committee welcomed the intent to promote and implement the 1990 World Census of Agriculture within the framework of national information systems for food and agriculture. The Committee also supported the proposal of implementing food and agricultural surveys within this framework to meet the need for national agricultural policy formulation and for monitoring and evaluating agrarian reform and rural development.

146. In particular, the Committee supported the proposals for comprehensive assessments of the food and agricultural situation at regional levels and for improvement of feed, livestock statistics, price statistics and trade matrices, including analysis of trade flows amongst developing countries, especially within the context of ECDC in agriculture.

147. The Committee agreed with the high priority given by the Director-General to a substantial strengthening of the Global Information and Early Warning System in 1986-87. In this connection, the Committee welcomed the plans to undertake more intensive monitoring of crop production and the food supply situation for countries likely to face food emergencies, to provide technical assistance for establishing and strengthening national early warning systems, to improve communications links and reporting networks in critically affected countries and to improve the estimation of food aid requirements.

2.1.8 Food and Agricultural Policy

148. The Committee concurred with the objectives of this Programme in the medium term and appreciated in particular that two of the principal aims of the Director-General's selected priorities, namely increased food security and the enhancement of Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (ECDC), were well reflected in major activities of the Programme.

149. The Committee supported the proposal to update and refine the data base for Agriculture Toward 2000 (AT 2000) in the light of the developments since the late 1970s. Some members observed that in the consideration of long term goals and objectives in the food and agricultural sector, the time horizon might have to be extended beyond Year 2000, as the end of the decade neared.

150. The Committee noted that follow-up work to the study on price policies would continue in support of national policies and inter-country cooperation in the area of policy formulation and implementation and incentives for food production.

151. The Committee stressed the importance of expanding cooperation among developing countries. It supported proposals to review opportunities for ECDC, including problems of integration groupings and regional cooperation schemes, and to follow-up the technical consultation on agricultural inputs to be held in June 1985.

152. The Committee supported the medium term objectives regarding commodity policies and trade, including the stabilization of world commodity markets; expansion of agricultural trade, particularly the export earnings of developing countries; and the promotion of ECDC in trade. It endorsed the programme of activities to be undertaken in 1986-87 towards these goals, through FAO's network of intergovernmental commodity groups; analysis of developments in agricultural protectionism and its impact; examination of the scope for developing countries to expand their export earnings through ECDC in trade; and assistance to developing countries in the design and implementation of national commodity policies. It noted with satisfaction the intention to continue to provide technical support on agricultural commodities to other international organizations notably the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and to extend it to new organizations, such as the International Jute Organization. For a number of agricultural commodities, it was stressed that the FAO intergovernmental groups provided the only international fora where the problems concerning these commodities were discussed by governments and efforts were made to find solutions to them. Also in connection with the above activities, the Committee supported the proposal to undertake a major study on ECDC in agricultural commodity trade.

153. As regards the enhancement of world food security, the Committee stressed the importance of progressive implementation of national, regional and international food security systems in line with the aims and scope of the broadened concept of world food security. To this end, the Committee agreed in particular on the need for assistance to developing countries to develop national and regional food security policies and programmes, to enhance food self-reliance, to improve food stocking, to increase levels of nutrition, and strengthen marketing and distribution systems. The Committee fully supported the activities on world food security planned for 1986-87, including the strengthening of the analytical basis of the work of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS); the workshops on aspects of food security crucial to the needs of developing

countries; and the expansion of the activities of the Food Security Assistance Scheme, particularly to cover traditional non-cereal food crops in its policy advisory and project work.

154. The Committee underlined the need for continued support by FAO for countries to analyse problems in agricultural and rural development, formulate policies and prepare and implement plans and projects. This was particularly relevant at a time of economic uncertainty and financial stringency that demanded rapid adjustments to be made to development programmes and policies. It therefore supported the proposals made in the area of agricultural policy analysis and planning assistance including training and commended the continued focus on Africa during the 1986-87 biennium.

FOOD AND NUTRITION

The Role of Minor Crops in Nutrition and Food Security 1/

155. The Committee considered the document COAG/85/6, "The Role of Minor Crops in Nutrition and Food Security". It reviewed the significance of these crops for nutrition, food security, rural income and national economies, and discussed measures required to enhance the importance of minor crops in reducing hunger and malnutrition in the context of agricultural and rural development and self-reliance.

156. The Committee welcomed the increased emphasis placed on minor crops as essential elements in improving nutrition and food security. The Committee suggested that the document, which provided valuable information and a good focus for agricultural planning, should be widely distributed, including to FAO field experts.

157. The Committee noted that "minor" crops was an inappropriate term to qualify foods which were generally of primary importance in traditional diets, provided a large share of essential nutrients in the diet, particularly of poor people in developing countries, and played a major role in subsistence farming. The Committee suggested that a more appropriate name be found to designate such food crops.

158. The Committee noted that the nutritional, social and economic and even therapeutic significance of minor crops had often been underestimated in the past for a number of reasons. In particular, information was lacking on quantity and varieties produced and consumed because these crops were often not recorded in the statistics on production and trade. The Committee stressed the need to fill this information gap, and to assess the nutritional and socio-economic significance of these crops, notably through food consumption surveys.

159. The Committee emphasized that the lack of information and of adequate attention to these crops were particularly detrimental in view of the unique role these foods could play in alleviating seasonal food shortages in rural areas and in ensuring food security. In that respect, the role already played by millets in the arid and semi-arid areas of Africa was highlighted and trials of adaptations in similar ecozones outside Africa were mentioned.

160. The Committee emphasized the famine relief characteristics of roots, tubers and drought resistant plant foods. The Committee also noted the sometimes negative nutritional effects of modern imported foods. In this respect the Committee noted with concern that the substitution of traditional roots and tubers by imported cereal products in the South Pacific Islands had been associated with the emergence of a number of nutritional diseases.

161. The Committee stressed the particular importance of products from trees, shrubs, wild foliage and mushrooms in the context of nutrition and food security. Chestnuts had until recently played an essential role in the nutrition of populations in the Mediterranean countries and were threatened by destruction by a fungal disease. In other regions, after a decline, increasing quantities of food were being provided by the date palm tree. In general, the role of forest products in food consumption, income generation, soil protection and other direct and indirect elements of nutrition and food security could not be overemphasized. Other gathered products, which were commonly consumed in some areas but had been hardly studied, deserved the same quality of analysis as the major crops.

162. The Committee noted that pulses and oilseeds, which had been by-passed by the Green Revolution, were now receiving increasing attention because of their agricultural potential and nutrient content. This was done by increasing availability of improved varieties of planting materials, research, input subsidies, price support and marketing facilities. The Committee emphasized that legumes, vegetables and fruits contributed to nutrition and food security in several ways. In particular they were often grown and processed by women. In addition to increasing family food supplies, this enabled the women to earn more income and enabled them to buy necessities for their children and the whole family.

1/ COAG/85/6

163. The Committee noted with concern the existing constraints on the promotion and development of minor crops, particularly with regard to improved processing and handling, marketing and distribution (particularly to the low-income consumers) and training and education. The Committee emphasized that substantial efforts to overcome these constraints were required at all levels.

164. The Committee suggested six broad components for the promotion of minor crops at the country level:

- (i) identification of minor crops with potential to improve nutrition;
- (ii) identification of policies, programmes and projects to promote minor crops, including farming systems, home and school gardens and labour-saving food processing technologies;
- (iii) review of agricultural research priorities at national level within the context of food and nutrition strategies;
- (iv) assessment of the influence of existing policies on the availability and consumption of these crops and adjustments when necessary;
- (v) development of markets and access to markets for small producers;
- (vi) improvement of the statistical measurement of minor crops.

165. The Committee recognized that institutions such as the International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), IITA, and the International Centre of Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) had implemented significant research on roots, tubers and other minor crops but that on the whole the reorientation of agricultural research centers towards minor crops had been too recent and too limited. Results of research could induce improvements in the consumption of minor crops even in the short term, thereby limiting the pressure of food imports in urban and also rural areas.

166. The Committee emphasized that simultaneously with the promotion of new research, the exchange of information and experiences should be stimulated, notably within the context of South-South Cooperation, among agricultural and technological research institutions including also research centres specialized in one or more roots, tubers or other important minor crops.

167. The Committee stressed the need for preparing easily understandable information material on the importance of production, consumption, marketing and processing of minor crops for field and village personnel. It recommended the existing mass media be mobilized to promote the image of minor crops to the public at large, the primary and secondary schools, extension services and in particular to the various Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). In this connection, the Committee welcomed the preparation of a manual for field staff on minor plants in arid Africa and of another manual directed at policy makers. Countries would need to prepare their own teaching materials, adapted to local conditions, with the collaboration of social scientists and nutritionists.

168. The Committee stressed that policy measures to promote minor crops should include the provision of powerful incentives to be effective, including remunerative prices and credit to the producers who were often small farmers or women, subsidized quality seeds, fertilizers and pesticides, access to markets and marketing and storage and transport facilities. Simultaneously, promotional campaigns to the consumers were essential. In this context, the Committee noted that strategies to promote minor crops were intimately linked with anti-poverty and self-reliant development strategies and that, therefore, minor crop development warranted national and international support.

169. The Committee recommended that Member Governments should:

- (i) assess through appropriate agriculture and consumption surveys the importance of the locally produced traditional crops in the subsistence sector and their economic and nutritional importance in the context of the national food supplies.

- (ii) take into account the nutritional value of the minor crops and their cultural place in the community in order to prevent the decline of the most important traditional crops.
- (iii) develop appropriate agricultural policies through adequate producer prices and credit facilities to increase their production, storage and commercialization.
- (iv) develop with international research institutions appropriate processing technologies to obtain from minor crops, convenient foods for the urban market corresponding to local tastes and preferences so as to decrease food dependency.

170. The Committee recommended urgent action at national level with the support of FAO and of bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

SELECTED DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMSProcessing of Food and Non-Food Agricultural Products 1/

171. The Committee considered this item, which had been proposed by the Seventh Session of COAG, on the basis of document COAG/85/7.

172. The Committee noted that the scope of the background document was limited to the presentation of the Agriculture Department's activities in food and non-food agricultural products processing under the sub-programme 2.1.2.6. Noting that the document did not deal with another important part of the Department's involvement in agro-industries, namely dairy and meat industry, some members stressed that the discussion would have benefitted from the inclusion of these sectors. Fisheries and forest industries were not covered as they fell under the responsibilities of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and the Committee on Forestry (COFO) respectively. The Committee expressed its appreciation of the quality of the document and of the concurrent exhibition of FAO's activities in agro-industrial developments, showing examples of achievements in this field.

173. The Committee endorsed the importance of the role played by agro-industries in agricultural and general economic development of countries. It agreed on the importance of the role of agro-processing in reducing post-harvest losses, especially among perishable products, in substituting imports and ensuring food security. The important role of the transnational companies was mentioned both in the marketing and processing of food and non-food products. The Director-General was asked to consider the possibility of undertaking a study on this matter taking into account ongoing studies by FAO and other work of the UN system.

174. The Committee recognized that agro-industry lacked a clear identity in that it fell between agriculture and industry. It stressed the importance of relevant government policies in providing incentives and links between agricultural production, agro-processing, credit facilities and distribution.

175. The Committee emphasized that successful establishment of agro-industries required that full attention be given to the compilation of relevant statistical data; appropriate infrastructure; availability of sufficient raw material supply; quality standards and control; socio-economic impact; manpower availability of appropriate skills in planning, execution and evaluation of the industry and the respective roles of public and private sectors. It was also important to select appropriate technologies adapted to the local situation, and diversification based on market potential. Due consideration should also be given to the availability and adaptability of credit and banking facilities to the special needs of agro-industries, particularly smaller enterprises and more specifically those involving women; the possible labour-displacement effect; the use of agro-industrial residues; environmental impact, protection measures and costs; and energy requirement, including the potential for use of renewable energy sources.

176. The Committee emphasized the importance of cooperatives in assisting small farmers in agricultural production, processing and distribution of their produce. In particular, cooperatives and marketing boards were necessary to link producers and processors; to maintain quality in processing, to stabilize income, reduce price fluctuations and ensure higher returns to producers.

177. The Committee stressed the need for research and development, followed by dissemination of scientific and technological knowledge through appropriate channels. It also emphasized the potential for TCDC and ECDC activities in agro-industrial development at regional and sub-regional level.

178. The Committee emphasized the need to give due consideration to the application of biotechnology in environmental pollution control and agro-processing, but agreed that care should be exercised in applying these new techniques.

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179. The Committee regretted that packaging and packaging materials had not been covered in the background document and drew attention to the fact that packaging materials, usually imported by developing countries, could be a major cost component of the final product. It recommended that more attention should be accorded to development of packaging materials from local resources.

180. The Committee stressed the present importance and future potential of apiculture for many developing countries, and noted the increasing field programme support given to Member Countries. A proposal to establish an expert panel on apiculture under the auspices of FAO was supported by many members. Other members, while recognizing the importance of apiculture, expressed reservations about the terms of reference of such a panel, their relevance to priorities in FAO's Programme of Work, the financial implications, and possible duplication with other existing international bodies. The Committee recommended that the Director-General give consideration, in the light of the above, to the feasibility and possible modalities and costs of the proposal, as well as to alternative means of supporting apicultural development.

181. The Committee emphasized the need for training of local personnel, including women, in all aspects and at all levels of agro-industrial development.

182. The Committee commended the activities of the Regional Training Centre on Sericulture for Asia and the Pacific Region, and recommended that similar training facilities also be established for Africa.

183. The Committee noted the importance of the Composite Flour Programme in curtailing heavy dependency on wheat imports. It recommended that present efforts be pursued and further collaboration encouraged.

184. The Committee agreed on the need to give more attention to agro-industrial development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

185. The Committee noted with satisfaction that close cooperation already existed with UNIDO in the field of agro-industrial development, and recommended that this collaboration be extended and reinforced with other UN organizations and non-governmental organizations.

186. In conclusion, the Committee endorsed the strategies and policies as presented in document COAG/85/7 and recommended that FAO continue and strengthen its activities in agro-industrial development.

Agricultural Price Policies 1/

187. The Committee discussed agricultural price policies on the basis of document COAG/85/8, "Agricultural Price Policies".

188. The Committee agreed that while food and agricultural pricing was an issue of primary importance in all countries, considerable difference of view existed as to what were appropriate objectives, policy instruments and ways of applying them effectively. The Committee therefore appreciated the decision of the Director-General to undertake a study of price policies and agreed with the specific objectives of the study, as set out in the introduction to the document.

189. The Committee agreed that the document to be submitted to the 1985 FAO Conference should be a basic guide to all countries, particularly developing countries, in their formulation and application of food and agricultural price policies.

190. The Committee emphasized the importance and complexity of agricultural price policies in countries at all stages of development, both market and centrally-planned countries. While the objectives, extent and forms of their price policies differed, all countries intervened in food and agricultural pricing. Such policies were not easy to

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formulate or to apply and experience indicated a number of weaknesses in earlier policies. This applied particularly to the case of food commodities in developing countries, where there had been an undue bias towards urban populations and against the interests of producers.

191. The Committee drew attention to a number of issues of primary importance in price policies:

- (i) Multiplicity and ranking of objectives: Price policies typically had a number of objectives, such as the provision of price incentives to farmers and the protection and support of the farm sector, encouraging improvements in production methods, price stability, and the prevention of consumer price increases. The most important of all objectives, however, was that of ensuring the adequacy of producer incentives. Producer confidence in price levels and their stability was itself a strong incentive. Pricing of food at artificially low levels was likely to be self-defeating in the long run.
- (ii) Agricultural price policy and the economy as a whole: It was essential that agricultural price policy was formulated and applied with close attention to the links which prices had with other aspects of economic policy. Experience had amply demonstrated in both developing and developed countries that agricultural prices, fiscal policy and the balance of payments were interdependent. Too often, institutional arrangements for economic policy decisions provided inadequate representation of agricultural concerns in macro-economic policy decisions.
- (iii) Complementarity of price and other policy measures: Price measures had always to be operated in conjunction with other measures in order to be effective. Infrastructural requirements - investment, technologies, farmer education - were examples of prerequisites for adequate production responses to prices. Assured availability of necessary inputs to production as well as of consumption goods was also a strong production incentive. Marketing was especially important and marketing margins tended to be high most notably, in Africa. Parastatal marketing bodies had led to increased marketing costs in some instances, although this result had to be viewed against the situation which would have prevailed in the absence of parastatal operation. In order for the pricing policies of developing countries to be effective and for their export products to have freer access to markets it was necessary that all forms of protectionism be reduced and ultimately eliminated.
- (iv) Criteria for price support levels: The two main determinants used in setting price levels or targets were the cost of production and international prices. Both raised problems, e.g. cost of production neglected demand influences and was difficult to determine, while international prices were often thought not to be representative of underlying long term supply and demand trends and were often unstable. Multiple criteria therefore provided a more appropriate basis for price decisions which had also to ensure that producer prices were kept in an acceptable relationship with consumer prices and prices of non-agricultural products.
- (v) Input subsidies: Subsidies to reduce the cost to farmers of inputs to production, such as fertilizer, machinery or irrigation water, were widely used both as an alternative to higher producer prices and to encourage faster adoption of specific inputs. They had the advantage of having a lower impact on prices of other commodities as well as of being easier to direct to disadvantaged farmers, areas and crops. Input subsidies could however lead to problems and were difficult to withdraw. In some instances, they were now being reduced or limited and greater reliance placed on output pricing.

- (vi) Consumer food pricing: Subsidies on consumer food prices have not always been targeted in the past to benefit the poorest people. Although Asia had used targeted food schemes more than countries in other regions, experience in targeting to benefit poorer people was increasing. Food aid could be used to help to finance such price policies.
- (vii) Regional pricing: Commodity prices in countries within the same region have often differed widely, encouraging illicit trade and making national price policies more difficult to implement. A close consultation between such countries on their agricultural price policies might improve the situation. A universally applicable model for regional cooperation in pricing policies was not easy to devise and implement because of differences between their input and production costs, consumer preferences and traditional diets.
- (viii) Implementation of price policies: Price policies were not easy to implement effectively. They were demanding of funds and of trained personnel. Many variables had to be considered and unwanted side effects could arise. Timeliness was a major operational requirement. If policy were to influence the allocation of production resources, prices had to be announced in advance of farmers' production decisions. It was usually desirable to limit the coverage of price support measures to major food staples and export commodities. Accurate and timely information on price developments and market operations were needed for effective management.

192. The Committee discussed at length the bearing of external factors, particularly the influence of the agricultural price and trade policies of developed countries on world market prices, and the feasibility of effective price policies in developing countries. The situation was complex and different points of view were put forward.

193. The Committee agreed that national and regional policies of developed countries had a dominant impact on world agricultural trade. They therefore exercised a decisive influence on international agricultural prices and on the external framework within which developing countries had to formulate their price policies.

194. Many members, however, pointed to strongly adverse impacts of certain policies of developed countries which had led to increased price fluctuations and uncertainties, as well as to a lowering of world prices of some commodities of export interest to developing countries. They considered that in comparison with developed countries, developing countries played a small role in determining international market prices, which were also subject to manipulation by transnationals.

195. Some other members, however, considered that any such adverse impacts were considerably less than had been described and that too little account had been taken of results beneficial to some developing countries, including improved trade opportunities under Lomé III, the provision of food aid, and assistance given to some developing countries for their agriculture and for their price policies. It was also pointed out that developed countries differed considerably as to the extent of their influence on world agricultural trade and prices which, in some instances, was marginal.

196. Many members recognized that International Commodity Agreements were important but stressed that some of these Agreements were not satisfactory to them.

197. The Committee noted that updating of the statistical series of the provisional report was under way. It requested the Secretariat to keep in mind to the extent possible within the constraint of the time limit the following suggestions for the completion of the report:

- deeper analysis of the bearing of developed country policies on developing country prices and price policy options, disaggregating amongst groups of developed countries, including centrally-planned countries;

- greater stress on macro-economic links of price policy;
- further examination of criteria for decisions on price levels including closer examination of cost of production, international prices and prices of substitutes;
- additional analysis of experience with input subsidies, including their use for disadvantaged areas;
- additional analysis of marketing institutions and margins;
- further analysis of income distribution effects of price policies including their impact on small farmers;
- additional consideration of problems of implementation of price policies;
- more evidence on supply responses to price changes, including an analysis of the effects of the removal of price distortions.

198. The Committee also believed that greater use of charts and tables would enhance the readability of the final report.

199. The Committee agreed with the work programme of FAO on price policies outlined in the paper and emphasized the importance of its role in helping countries to improve these policies. It was essential that countries be assisted in improving agricultural price data. The Committee gave particular importance to the training role of FAO in price policy analysis including its macro-economic aspects.

200. The Committee endorsed the intention of the Director-General to submit the revised report on agricultural price policies, taking into account its views and suggestions, to the FAO Conference in November 1985.

International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides 1/

201. The Committee discussed the item on the basis of document COAG/85/9 "International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides" which had been prepared following a recommendation by the Second Government Consultation on International Harmonization of Pesticide Registration Requirements held in Rome, 11-15 October 1982.

202. The Committee recognized that the present version of the Code was the end result of wide and extensive consultations with Member Nations, appropriate UN organizations, other international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the pesticide industry. The Committee noted that the final version of the text incorporated comments from 80 members received in response to the circulation of an earlier draft by the Director-General.

203. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the thorough preparation of this important document and agreed that it provided a very balanced and clear presentation of a complex and highly technical subject.

204. The Committee unanimously agreed with the need for such a Code in view of the continuing and increasing use of pesticides essential for agricultural development and of the potential serious risks for human and animal health and their effects on the environment as a result of indiscriminate or uninformed applications or misuse.

205. The Committee endorsed the basic objectives of the Code, which were to identify potential hazards in the distribution and use of pesticides, to establish standards of conduct and to define responsibilities for all those engaged in the regulation, distribution and use of pesticides. Many members felt that the Code could have included adequate provisions for standards of safety in the manufacturing of pesticides.

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206. The Committee recognized that the Code, in its present formulation, was neither mandatory nor legally binding. It was a set of provisions and basic principles which respected the sovereign rights of each State to issue its own legislation and regulations.

207. Most members, although wishing to see stronger provisions in the Code, agreed that a realistic and practical approach would be to accept the Code in its present form, in the spirit of cooperation and goodwill among all concerned. The draft was a compromise text which took into account the many and diverse views expressed by Member Governments.

208. A few members expressed concern about some of the terminology in the Code, e.g. "banned", "severely restricted", "risk" and "hazard". It was suggested that the WHO definition of "risk" and "hazard" should be adopted.

209. The Committee stressed the importance of adequate training and instruction for users of pesticides and appreciated that the Code covered these aspects. The need to carry out trials with pesticides, under controlled conditions and with adequate safety measures, in those countries where they were to be used, was emphasized by a number of members. The importance of biological pest control and integrated pest management was also noted.

210. Some members referred to the problems arising from the export of pesticides by developed countries and expressed concern at the non-inclusion of the "prior consent" clause in Article 9 on Information Exchange.

211. Several members emphasized that the Code and the accompanying guidelines provided a practical framework for the control of pesticides, especially in countries that did not have adequate registration schemes. Technical assistance would be required to set up schemes and facilities in some of these countries.

212. Many members stressed the need for urgency in accepting the Code. It was also suggested that FAO join the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS), as its activities would complement those of the other sponsors.

213. A number of members emphasized the need to monitor the acceptance of the Code, and the suggestion was made that, in addition to adoption of the Code, the subject of monitoring requirements should also be placed on the agenda of the 1985 session of the FAO Conference.

214. The observer from the International Group of National Associations of Agrochemical Manufacturers (GIFAP) stated that his organization supported the Code and would continue to give high priority to close cooperation with governments in observing the principles and practices enumerated in the Code.

215. The Committee complimented FAO for the timely initiative in developing the Code, which would serve the interests of pesticide exporting and importing countries, the pesticide industry and users, and would lead to safer use of pesticides. While not perfect, the Code was an important first step, open to further improvement.

216. The Committee agreed that endorsement of the Code should not be delayed. It would be a milestone for FAO if the Code were put into effect on the occasion of its fortieth anniversary.

217. In conclusion, the Committee gave broad general acceptance to the Code and agreed that the Code be presented to the Council.

218. Furthermore, the Committee, noting that it would be for the Council to consider and decide on the transmission of the Code to the Conference, recommended that the Director-General take the comments in its Report into consideration and take such initiative as he deemed favourable to achieving a consensus in the Council.

OTHER MATTERSOther Business

219. 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 Ninth Session.

220. 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.

221. The Committee confirmed the standing agenda items dealing with the Implementation of the Programme of Work, the Medium- and Long-Term Outlook for Food and Agriculture Development and the Summary Programme of Work and Budget.

222. The Committee recommended that under its standing agenda item Food and Nutrition it should discuss the "Role of Food Quality and Standards in Food Security Trade and Health".

223. The Committee recommended that the following topics be considered for inclusion in the provisional agenda dealing with selected development problems:

- Dryland Farming Systems
- The Effect of Tenure and Fragmentation of Farm Holdings on Agricultural Development
- Requirements and Strategies for Improved Production of Roots, Tubers and Plantains.

224. A number of members suggested further items for the Agenda: Land Capability and Population; Agricultural Extension Services (including the role of women); Manpower Resources and Institution Building; Integration of Agriculture and Forestry in Land Use Systems; and Settlement Strategies for Pastoralists.

Date and Place of Next Session

225. In accordance with Rule XXXII-3 GRO and Rule II of its Rule of Procedure the Committee recommended that its Ninth Session should be held in Rome in March 1987. 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 sessions of the Programme and Finance Committee in the spring of 1987 to enable them to consider the recommendations of the Committee.

AGENDA FOR THE EIGHTH 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 AGRICULTURE SECTOR

3. Implementation of the Programme of Work 1984-85
4. Medium- and Long-Term Outlook for Food and Agricultural Development
5. Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87

FOOD AND NUTRITION

6. The Role of Minor Crops in Nutrition and Food Security

SELECTED DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS

7. Processing of Food and Non-Food Agricultural Products
8. Agricultural Price Policies
9. International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides

OTHER MATTERS

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

REPORT

12. Adoption of the Report.

APPENDIX BLIST OF MEMBER NATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

Afghanistan	Germany, Fed. Rep.	Norway
Algeria	Ghana	Pakistan
Angola	Greece	Panama
Argentina	Guatemala	Peru
Australia	Guinea-Bissau	Philippines
Austria	Haiti	Poland
Bangladesh	Honduras	Portugal
Belgium	Hungary	Romania
Belize	India	Saudi Arabia
Benin	Indonesia	Sao Tome and Principe
Bolivia	Iran	Senegal
Brazil	Iraq	Sierra Leone
Bulgaria	Ireland	Spain
Canada	Israel	Sri Lanka
Cape Verde	Italy	Sudan
Central African Republic	Ivory Coast	Suriname
Chile	Japan	Sweden
China	Jordan	Switzerland
Colombia	Kenya	Tanzania
Congo	Korea, Rep. of	Thailand
Costa Rica	Lesotho	Trinidad and Tobago
Cuba	Liberia	Tunisia
Cyprus	Libya	Turkey
Czechoslovakia	Madagascar	Uganda
Dem. People's Rep. of Korea	Malawi	United Kingdom
Denmark	Malaysia	United States of America
Dominican Rep.	Mexico	Uruguay
Ecuador	Morocco	Venezuela
Egypt	Nepal	Yemen Arab Rep.
El Salvador	Netherlands	Yemen, People's Dem. Rep. of
Equatorial Guinea	New Zealand	Yugoslavia
Ethiopia	Nicaragua	Zaire
Finland	Niger	Zambia
France	Nigeria	Zimbabwe
Gabon		

المرفق ج

附录三

APPENDIX C

ANNEXE C

APENDICE C

قائمة المندوبين والمراقبين

代表和观察员名单

LIST OF DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS
LISTE DES DELEGUES ET OBSERVATEURS
LISTA DE DELEGADOS Y OBSERVADORES

Chairman	:	
Président	:	Horacio Carandang (Philippines)
Presidente	:	
First Vice-Chairman	:	Wolfgang A.F. Grabisch (Federal
Premier Vice Président	:	Republic of Germany)
Primero Vicepresidente	:	
Second Vice-Chairman	:	
Deuxième Vice Président	:	Mohammed Abdelhadi (Tunisia)
Segundo Vicepresidente	:	محمد عبد الهادي (تونس)
النائب الثاني للرئيس	:	

البلدان الأعضاء في اللجنة
MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE
MEMBRES DU COMITE
MIEMBROS DEL COMITE

AFGHANISTAN/AFGANISTAN

Representative
 M. LATIF-BALUCHZADAH Rome
 Chargé D'Affaires, Embassy of Afghanistan

ALGERIA/ALGERIE/ARGELIA

الجزائر

Représentant
 H. BOUZID هـ . بوزيد
 Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche
 وزارة الفلاحة والثروة السمكية

Suppléant
 H. BENATTALLAH روما
 Représentant Permanent adjoint de
 la République algérienne démocratique
 et populaire حليم بن عطا الله
 مساعد الممثل الدائم لدى المنظمة

ANGOLA

Représentant
 J. COELHO DA CRUZ (Mme.) روما
 Première Secrétaire, Ambassade de
 la République populaire d'Angola
 Suppléant
 MARTIUS F. روما
 Attaché, Ambassade de la République
 populaire d'Angola

ARGENTINA/ARGENTINE

Representante
 G.E. GONZALEZ روما
 Ministro Plenipotenciario, Representante
 Permanente de Argentina ante la FAO
 Suplente
 D.F. MARSICO روما
 Representante Permanente Alterno de
 Argentina ante la FAO
 C. SERSALE DI CERISANO روما
 Representante Permanente Alterno de
 Argentina ante la FAO

AUSTRALIA/AUSTRALIE

Representative
 D.R. GREGORY روما
 Counsellor (Agriculture), Alternate
 Permanent Representative of Australia
 to FAO
 Alternate
 D.G. STAFFORD Canberra
 Department of Trade

AUSTRIA/AUTRICHE

Representative
 H. REDL Vienna
 Director, Federal Ministry of
 Agriculture and Forestry

BANGLADESH

Representative
 R. RAHMAN روما
 Ambassador, Permanent Representative
 of Bangladesh to FAO
 Alternate
 S.M. MATIUR RAHMAN روما
 Economic and Commercial Counsellor,
 Alternate Permanent Representative of
 Bangladesh to FAO

BELGIUM/BELGIQUE/BELGICA

Représentant
 E. DETRAUX Bruxelles
 Ingenieur Principal, Ministère de
 l'Agriculture
 Suppléant
 B. VAN HEMELDONCK (Mme) روما
 Représentant Permanent adjointe de
 la Belgique auprès de la FAO

BELIZE/BELICEBENIN

Représentant
 P. KAKANAKOU Cotonou
 Directeur de l'Agriculture
 Ministère du Développement Rural et
 de l'Action Coopérative

BOLIVIA/BOLIVIE

Representante
 G.A. ALIAGA روما
 Represente Permanente de la Republica
 de Bolivia ante la FAO

BRAZIL/BRESIL/BRASIL

Representative
 O.R. NEVES روما
 Ambassador, Permanent Representative of
 Brazil to FAO
 Alternate
 A.M. DE SA BARBUDA روما
 Counsellor, Alternate Permanent
 Representative of Brazil to FAO
 H. DA SILVEIRA SARDINHA PINTO روما
 Alternate Permanent Representative of
 Brazil to FAO

BULGARIA/BULGARIE

Représentant
J.K. DIMITROV Rome
Ministre Plénipotentiaire de Bulgarie
auprès de la FAO
Suppléant
V. STOYANOV Rome
Représentant Permanent adjoint de
Bulgarie auprès de la FAO

CANADA

Representative
N.W. TAPE Ottawa
Director, Food & Nutrition Service,
Food Research Institute,
Agriculture Canada
Alternates
G. MUSGROVE Rome
Designate Permanent Representative of
Canada to FAO
R. SALLERY Rome
Alternate Permanent Representative of
Canada to FAO
R.J. PRINS Ottawa
Agriculture Canada
G. GRENIER Quebec
Canadian International Development
Agency, Hull

CAPE VERDE/CAP-VERT/CABO VERDE

Représentant
A.R. PIRES Rome
Ambassadeur du Cap-Vert auprès de la FAO
Suppléant
M. de L. DUARTE (Mme.) Rome
Attachée agricole à la Représen-
tation Permanente du Cap-Vert auprès de
la FAO

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC/REPUBLIQUE
CENTRAFRICAINE/REPUBLICA CENTROAFRICANA

Répresentant
G. RAMADHANE-SAID Bangui
Directeur Général Adjoint de
Général Traplam
Suppléant
G.G. ASSAS-MBILAUT Bangui
Expert au Ministère du Développement
Rural

CHILE/CHILI

Representante
J.C. JARA DUCAUD Roma
Embajador, Representante Permanente
de Chile ante la FAO
Suplente
M. BALDUZZI (Sra.) Roma
Representante Permanente Alternativo de
Chile ante la FAO

CHINA/CHINE 中 国

Representative
KONG CANDONG Rome
Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent
Representative of the People's
Republic of China

代表：
孔 灿 东 罗马
中华人民共和国常驻代表、公使

Alternates
GONG SHAO WEN Beijing
Senior Agronomist, Ministry of Agri-
culture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries

副代表：
龚 绍 文 北京
农牧渔业部高级农艺师

ZENG XIAN RONG Rome
First Secretary, Permanent Represent-
ation of the People's Republic of
China to FAO

曾 宪 榕 罗马
中华人民共和国常驻粮农组织
代表处一等秘书

Advisers
LI ZHEN DOING Beijing
Department of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Agriculture, Animal
Husbandry and Fisheries

顾 问
李 正 东 北京
农牧渔业部外事司

LI YANPENG Rome
Permanent Representation of the
People's Republic of China to FAO

李 燕 鹏 罗马
中华人民共和国常驻
粮农组织代表处

COLOMBIA/COLOMBIE

Representante
G. BULA HOYOS Roma
Embajador de Colombia ante la FAO
Suplente
R.A. SUAREZ-MELO (Sra.) Roma
Primer Secretario, Representación
Permanente de Colombia ante la FAO

CONGO

Représentant
J. TCHICAYA Rome
Ambassadeur de la République populaire
du Congo auprès de la FAO
Suppléants
M. MOMBOULI Rome
Représentant permanent adjoint de la
République populaire du Congo auprès
de la FAO
A. MOUANGA Rome
Attaché financier, Représentation de
la République populaire du Congo auprès
de la FAO

COSTA RICA

Representante

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Embajador, Representante Permanente
de Costa Rica ante la FAO

Suplente

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Permanente Alternode Costa Rica ante la
FAO

CUBA

Representante

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Embajador, Representante Permanente de
Cuba ante la FAO

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Permanente de Cuba ante la FAO
P. REYNALDOS DUENAS Roma
Tercer Secretario, Representación
Permanente de Cuba ante la FAO
S. CARBALLO VIVES (Sra.) Roma
Agregado Diplomático, Representación
Permanente de Cuba ante la FAO
M.-J. FERNANDEZ (Sra.) Roma
Agregado Diplomático, Representación
Permanente de Cuba ante la FAO

CYPRUS/CHYPRE/CHIPRE

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of Cyprus to FAO

Alternate

H. ZANNETIS Roma
Agricultural Attaché, Permanent
Representation of Cyprus to FAO

CZECHOSLOVAKIA/TCHÉCOSLOVAQUIE/
CZECHOSLOVAQUIA

Representative

G. MACKO Roma
Permanent Representative of the
Czechoslovak Socialist Republic to FAO

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA/
REPUBLIQUE POPULAIRE DEMOCRATIQUE DE COREE/
REPUBLICA POPULAR DEMOCRATICA DE COREA

Representative

LI HYOK CHOL Roma
Counsellor, Deputy Permanent
Representative of the D.P.R. of
Korea to FAO

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA/
REPUBLIQUE POPULAIRE DEMOCRATIQUE DE COREE/
REPUBLICA POPULAR DEMOCRATICA DE COREA
(continued)

Alternates

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Third Secretary, Permanent
Representation of the D.P.R. of
Korea to FAO
CHYONG YUN HYONG Rome
Third Secretary, Permanent
Representation of the D.P.R. of
Korea to FAO

DENMARK/DANEMARK/DINAMARCA

Representative

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Director, Danish Agricultural
Information Office

Alternates

J. GLISTRUP Rome
Permanent Representative of
Denmark to FAO
V. HJORT Rome
Alternate Permanent Representative
of Denmark to FAO

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC/REPUBLIQUE
DOMINICAINE/REPUBLICA DOMINICANAECUADOR/EQUATEUR

Representante

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Consejero Comercial, Ministerio de
Industrias, Comercio e Integración

EGYPT/EGYPTE/EGIPTO

Representative

S. EL-FELALY مندوب Abasia
Researcher, Soil and Water العباسية
Research Institute

Alternate

Y.A. HAMDI Rome
Agricultural Counsellor, Alternate
Permanent Representative of the Arab
Republic of Egypt to FAO

س. الفلالي
باحث، معهد بحوث التربة والمياه

منسوب
يوسف علي حمدي
الممثل الدائم لمصر لدى المنظمة

EL SALVADOR

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Embajador, Representante Permanente de
El Salvador ante la FAO
Suplente
M.E. JIMENEZ ZEPEDA (Sra.) Roma
Consejero, Representación Permanente de
El Salvador
ante la FAO

EQUATORIAL GUINEA/GUINEE EQUATORIALE/
GUINEA ECUATORIAL

ETHIOPIA/ETHIOPIE/ETIOPIA

Representative
T. GURMU Addis Ababa
D/Commissioner, R.R.C.
Alternate
A. YILALA Rome
Alternate Permanent Representative of
the Provisional Military Government of
Socialist Ethiopia to FAO

FINLAND/FINLANDE/FINLANDIA

Representative
H. BRENNER Helsinki
Agricultural Adviser, Bureau for
International Affairs, Ministry of
Agriculture and Forestry
Alternate
C.A. HARTMAN Rome
Counsellor, Permanent Representative a.i.
of Finland to FAO

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Représentant
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Secrétaire général du Comité Inter-
ministériel de l'Alimentation et
de l'Agriculture
Suppléants
J.-M. TRAVERS Paris
Administrateur Civil, Direction des
Nations Unies et des Organisations
Internationales, Ministère des
Relations Extérieures
J.-P. NEME Rome
Attaché Scientifique, Représentation
Permanente de la France auprès de l'OAA
Adjoint
M. RIVES Paris
Conseiller Scientifique auprès du
Directeur Général, Institut National
de la Recherche Agronomique

GABON

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Ambassadeur de la République gabonaise
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Secrétaire Principal, chargé du Comité
de l'Agriculture à la CNFAO
O.M. MVE Libreville
Directeur National du Projet CIAM

GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF/
ALLEMAGNE, REPUBLIQUE FEDERALE D'/
ALEMANIA, REPUBLICA FEDERAL DE

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Head of Division, International
Agricultural Organizations
Federal Ministry of Food,
Agriculture and Forestry
Alternate
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Alternate Permanent Representative
of the Federal Republic of
Germany to FAO

GHANA

Representative
* H. MENDS Rome
Permanent Representative of Ghana
to FAO

GREECE/GRECE/GRECIA

Representative
P.G. SCALIERIS Rome
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of Greece to FAO
Alternates
N.A. SALTAS Rome
Deputy Permanent Representative of
Greece to FAO
Z. IERONIMAKI (Ms.) Rome
Attaché, Permanent Representation of
Greece to FAO
J. EFSTATHIOU (Ms.) Athens
Economist, Ministry of Agriculture
D. GERAKOPOULOS Athens
Agronomist, Ministry of Agriculture
M. ANTONAKOU (Ms.) Athens
Head, Pesticides' Circulation Dept.,
Ministry of Agriculture

GUATEMALA

Representante
H.M. LOPEZ FUENTES Rome
Embajador, Representante Permanente
de Guatemala ante la FAO

GUATEMALA (continued)

Suplente
Z. ALBRIGO Roma
Representante Permanente Alterno de
Guatemala ante la FAO

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Representante
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Embajador, Representante Permanente
de la República de Honduras ante la FAO

Suplentes

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Ministro Consejero, Embajada de la
República de Honduras
N.W. ATALA Roma
Primer Secretario, Representante
Permanente Alterno de la República de
Honduras
R. ZUNIGA DE SANDOVAL Roma
Representante Permanente Alterno de
la República de Honduras

HUNGARY/HONGRIE/HUNGRIA

Representative
L. ZELKO Rome
Permanent Representative of the Hungarian
People's Republic to FAO

Alternates

M. GALVOLGYI (Ms.) Budapest
Senior Officer, Ministry of Agriculture
and Food
S. ORAVECZ Budapest
Senior Officer, Ministry of Agriculture
and Food

INDIA/INDIE

Representative
HOMI J.H. TALEYARKHAN Rome
Ambassador of India and Permanent
Representative of India to FAO

Alternates

M. SUBRAMANIAN New Delhi
Secretary to Ministry of Agriculture
R.C. GUPTA Rome
Minister (Agriculture)
Embassy of India
Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO

INDONESIA/INDONESIE

Representative
A. KOBIR SASRADIPOERA Jakarta
Director, Bureau for International
Cooperation, Department of Agriculture

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H. ADANG Rome
Chief, Economics Division,
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Indonesia to FAO

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Representative
H.R.N. ISFAHANI Rome
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of
Islamic Republic of Iran to FAO

IRAQ/IRAKالعراق

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H. TABAQCHALI Rome
Permanent Representative of the Republic
of Iraq to FAO

مندوب

هشام الطبقجلى

ممثل العراق الدائم لدى المنظمة

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B.A. HUMADI Rome
Alternate Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Iraq to FAO

مناوب

ب. أ. حمادى

الممثل الدائم للمناوب للعراق لدى المنظمة

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First Secretary, Deputy
Permanent Representative of Ireland
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générale de la production agricole,
Ministère de l'agriculture et des
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Conseil National de la Recherche
C. DAMIANO San Remo
Conseil National de la Recherche
C. RAGUSA Rome
Fonctionnaire Principal (Medicine)
Direction Général d'Hygiène Alimentaire

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Représentant permanent adjoint de la
République de Côte-d'Ivoire auprès de
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K. SHIOZAWA Rome
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Alternate
S. GOTO Rome
Alternate Permanent Representative of
Japan to FAO
T. KAJIYA Tokyo
Specialized Agencies Division, United
Nations Bureau, Ministry of Foreign
Affairs
H. IWAMOTO Tokyo
International Cooperation Division,
Economic Affairs Bureau, Ministry of
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Adviser
K. EDAHIRO Tokyo
Director-General, Japan FAO Association

JORDAN/JORDANIE/JORDANIA

الأردن
Representative مندوب
A.A. RAZEG Rome
Second Secretary, Embassy of the
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
عدنان عبد الرازق
السكرتير الثاني، سفارة الأردن

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of the Republic of Kenya to FAO
Alternates
P.M. AMUKOA Rome
Alternate Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Kenya to FAO
M. MWATHI (Ms.) Rome
First Secretary, Permanent Representatin
of the Republic of Kenya to FAO

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COREA, REPUBLICA DE

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KOO-BUM SHIN Rome
Agricultural Attaché, Alternate Permanent
Representative of the Republic of Korea
to FAO

KOREA, REPUBLIC OF/COREE, REPUBLIQUE DE/
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Alternate
JOUNG-HO KIM Rome
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the Republic of Korea to FAO

LESOTHO

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Representative
D. BALLAYAN Rome
Agricultural Attaché, Alternate Permanent
Representative of Liberia to FAO

LIBYA/LIBYE/LIBIA

ليبيا
Representative مندوب
B. EL MABROUK SAID Rome
Permanent Representative of the
Socialist People's Libyan Arab
Jamahiriya
بشير المبروك سعيد
الممثل الدائم لليبيا لدى المنظمة

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Ambassadeur, Représentant Permanent
de Madagascar auprès de la FAO
Suppléant
R. RABE Rome
Représentant Permanent Adjoint de
Madagascar auprès de la FAO

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M. YASIN SALLEH Rome
Assistant Agricultural Attaché,
Alternate Permanent Representative of
Malaysia to FAO

MEXICO/MEXIQUE

Representante
F. CUANALO DE LA CERDA Mexico City
Subsecretario de Agricultura y
Operación, Secretaría de Agricultura
y Recursos Hidráulicos
Suplentes
J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO ROMANO Roma
Representante Permanente de México
ante la FAO
M. RUIZ ZAPATA (Sra.) Roma
Segundo Secretario, Delegación
Permanente de México ante la FAO

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 مساعد الممثل الدائم للمغرب لدى المنظمة

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 Permanent Representative of the
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 Pesticide Policy Official, Ministry of
 Agriculture and Fisheries
 Associate
 N. SLOT The Hague
 Economic Adviser, Ministry of Agriculture
 and Fisheries
 Adviser
 V. KAPPERS (Mrs.) Amsterdam
 Official, Royal Tropical Institute

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NEUVA ZELANDA

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 Counsellor (Agriculture)
 Alternate
 E.M. CRAWSHAW Rome
 Alternate Permanent Representative
 of New Zealand to FAO

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 Ministro Adjunto de Cooperación
 Externa
 Suplentes
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 Embajador de Nicaragua ante la FAO
 V. ESPINOSA R. (Sra.) Roma
 Representante Permanente Alterno de
 Nicaragua ante la FAO

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 Permanent Representative of Nigeria
 to FAO

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 Director-General, Ministry of
 Agriculture
 Alternates
 M. RAVN (Mrs.) Rome
 Acting Permanent Representative of
 Norway to FAO
 L. FORSELL Oslo
 Specialist Executive Officer,
 Ministry of Agriculture

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 Agriculture Counsellor, Alternate
 Permanent Representative of the
 Islamic Republic of Pakistan to FAO

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 Permanente de Panamá ante la FAO
 H. MALTEZ Roma
 Consejero, Representación Pemanente
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 Embajador del Perú ante la FAO

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 Alternate
 M.L. GAVINO (Mrs.) Roma
 Agricultural Analyst

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 M. PIOTROWSKA (Mrs.) Warsaw
 Senior Specialist, Polish National
 FAO Committee, Ministry of Agriculture
 and Food Economy

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I. LOURENÇO
Director-General, Agriculture
Lisbon

Alternate
A. DE ALMEIDA RIBEIRO
Permanent Representative (a.i.) of
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Rome

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Représentant Permanent suppléant
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Rome

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Secrétaire du Comité National
Roumain pour la FAO
Bucarest

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE/SAO TOME-ET-PRINCIPE/SANTO TOME Y PRINCIPE

SAUDI ARABIA المملكة العربية السعودية

Représentant
M.I. MAHDI
Alternate Representative to FAO
Rome

مندوب
م. م. هادي
الممثل المناوب لدى المنظمة

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Représentant Permanent Adjout
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ante la FAO
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T. DHARASENA
Rome

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السودان

SURINAME

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Secretary General, Swedish National
FAO Committee
Stockholm

Alternates
L. LEANDER
Deputy Director, Agriculture Division
Swedish International Development
Authority
Stockholm

G. ERICSSON
Minister (Agricultural Affairs)
Rome

R. LOENNGREN
Permanent Representative of Sweden to FAO
Stockholm

Vice-Chairman, National Products Control
Board

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Ministre, Représentant permanent
adjoint de la Suisse auprès de la FAO
Rome

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Secrétaire du Comité National
Suisse de la FAO
Berne

Conseiller
H. AEBI
Basle

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Alternate Permanent Representative of
Tanzania to FAO
Rome

THAILAND/THAILANDE/TAIANDIA

Representative
I. VANROB
Permanent Representative to FAO
Rome

Alternate
I. KAJONWAN (Mrs.)
Senior Economist
Bangkok

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO/TRINITE-ET-TOBAGO/TRINIDAD Y TABAGO

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Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to FAO
Geneva

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Représentant
M. ABDELHADI
Représentant Permanent auprès de la
FAO
Rome

مندوب
محمد عبد الهادي
الممثل الدائم لدى المنظمة

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Representative
V. OZKOÇAK Rome
Permanent Representative of
Turkey to FAO
Alternate
H. OGUT Rome
Agricultural Counsellor, Alternate
Permanent Representative of Turkey to FAO

UGANDA/OUGANDA

Representative
A.O.M. OTHIENO Entebbe
Deputy Commissioner for Agriculture
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Alternate
M. SIMBWA-BUNNYA Entebbe
Designate Permanent Representative
to FAO

UNITED KINGDOM/ROYAUME-UNI/REINO UNIDO

Representative
A.T. WILSON London
Chief Natural Resources Adviser
Alternates
J.D. AITKEN London
Principal, United Nations Department
Overseas Development Administration
A.W. PEERS London
Deputy Chief Natural Resources Adviser
Overseas Development Administration
J.R. GOLDSACK London
Agricultural Adviser
Overseas Development Administration
P. TULEY London
Agricultural Adviser
Overseas Development Administration
R. DEARE Rome
Permanent Representative to FAO

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA/ETATS-UNIS
D'AMERIQUE/ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA

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Permanent Representative to FAO
Alternates
M.E. CARTER (Ms.) Washington, D.C.
Associate Administrator
Agricultural Research Service
Department of Agriculture
A. GAYOSO Washington, D.C.
Director, Office of Int'l Development,
Bureau of Int'l Organization Affairs,
Department of State

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA/ETATS-UNIS
D'AMERIQUE/ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA
(continued)

Advisers
E.W. DENNEY Washington, D.C.
Office of Int'l Cooperation and
Development, Department of Agriculture
J.E. ROSS Rome
Alternate Permanent Representative
to FAO
M. WARD Washington, D.C.
Chief, UN Division AID
E.L. JOHNSON Washington, D.C.
Director, OWRS, U.S. EPA.

URUGUAY

Representante
F. XIVILLER UILA Roma
Encargado Negocios a.i. del Uruguay

VENEZUELA

Representante
M. FERMIN GOMEZ (Sra.) Roma
Embajadora, Representante Permanente
de la República de Venezuela ante la FAO
Suplentes
M. BRICENO ZEHL (Sra.) Roma
Representante Permanente Alterno de la
República de Venezuela ante la FAO
A. MURILLO Roma
Representante Permanente Alterno de la
República de Venezuela ante la FAO

VIET NAM

Representative
THI MINH PHAN Rome
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of Viet Nam to FAO
Alternate
THI CU HOANG Rome
Alternate Representative of Viet Nam
to FAO

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC/REPUBLIQUE ARABE DU
YEMEN/REPUBLICA ARABE DEL YEMEN

الجمهورية العربية اليمنية
Representative
A. ABDULLAN AL AGHBARY Rome
Permanent Representative of the Yeman
Arab Republic to FAO

مندوب
أ. عبد الله الأغبري
الممثل الدائم لليمن لدى المنظمة

المراقبون من الدول الأعضاء في المنظمة التي
لا تتمتع بعضوية اللجنة

YEMEN, PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF/REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE POPULAIRE
DU YEMEN/REPUBLICA DEMOCRATICA POPULAR
DEL YEMEN

اليمن الديمقراطية

Representative
A.M. KHALED Rome
Permanent Representative of People's
Democratic Republic of Yemen to FAO

مندوب
أنور محمد خالد
الممثل الدائم لدى المنظمة

YUGOSLAVIA/YOUGOSLAVIE

Representative
F. PAJENK Belgrade
Assistant President, Federal Committee
for Agriculture

Alternates
M. TAPAVICKI Rome
Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent
Representative of the S.F.R. of
Yugoslavia to FAO
L. STAMBUK Belgrade
Counsellor for Relations with FAO
Federal Committee for Agriculture
V. MIKELJ (Mrs.) Ljubljana
Independent Advisor for Nutrition,
Republic Committee for Agriculture,
Forestry and Nutrition

ZAIRE

ZAMBIA/ZAMBIE

Representative
M.R. MULELE Lusaka
Assistant Director of Agriculture
Department of Agriculture
Alternate
T.F.F. MALUZA Rome
Alternate Permanent Representative
of Zambia to FAO

ZIMBABWE

دولة الفاتيكان

HOLY SEE - PERMANENT OBSERVER
SAINT-SIEGE - OBSERVATEUR PERMANENT
SANTA SEDE - OBSERVADOR PERMANENTE

H.E. MGR. A. FERRARI-TONIOLO Rome
Observateur permanent du Saint-Siège
auprès de la FAO
V. BUONOMO Rome
Cité du Vatican

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MEMBRES NE SIEGEANT PAS AU COMITE/
OBSERVADORES DE LOS ESTADOS MIEMBROS
QUE NO SON MIEMBROS DEL COMITE

BURMA/BIRMANIE/BIRMANIA

U. WIN MAUNG Rome
Second Secretary, Embassy of the Socialist
Republic of the Union of Burma

LEBANON/LIBAN

لبنان

MOUNIR KHORAYCH Rome
Alternate Permanent Representative
of Lebanon
منير قريش
الممثل الدائم المناوب لدى المنظمة

SOMALIA/SOMALIE

الصومال

A. MUSSE FARAH Rome
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the
Somali Democratic Republic to FAO
السفير، الممثل الدائم للصومال لدى المنظمة
الدول الأعضاء في الأمم المتحدة

UNITED NATIONS MEMBER NATIONS/ETATS
MEMBRES DES NATIONS UNIES/ESTADOS MIEMBROS
DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS/L'UNION
DES REPUBLIQUES SOCIALISTES SOVIETIQUES/LA
UNION DE REPUBLICAS SOCIALISTAS SOVIETICAS

A. PETROV Moscow
Chief, Foreign Economics Department.
Ministry of Agriculture
Y. GRIGORIAN Moscow
Head of Laboratory of the New Methods
of Pest Control, Ministry of Agriculture

ممثلو الأمم المتحدة ووكالاتها المتخصصة

REPRESENTATIVES OF UNITED NATIONS AND
SPECIALIZED AGENCIES/REPRESENTANTS DES
NATIONS UNIES ET INSTITUTIONS SPECIALISEES/
REPRESENTANTES DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS Y
ORGANISMOS ESPECIALIZADOS

UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
ORGANIZATION/ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES
POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT INDUSTRIEL/
ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL
DESARROLLO INDUSTRIAL

G. DONOCIK Vienna
Industrial Development Officer
Negotiations Branch, Division of Policy
Coordination

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME/
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR
L'ENVIRONNEMENT/PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES
UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE

R.J. OLEMBO Nairobi
Director, Environmental Management
J.W. HUISMANS Geneva
Director, International Register of
Potentially Toxic Chemicals

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME/PROGRAMME ALIMENTAIRE
MONDIAL/PROGRAMA MUNDIAL DE ALIMENTOS

Q.H. HAQUE
Chief, External Relations and General
Affairs Branch
G. VAN HAELST
External Relations Officer

WORLD BANK/BANQUE MONDIALE/BANCO MUNDIAL

V.S. VYAS Washington D.C.
Senior Adviser, Economics and Policy
Division, Agriculture and Rural
Development Department

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION/ORGANISATION
MONDIALE DE LA SANTE/ORGANIZACION MUNDIAL
DE LA SALUD

J. COPPLESTONE Geneva
Chief, Pesticides Development & Safe
Use Unit, Division of Vector Biology
and Control

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY/AGENCE
INTERNATIONALE DE L'ENERGIE ATOMIQUE/
ORGANISMO INTERNACIONAL DE ENERGIA ATOMICA

B. SIGURBJOERNSSON Vienna
Director, Joint FAO/IAEA Division

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT/FONDS INTERNATIONAL DE
DEVELOPPEMENT AGRICOLE/FONDO INTERNACIONAL
DE DESARROLLO AGRICOLA

M. ALAMGIR Rome
Senior Economist

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION/
BUREAU INTERNATIONALE DU TRAVAIL/
OFICINA INTERNACIONAL DEL TRABAJO

I. CORDISCHI Rome
Assistant Director, ILO Branch Office

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY
COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE EUROPEENNE
COMUNIDAD ECONOMICA EUROPEA

G. DESEQUELLES Bruxelles
Administrateur, Direction Générale
de l'Agriculture, Relation Internationale

المراقبون من المنظمات الحكومية الدولية

OBSERVERS FROM INTERGOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS/OBSERVATEURS DES
ORGANISATIONS INTERGOUVERNEMENTALES/
OBSERVADORES DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES
INTERGUBERNAMENTALES

INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK/BANQUE
INTERAMERICAINE DE DEVELOPPEMENT/BANCO
INTERAMERICANO DE DESARROLLO

A.G. GOMEZ Washington D.C.
Chief, Engineering Section,
Agricultural and Forestry
Development Division Project
Analysis Department

ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND
DEVELOPMENT/ORGANISATION DE COOPERATION ET
DE DEVELOPPEMENT ECONOMIQUES/ORGANIZACION
DE COOPERACION Y DESARROLLO ECONOMICOS

Y. CATHELINAUD Paris
Principal Administrator
Agricultural Policies Division
B. GILLESPIE Paris
Principal Administrator
Chemicals and the Environment Division

المراقبون من المنظمات غير الحكومية

OBSERVERS FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS/OBSERVATEURS DES
ORGANISATIONS NON GOUVERNEMENTALES
OBSERVADORES DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES
NO GUBERNAMENTALES

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD/
UNION MONDIALE DES FEMMES RURALES/UNION
MUNDIAL DE MUJERES DE CAMPO

B. PURVIS (Ms) Rome
Representative to FAO

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN/ALLIANCE
INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES/ALIANZA
INTERNACIONAL DE MUJERES

S. PILLAY (Mrs.) Rome
Permanent Representative to FAO

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL
ECONOMISTS/ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES
ECONOMISTES AGRONOMIQUES/ASOCIACION
INTERNACIONAL DE ECONOMISTAS AGRICOLAS

M. LOSEBY (Ms.) Rome

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR CEREAL
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY/ASSOCIATION
INTERNATIONALE DES SCIENCES ET TECHNOLOGIES
CEREALIERES/

G. FABRIANI Wien
Honorary President

INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION FOR
AGRICULTURAL CREDIT/CONFEDERATION
INTERNATIONALE DU CREDIT AGRICOLE/
CONFEDERACION INTERNACIONAL DEL CREDITO
AGRICOLA

C. DELATTE Dijon
Président

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN/CONSEIL
INTERNATIONAL DES FEMMES/CONSEJO
INTERNACIONAL DE MUJERES

L. PASSERINI (Ms) Rome
Permanent Representative of the
International Council of Women to FAO

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCERS/FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES
PRODUCTEURS AGRICOLES/FEDERACION
INTERNACIONAL DE PRODUCTORES AGRICOLAS

M. CRACKNELL Paris
Secretary General

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PLANTATION,
AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS/FEDERATION
INTERNATIONALE DES TRAVAILLEURS DES
PLANTATIONS, DE L'AGRICULTURE ET DES
SECTEURS CONNEXES/FEDERACION INTERNACIONAL
DE LOS TRABAJADORES DE LAS PLANTACIONES
AGRICOLAS Y SIMILARES

R. GREEN London
Pesticides Consultant
D. MEYER (Mrs.) Oxford
Pesticides Consultant

INTERNATIONAL GROUP OF NATIONAL
ASSOCIATIONS OF AGROCHEMICAL
MANUFACTURERS/GROUPEMENT INTERNATIONAL DES
ASSOCIATIONS NATIONALES DE FABRICANTS DE
PRODUITS AGROCHIMIQUES/GRUPO INTERNACIONAL
DE ASOCIACIONES NACIONALES DE FABRICANTES
DE PRODUCTOS AGROQUIMICOS

C.S. MAJOR Bruxelles

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF CONSUMERS
UNIONS/ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DES
UNIONS DE CONSOMMATEURS/ORGANIZACION
INTERNACIONAL DE LAS UNIONES DE
CONSUMIDORES

D. BULL Nairobi
Pesticides Consultant

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF PLANT PATHOLOGY/
SOCIETE INTERNATIONALE DE PATHOLOGIE DES
PLANTES/SOCIEDAD INTERNACIONAL DE
INVESTIGACION SOBRE LOS PANTANOS

J. DEKKER Wageningen
President

WORLD UNION OF CATHOLIC WOMEN'S
ORGANIZATIONS/UNION MONDIALE DES
ORGANISATIONS FEMINIENS CATHOLIQUES/UNION
MUNDIAL DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES FEMENINAS
CATOLICAS

G. GARZERO (Mrs.) Paris
Permanent Representative
B. COLEMAN SANTORO (Mrs.) Paris

INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE
UNIONS/CONFEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES
SYNDICATS LIBRES/CONFEDERACION
INTERNACIONAL DE ORGANIZACIONES SINDICALES
LIBRES

M.T. GUICCIARDI Bruxelles

APPENDIX DLIST OF DOCUMENTS

COAG/85/1	Annotated Provisional Agenda
COAG/85/2	Proposed Timetable
COAG/85/2-Rev.1	Timetable
COAG/85/3	Implementation of the Programme of Work 1984-85
COAG/85/3-Sup.1	Implementation of the Programme of Work 1984-85: Progress Reports
COAG/85/4	Medium- and Long-Term Outlook for Food and Agricultural Development
COAG/85/5	Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87
COAG/85/6	The Role of Minor Crops in Nutrition and Food Security
COAG/85/7	Processing of Food and Non-Food Agricultural Products
COAG/85/8	Agricultural Price Policies
COAG/85/9	International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides
COAG/85/INF.1	List of Member Nations of the Committee
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APPENDIX ESTATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

This is the Eighth Session of this most important Committee. I am glad to note that it is now attended by 96 Governments as compared with the 64 delegations to the First Session in 1972.

We would, of course, like it to comprise even more Member Nations, but it is becoming increasingly difficult for the poorer countries to send delegations of even one person to technical meetings of this kind.

Your main task is to consider the proposed Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the two major Departments of Agriculture and Economic and Social Policy, including the relevant activities of the Regional Offices and Joint Divisions.

There are, however, certain other very important items on your agenda, not least the standing item on Nutrition and the Code of Conduct for Pesticides Use.

Your meeting comes at a time which may prove to be a turning point in world history. Public attention is focused upon the efforts of the super-powers to stop the nuclear arms race leading us ever faster into an eventual Armageddon.

At the same time, it has been brought to bear on the desperate situation of most of Africa in which we can already witness hecatombs, with the dreadful prospect of many more to follow. Never has the Angel of Death been so abroad in the land.

In the face of the enormous calamity we can see in Africa today, problems such as debt, inflation, terms of trade, export or production subsidies, seem petty and prosaic.

Yet they are part of the scene of world tension and potential conflict. Moreover, they are matters which must receive attention as also the subject matters of this Committee.

The old lesson remains truer than ever: unless more food can be produced by the poor to feed the poor in the developing world, drought, famine, refugee movements and conflicts will turn continents into flames.

In the two years since you have met, the polarisation in the comparative performance of agriculture in the developed and developing world has increased.

The overall increase in food production by the developing countries of Asia surged to nearly 10 percent, providing a striking demonstration of how political will, appropriate policies and technical inputs reversed a situation that in 1977 was projected as resulting in a cereal deficit ranging between 16 to 35 million tons by 1985.

On the other hand, in Africa the worst drought of the century brought food production growth rates down to zero.

Differing rates in population growth widened the gap between these two regions even more. In Africa, population increased at 2.9 percent annually by mid-1984 compared to 1.8 percent for Asia.

In North America, agricultural output declined by more than 17 percent in 1983. But it quickly recovered by 16 percent the following year. In Europe, the EEC is still struggling with the vexed problems inherent in a reform in their Common Agricultural Policy.

These widely fluctuating levels of food and agricultural output emerged, in tandem, with persisting weak demand in international markets.

As a consequence, overall stocks of food products in 1984 have tended to rise. Commodity prices, on the other hand, failed to respond to the global recovery, because the benefits of this have been so uneven. This has eroded the capacity of the poor countries to pay for their food imports and has rendered them even more dependent on food aid and more vulnerable to its dangers.

We are thus faced today by the tragic paradox of severe food shortages existing amidst global abundance. We are witnessing, once again, the pressures to reduce economic losses by curbing production of food, even at the cost of bankrupting developed farmers, while elsewhere millions of destitute unable to buy food are facing death by starvation.

Under Agenda Item 3, you will be discussing "Implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 1984-85". This paper circulated by the Secretariat contains both a factual presentation of work accomplished and an assessment of the problems.

I would like to limit my comments to the significance of some of the major accomplishments.

Data flowing from our Global Information and Early Warning System, for example, enabled me early in 1983 to issue the first alert on the Africa famine - a warning that went largely unheeded by the international community it must be admitted, until skeletal faces stared at us from our television screens in the fall of 1984.

This unfortunate fact induces me to insist that at any rate, this part of the UN system did take note of the situation and did try to mobilise action.

We can build on the achievement of FAO's system to date, by enhancing the system's capability in assessment of crop and pre-famine conditions and food aid requirements, as well as rapidly identifying affected populations.

We have produced a preliminary report on price policies. This emphasises the complexity of the mechanisms and effects of price policies while confirming the simple point that their effectiveness pivots around the courage and determination governments bring to their design and implementation. Your discussions should enrich completion of the study and the eventual Conference deliberations on this issue.

We have completed the study in Trained Manpower Requirements for Africa. The Fifth World Food Survey will be ready, on time, for submission to the Conference.

The study on African manpower requirements provides a foundation for policies in the training use and deployment of the most valuable of development resources: human beings. And the Fifth World Food Survey - coming as it does after the landmark survey in 1977 - puts into the hands of policy makers a valuable tool for formulating policies for the rest of the decade.

Turning now to the proposed Summary Programme of Work and Budget, the extracts before you reflect the strategies, priorities and changes I propose in the major programmes as a measured response to the changing problems in the next biennium.

The programmes of the Agriculture Department and those of the Economic and Social Policy Department were both given high priority in the proposed increases in resource allocation for the next biennium. In selecting priorities for these programme shifts and programme increases due account was taken of the recommendations received from various FAO technical bodies, the Regional Conferences, the Council and the Conference.

If the general economic climate were more favourable, I would have considered it my duty to strengthen even further the technical programmes in these Departments in response to the growing needs of our Member Nations, particularly in the developing world. The prevailing circumstances of austerity in the national budgets, however, commanded restraint. Nevertheless, I have again proposed for the next biennium a significant strengthening of the technical programmes, in particular in the areas of concern to this Committee. I look forward with interest to receiving the comments of COAG before placing my proposals before the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee, the Council and ultimately the Conference.

The programmes for the Agriculture and Economic and Social Policy Departments as well as our Regional Offices and Joint Divisions in the UN Regional Commission address the central issue: how to assist countries more effectively to meet the demand for food that is not met today and yet could increase by a third over the next decade.

Our development experience indicates that a permanent solution to hunger rests basically in the future of the rural poor. Agriculture remains basically in the hands of the small farmers. Only they can produce the food we need. Adequate food and consequent political stability will come only when we help the poorest producers acquire effective access to the factors of production - and a just share in its results.

We also know that hunger and poverty are exacerbated when treated as purely technical issues without reference to the people caught in a complex web of social and economic relationships. Hunger and poverty are consequences of the real problem, namely: the unjust and inefficient economic, social and political structures that distort and constrain the development process.

The priorities that are expressed in the Programme of Work therefore attempt to attack these realities of life.

The first step must be to give priority to promotion of food production. We must enlarge the bread basket.

The major thrust of the Agriculture Department therefore is in food production. Its programmes in natural resources, crops, livestock, research and technology focus on this objective.

The four main approaches are: (i) assessment, development and management of natural resources for agricultural production; (ii) promotion of domestic food crop production on a sustained basis through the transfer of adapted technologies and the increased availability of essential inputs; (iii) international action in animal health improvement and improvement of livestock production systems; and (iv) research development and multidisciplinary technology transfer and application.

We seek a strengthening of the food information and Early Warning System - a measure that will win dividends in lives saved.

Our in-depth study on the agricultural problem in Africa will help design policy frameworks that will encourage farmers to work their way back from the ruins of the shattered agriculture in that continent to self-reliance.

The Summary Programme of Work and Budget also outlines measures to strengthen FAO's capabilities to assist developing countries to implement structural reforms required in food and agriculture. It identifies programmes of education and extension in Africa and, equally important, on the role of women in food production and processing.

Our proposed work for the 1990 World Census of Agriculture, improvements of price statistics and economic accounts for agriculture will provide governments with the analytical tools they will need for effective work in the 1990's.

Relieving hunger and malnutrition is at the core of FAO's concern. The consequences of malnutrition - lethargy, apathy, mental impairment and early death - are well known. But the damage it wreaks on human lives and the economy is no longer seen as dramatically and clearly as sheer starvation. This is the main reason why nutrition constitutes a standing item in the COAG Agenda and why the Eighth Session will examine the role played by what are misleadingly called "minor crops" in nutrition and food security. The fact is these crops provide a significant portion of the essential nutrients for the diet, specially for the poorest groups. They contribute to the stability of food supplies at the most critical level: the household.

Furthermore, there is increasing recognition that they provide a food cushion in ecological locations unfavourable to other crops. And economists are beginning to reassess the contribution such crops provide to household incomes, as they pave the way for producers to proceed from subsistence into the cash economy.

I now turn to Agenda Item 9: "International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides".

Generally, the comments of governments and international organizations have indicated strong support for this Code. The response of the pesticides industry to recent discussions and revisions has been encouraging.

This is not a perfect draft. It represents the first but significant step, by the international community, toward effective use of these valuable agricultural inputs, while safeguarding those who use them.

Undoubtedly, the Code can be improved. I look forward to your constructive reactions, on the basis of which we can bring forward a generally acceptable draft for adoption by the Conference.

In concluding, I am aware of our shared concern: how poverty inexorably strips from so many men, women and children the gift of life in a world where wealth has increased but remains unevenly shared to an extent that transcends economic and political theories.

This Committee can provide not only direction and guidance on measures to reduce hunger, but also a moral influence to redress the balance between the comfort of the rich and the survival of the poor.

This is not an ideological issue but a human one. As a poet once wrote, "We are all strangers and pilgrims here on earth. If then we can, each of us, make for the other a space of warmth and comfort, is that so little a thing?".

Thank you.

