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

(Rome, 23 March - 1 April 1987)

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MATTERS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

The Committee:

Implementation of the Programme of Work 1984-86

- (i) was satisfied that the orientation and activities had been in line with guidance given by the Committee on Agriculture and the Governing Bodies as agreed in the Programme of Work and Budget (para. 12).
- (ii) urged Member Nations responsible for delays and shortfalls in their contributions to honour their obligations promptly (para. 12).
- (iii) requested that the study for Latin America and the Caribbean should propose practical solutions for the region's agricultural problems, including their effects on, and the prevention of migration to urban areas (para. 14).
- (iv) reviewed the eight programmes under Major Programme 2.1 Agriculture and made a number of recommendations concerning them (paras. 15 through 67).

Medium and Long-Term Outlook for Food and Agricultural Development and Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1988-89

- (i) urged that every attempt be made to achieve earlier distribution of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget document for COAG (para 70).
- (ii) suggested that at future sessions the Committee might consider the three documents for Items 3, 4 and 5 simultaneously, thus enabling it to focus more clearly on all aspects relevant to individual programmes (para. 72).
- (iii) agreed with the assessment of long-term trends contained in document COAG/84/4 and placed particular stress on indications of a further imbalance in the world food system, with surpluses in some regions accompanied by chronic shortages in others, and on the threat to the environment arising from pollution and the degradation of natural resources (para. 78).
- (iv) endorsed the eight principal goals identified for world agriculture. While the relative importance of the eight goals varied both nationally and regionally, they had sufficient universality to provide the basic framework for FAO's medium-term objectives and programme of work (para. 79).
- (v) placed particular stress on the need to improve the international trading environment for agricultural commodities, and on the importance of consideration of agricultural trade during the new round of multilateral trade negotiations launched at Punta del Este under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) (para. 80).
- (vi) expressed its support of and general agreement on the scope and direction of the programme, and the shifts proposed, which reflected the wishes of Member Nations as expressed in the Conference, the Council, the Regional Conferences, and other intergovernmental fora (para 81).
- (vii) agreed that the proposals constituted an appropriate basis for the elaboration of the full Programme of Work and Budget (para 81).
- (viii) endorsed in general the overall programme priorities, which centred on promotion of food production and increase in food security, and had been determined by the need to ensure both continuity and innovation (para. 82).

- (ix) endorsed in general the Organization's priorities in means of action and considered that the improvement of information systems and enhancement of data bases was essential to enable the Organization to respond to the needs of Member Nations for policy analysis and advice, and implementation of development programmes (para. 83).
- (x) made observations, including some recommendations, on individual programmes 2.1.1 through 2.1.8 (paras. 84 through 153).

Role of Food Quality and Standards in Food Security, Trade and Health

- (i) stressed the importance of the activities of the FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme in removing non-tariff trade barriers to international trade and in promoting consumer protection in the area of food quality and safety (para 154).
- (ii) endorsed the leading role of FAO in assisting countries, especially developing countries, in strengthening national food control strategies and infrastructure (para 154).
- (iii) called upon Member Governments to increase their formal acceptances of recommended Codex standards and contaminant limits (para. 155).
- (iv) stressed the need for up-dating food legislation and regulations so that they encompassed the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission; for close cooperation between government ministries and agencies concerned and for close links between government, the food industry, and educational and research institutions; for regional coordination and for promoting technical cooperation between developing countries with a view to sharing information and experience through regional and subregional training programmes (para. 156).
- (v) called attention to the large volume of trade problems, such as rejections of contaminated or improperly labelled foodstuffs, caused by non-compliance with recommended international food standards and pointed out that improved programmes of governmental food control and food industry food quality control could eliminate such problems (para. 157).
- (vi) encouraged the Codex Alimentarius Commission to emphasize work on topics such as food additives, pesticide residues, food contaminants and food labelling which are common to all trade in foodstuffs and have a significant impact on food safety to consumers (para. 160).
- (vii) expressed its full support for the recommendations to governments and FAO (para. 162).

Improving Productivity of Dryland Areas

- (i) expressed concern that millions of people in the drylands would still be short of food even if inputs were increased to the levels currently used in commercial farming within dryland areas (para. 165).
- (ii) recognized that the out-migration appeared to be inevitable in many areas at present low levels of economic growth and high rates of population increase, since agricultural production was declining because of over-grazing, soil erosion and environmental degradation (para. 165).
- (iii) stressed the importance of national policy decisions in overcoming the constraints to improving productivity reviewed in the report (para. 168).
- (iv) drew attention to the need to give national priority to dryland development and to promote an integrated approach (para. 168).

- (v) emphasized the need to give priority to applied and adaptive research into agriculture, forestry and hydrology, and noted the location-specific nature of much of this research (para. 169).
- (vi) emphasized that all policies should be formulated on the basis of an understanding of current practices, and that specialist advice should be guided by an appreciation of the overall system (para. 171).
- (vii) recommended that soil conservation should be organized on a watershed basis, and that water harvesting and improved efficiency in the use of water resources should receive high priority (para. 172).
- (viii) endorsed the promotion of policies to control fires that destroy valuable crop residues, shrubs and grass fodder (para. 173).
- (ix) endorsed a range of programme components for the implementation of dryland policies and noted that the variation in geography and economic development made it impossible to advocate standardized programmes (para. 175).
- (x) agreed that it would be useful for FAO to identify and document proven approaches within member countries, perhaps by undertaking a series of case studies (para. 176).
- (xi) stressed the importance of cooperation and coordination with UNEP and other UN agencies, international research institutes and other relevant bodies (para. 177).
- (xii) recommended that FAO take the initiative in coordinating TCDC activities for drylands development, and stressed the role of South-South cooperation and regional coordination (para. 178).

The Effects of Land Tenure and Fragmentation of Farm Holdings on Agricultural Development

- (i) agreed that a wider distribution of land would result in higher output, income and employment of the rural poor, provided that complementary changes in supporting service structures, delivery systems and technologies which are based on the small farmers' needs, capabilities and resources, are undertaken (para 182).
- (ii) emphasized the potential role of tenancy regulation as part of programmes of more widespread access to land and the role of beneficiaries' organizations in their implementation (para. 183).
- (iii) felt that a reduction of the dualism in Latin American agriculture by transferring land from large and under-utilized farms in order to expand the base of medium and small-scale farms, would contribute both to growth as well as to equity, if accompanied also by appropriate changes in production structures and supporting services to the beneficiaries (para. 184).
- (iv) recommended that country-specific studies be undertaken by FAO on the effects of the plantation system in different country situations, with special regard to their growth and equity effects (para. 184).
- (v) felt that customary tenure needed further investigation (para 185).
- (vi) urged the monitoring of tenurial changes in Africa, including studies of options to safeguard and ensure women's rights to land (para. 185).
- (vii) urged a vigorous policy of rural industrialization and non-farm employment, which alone could complement the emerging reality of multitudes of under-employed farmers in most of the developing regions (para. 186).

- (viii) recommended that as regards rural industrialization and non-farm employment FAO should work in cooperation and coordination with ILO, UNIDO and Unesco (para 186).
- (ix) recommended that while FAO should assist countries on request in undertaking feasibility studies and evaluations of their programmes for the consolidation of holdings, it should also investigate alternative approaches and means of overcoming any diseconomies caused by fragmentation (para 187).
- (x) recommended that FAO should assist countries in formulating policies and programmes along the lines indicated in the paragraph, in cooperation wherever appropriate with other concerned agencies, such as ILO, UNIDO and Unesco (para. 188).
- (xi) urged that countries and FAO should undertake further investigations (i.e. regarding women's rights of access to land) as a basis for adequate policy formulation, but especially should concentrate on policies and programmes to provide women with full rights of access to land (para 189).
- (xii) recommended that FAO should assist countries in undertaking specific studies on the environmental effects of land tenure under different types of tenure and under different demographic conditions (para. 190).
- (xiii) recommended that FAO's future work in the field of land tenure and agrarian reform should be more specifically oriented to the needs of the individual countries (para. 191).

Strategies and Requirements for Improved Production of Roots, Tubers and Plantains

- (i) stressed the need to improve production of these crops in view of their effective and potential contribution to national self-reliance in food, particularly in the regions of humid tropics and the areas of the sub-humid tropics where agro-climatic conditions were most favourable (para. 192).
- (ii) agreed that studies of many lesser-known traditional root species should be continued to assess their agronomic potential and nutritional value (para. 193).
- (iii) agreed that, to overcome the problem of the poor post-harvest keeping qualities of roots, tubers and plantains, a concerted effort to improve post-harvest handling and storage, marketing and processing was necessary (para. 195).
- (iv) emphasized that research and development efforts should concentrate on meeting consumer requirements in terms of convenience and price, while at the same time ensuring appropriate farmer remuneration (para. 196).
- (v) recommended that sound national data bases on the supply and demand situation and market characteristics and requirements should be developed to provide country-specific information upon which rational research and production efforts could be based (para 197).
- (vi) stressed the need for coordinated research efforts between national institutions, International Agricultural Research Centres and specialized institutions concerned with these crops (para 199).
- (vii) recommended the establishment and development of rapid propagation technologies and nurseries to supply the farmer with sufficient quantities of improved and healthy planting material (para. 202).

- (viii) stressed that adequate attention should be paid to nutritional aspects (para. 203).
- (ix) emphasized the important role of women in the production, processing and marketing of roots, tubers and plantains, particularly in Africa, and stressed the need for appropriate policies and activities to reach the female members of farming families (para. 204).
- (x) recommended that detailed studies of marketing systems and marketing costs should be conducted to identify ways in which these systems could be assisted and stressed the need for the development of a full understanding of different consumer demands to assist in the development of appropriate processing technologies (para. 206).
- (xi) urged that special studies should be made of economic post-harvest treatment and storage of fresh cassava, solanum potatoes and sweet potatoes (para. 207).
- (xii) recommended that FAO continue and strengthen its activities in roots, tubers and plantains, in particular the development and implementation of field programmes (para. 210).

Other Business

- (i) noted that the Director-General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, would prepare a provisional agenda for its Tenth Session (para. 211).
- (ii) agreed that one agenda item should deal with a nutritional subject (para. 212).
- (iii) agreed that 3 development topics would be chosen; the following possible topics received support from a number of members:
 - People's participation in agricultural and rural development
 - Environmental aspects of agricultural development;
 - Protection of animal genetic resources;
 - Economic significance of tobacco and its prospects;
 - Improvement of regional distribution and marketing of agricultural products.
 (para 213).
- (iv) The following additional topics were also suggested: Appropriate integration of agriculture and forestry; Remote sensing for early warning and resources management; Transfer of technology; Diversification of crops in substitution of coca and other drug crops; Biotechnology and agriculture; Energy and rural development (para. 213).
- (v) agreed to the suggestion of the Chairman that consideration of possible consecutive meetings of the Committee on Forestry and the Committee on Agriculture would provide the opportunity for members of each Committee to participate in the sessions of both Committees (para. 214).

Date and Place of Next Session

- (i) recognized the advantage of holding Committee sessions somewhat later in the year, possibly in the second half of April or early in May, noting that the Director-General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, would propose the exact date taking fully into account the overall meetings schedule of the Organization (para. 215).

INTRODUCTION

1. The Ninth Session (Rome, 23 March-1 April 1987) was attended by representatives of 82 of the 96 Member Nations of the Committee, by observers from 5 other Member Nations of FAO, and by the Permanent Observer of the Holy See. Representatives of 6 other bodies and organizations of the United Nations, representatives of the European Economic Community, and of 3 intergovernmental organizations, and observers from 16 international organizations having status with FAO and an observer from 1 organization not having status with FAO 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 Procedures, the Committee elected Dr. D.F.R. Bommer (Federal Republic of Germany) as Chairman of the Committee, Mr. M. Were (Kenya) as First Vice-Chairman, and H.E. Ariza Hidalgo (Cuba) as Second Vice-Chairman.

Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable for the Session

3. The Agenda as adopted is set out in Appendix A, and the list of documents is given in Appendix D.

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

Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, India, Lebanon, Lesotho, Panama, Philippines, Sweden and Turkey. Mr. V.K. Sibal (India) served as Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

Statement by the Director-General

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

Statement of H.E. Gerrit J.M. Braks, Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries of the Netherlands

6. The Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries of the Netherlands had been invited by the Director-General to address the meeting. His statement was read by the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to FAO as the Minister was prevented by his duties from attending the meeting.

7. The statement pointed out the key role agriculture plays as pacemaker of socio-economic development at large. It focused on the importance of developing agricultural organizations and emphasized the mission FAO has to fulfil as adviser in agricultural policy. It reviewed the important role farmers have played in the development of agriculture in the Netherlands and the way farmers' associations and the Government have interacted in creating an efficient environment for agricultural development.

8. Based on the experience of the Netherlands, the statement highlighted four conclusions that could be applicable in the developing world. First, any approach to development has to start at the base. Secondly, cooperation of farmers among themselves is a necessity in order to influence political decision-making and the market. Thirdly, there is a need for government intervention for creating a favourable environment for development. Fourthly, division of responsibilities between farmers and the government is crucial. Given the importance of government involvement, expertise in agricultural policy has increasing weight, provision of which, on the international level, is the unique mandate of FAO. The Organization should therefore perform increasingly as the main multilateral policy adviser in agriculture.

9. The statement further emphasized the need for the enhancement of the position of ministries of agriculture. Their competence should not be confined to production but extend also to agricultural research, education, and extension as well as to land

development, the processing and marketing of agricultural products, import and export policy and related financing.

10. The statement also called for the strengthening of FAO's position of leadership within the international community and for improved arrangements with international financial institutions in order to ensure a concerted multilateral effort in agricultural development. The statement stressed that it was necessary for all Member Nations to cooperate in an open and constructive manner to reach the fundamental goals and further the missions of the Organization.

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

Implementation of the Programme of Work 1984-86^{1/}

11. The Committee appreciated the quality and concise nature of the Report on Implementation of the Programme of Work 1984-86. It noted that earlier requests of the Committee had been taken into account in preparing the report, which now covered the previous biennial period in full, together with the first year of the current biennium. Some members felt the report would benefit from the presentation of some qualitative analysis of the performance and effectiveness of selected priority activities over a longer period. Other members, however, suggested that this would lead to an undesirable increase in the length of the basic Implementation Report and that an indepth evaluation was an extremely costly process. In this regard, the three independent evaluations commissioned by the Director-General, of the Food Security Assistance Scheme, the Seed Improvement and Development Programme, and the Control of African Animal Trypanosomiasis and Related Development, were particularly welcomed.

12. In reviewing the work of the Major Programme, the Committee was satisfied that the orientation and activities had been in line with guidance given by the Committee on Agriculture and the Governing Bodies as agreed in the Programme of Work and Budget. The upward trend of output in all areas of the Major Programme's work was noted with satisfaction. The Committee regretted the need to make programme adjustments during the biennium which resulted in a slow-down in activities. The Member Nations responsible for delays and shortfalls in their contributions were urged to honour their obligations promptly. The upturn in the level of UNDP resource commitments was noted with satisfaction, as was the catalytic role played by the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) and the major contribution of Trust Funds to Field Programme expenditure. Italy's commitment as the largest Trust Fund donor was appreciated. The emphasis placed on the use of scarce FAO resources in Africa was in full accord with needs. The effectiveness of resources had been enhanced through close collaboration with other agencies and international institutions. The Committee expressed concern that greater extra-budgetary resources could not be mobilised for FAO's work in the areas of Food and Agricultural Policy and Nutrition.

13. The emphasis of the Major Programme on training, both in the development of training packages and direct training of higher and middle-level personnel was very relevant to the needs of member countries. Also of particular priority was the provision of direct advice to them. The emphasis on training women was essential in view of their major role in agriculture. In training, as in other areas, it was notable that coordination between Headquarters, the Regional Offices and the Field Programme had been further strengthened and the important role of the Regional Offices was appreciated. A number of members indicated their concern about the noticeable reduction in training financed from Regular Programme resources in 1986, mainly due to the programme adjustments. At a time of resource constraint, a number of members suggested that training and advisory services should continue to receive priority over publications and that it was important to ensure that publications reached the target audience

^{1/} COAG/87/3; COAG/87/3-Sup.1

14. The Committee recognized the effective contribution to development and use of FAO's resources that had been made in carrying out wide-ranging studies such as "Agriculture: Toward 2000", "African Agriculture, the Next 25 Years" and the study of price policies. The initiation of a similar study for Latin America and the Caribbean was welcomed and it was requested that this study should propose practical solutions for the region's agricultural problems, including their effects on, and the prevention of migration to urban areas. FAO provided a unique forum for the international discussion of the policy implications of such studies and policy issues in agriculture in general. The importance of Technical Cooperation between Developing Countries (TCDC) dealing especially with training, transfer of technology and exchange of research findings and, in particular the role of carefully selected networks, was stressed. The Committee recognized that comprehensive FAO regional studies helped to promote TCDC. FAO assistance had also been of importance in developing countries' capacities to carry out their own studies.

2.1.1 Natural Resources

15. The Committee endorsed the work under this programme, particularly on land use planning. Some members stressed the desirability of an increase in budgetary resources in order to cover more regions/countries. The Committee stressed the need to extend activities in the Near East Region to include the assessment of potentials of marginal lands and ground water resources. It also stressed the importance of the Agricultural Ecological Zone (AEZ) and crop potential studies and their further application by countries. It commended FAO for its collaboration with other assistance agencies.

16. The Committee welcomed the practical demonstrations of the FAO farming systems approach in Africa, Latin America and Asia including the preparation of improved farm plans. It commended the farm survey training courses undertaken and proposed increased farming systems research activities.

17. The Committee noted with concern the lack of support to the International Fertilizer Scheme (IFS) and emphasized the need for its continuation. It expressed satisfaction with the activities carried out in the field of biological nitrogen fixation and integrated plant nutrition systems, and expressed appreciation of the work carried out under the fertilizer programme.

18. The Committee stressed the particular importance of water development and management and endorsed the work carried out under this sub-programme. It supported the continuation of assistance on improved maintenance and operation of existing schemes, and stressed that small-scale irrigation development must receive emphasis in the future. The Committee also stressed the need for farmers to fully participate in irrigation development. It endorsed FAO's cooperation with other agencies and countries and urged the strengthening of training on improved irrigation methods. The importance of the use of marginal quality water and treated sewage effluent for agriculture was emphasized.

19. The Committee endorsed the work on the use of marginal land and soil conservation. Priority must be given to a more scientific approach to soil conservation.

2.1.2 Crops

20. The Committee endorsed the programme aiming at the further development and use of new crops and varieties with increased production potential and adapted to agro-ecological conditions. It appreciated the assistance provided to member countries to introduce crop production and protection techniques as well as crop conservation and transformation techniques.

21. The Committee noted with satisfaction the efforts made to assist member countries in horticultural, vegetable, industrial crop and rice production. It appreciated the coordination programmes for the development and transfer of technology on food legumes and the increased attention given to roots, tubers and plantains.

22. The Committee agreed with the emphasis given to the Seed Improvement and Development Programme (SIDP) and the encouragement given to the exchange of varieties and experimental planting material. It welcomed the evaluation of the SIDP that was currently underway.

23. The Committee recognized the role of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, which aims to ensure that plant genetic resources would be freely available for plant breeding and scientific purposes. It agreed that use of plant genetic resources would be improved by strengthening plant breeding programmes. The Committee welcomed the increased cooperation between FAO and the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (IBPGR).

24. The Committee recognized the role of plant protection and endorsed the emphasis placed on providing services for the improvement of weed control, insect pests, plant diseases, rodents and the reduction of post-harvest losses. It urged that increased assistance be provided for the Mediterranean Fruit Fly Eradication Programme in Central America and Regional Locust Control, mainly in Africa. The Committee expressed satisfaction on the effective coordination and implementation of grasshopper and locust emergency operations and the establishment of the Emergency Centre for Locust Operations.

25. The Committee was informed about the action taken with respect to the Code of Conduct in the distribution and use of pesticides. It stressed the importance of the effective implementation of the Code. However, it noted that so far less than 40 countries had replied to the questionnaire sent by the Secretariat and that various countries will require assistance to provide the necessary information in full. The Committee requested that assistance to these countries be intensified. The Committee was informed that a full progress report on the Code would be prepared as soon as sufficient useful data had been collected, and would be submitted in good time to Council. The Committee welcomed the possible contribution of Japan to a Trust Fund for the provision of support to Member Governments to implement the Code.

26. The Committee recognized the importance of assisting member countries to develop comprehensive agricultural mechanization policies and strategies which reflected the need for adopting appropriate technology.

27. The Committee appreciated the support given to an extensive agricultural buildings construction programme and also welcomed the continuing work, especially in many African and Latin American countries, using local building materials wherever appropriate, for small-scale buildings for drying, conditioning and safe storage and better management of grain.

28. The Committee commended the contribution of the Special Action Programme for the Prevention of Food Losses (PFL) to increase food supply and reduce losses. It was encouraging to note the establishment of a number of national post-harvest development programmes and the expanded commodity coverage now including roots, tubers, plantains, and fruits and vegetables.

29. The Committee confirmed the importance being given in both the Regular and associated Field Programme to food processing, and in particular to improving traditional technologies for cereals, legumes, roots and tubers.

30. The Committee recognized the extension of natural fibre production into off-farm artisanal agro-industries. Such labour-intensive activities had a low capital investment. The improved flaying, grading and curing of hides and skins, as well as the utilization of animal by-products was an area of interest for many livestock producing countries, which could contribute significantly to foreign exchange earnings. The Committee also appreciated the efforts made to establish regional networks and to promote TDC activities.

31. The Committee welcomed the reporting on FAO's activities in food and non-food agricultural products processing. It commended the emphasis on the preservation of foods particularly through improved traditional technologies, the generation of income and off-farm employment through small-scale agro-industrial development, and the reduction of drudgery, especially for women, through the use of appropriate technologies.

2.1.3. Livestock

32. The Committee stressed the importance of the activities in the Livestock Programme which focused on animal disease control, improved animal production, including feed and genetic resources, and meat and milk development. It reiterated the important socio-economic role of livestock development in farming systems in developing countries through the provision of food commodities, draught animal power and the generating of a regular cash income for the small farmer.

33. The Committee endorsed the emphasis given to the better utilization of pastures in marginal areas and to the development of fodder trees in arid and saline conditions. It welcomed the efforts made within the framework of biological nitrogen fixation on pasture plants, which had helped in the establishment of facilities for the production of inoculants. The Committee also endorsed the activities on improved utilization of pastures and forage resources, as well as agricultural by-products.

34. The Committee commended FAO for the continued and effective action taken in regard to rinderpest control in Africa, Asia and the Near East. For Africa this had included 60 TCP projects during the emergency and planning stages of the control campaign, as well as support to laboratories producing vaccines. The Committee also commended FAO for its comprehensive activities on other animal diseases of economic importance such as foot-and-mouth disease, African swine fever and the control of tsetse/trypanosomiasis which continued to be given priority. It suggested that early warning systems under FAO auspices in respect of outbreaks of animal diseases be developed in the Near East.

35. The Committee noted with satisfaction the ongoing activities in support of cattle breeding and artificial insemination and the expanding provision of frozen bull semen under the AIBDP. It noted the establishment of the FAO international semen bank supported by the Government of Italy, and requested the inclusion of buffalo semen in the programme. It appreciated the work on embryo transfer and the initiatives taken on biotechnology. The Committee appreciated the completion of the FAO International Trial of Black and White Cattle Strains, as well as of the new methodology for computerized data banks on animal genetic resources.

36. The Committee supported the initiative on integrated dairy development for which four model projects had been established in developing regions in close collaboration with other assistance agencies. It appreciated in general the extensive training activities under the livestock programme and noted the assistance provided to a number of developing countries through the International Meat Development Scheme, including small slaughterhouse development in the Pacific.

37. The Committee supported the animal production activities which were directed towards small farm production systems and welcomed the emphasis being given to small ruminants appreciating at the same time the need for continued support for large ruminant production. It supported the assistance to develop draught animal power in farming systems. The Committee appreciated that a significant number of the animal production activities were being implemented through a TCDC network approach.

2.1.4 Research and Technology Development

38. The Committee emphasized the growing importance of research and technology development. It endorsed the role of the programme as the focal point for FAO's work on research and technology development. The Committee welcomed the close cooperation maintained by Headquarters' Divisions and Regional Offices with UN agencies and other international organizations in carrying out this work.

39. The Committee agreed on the need to strengthen national agricultural research systems and the important role of agricultural research training in these efforts. It endorsed the active role of FAO in the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). The Committee emphasized the essential linkage between research, extension and the farmer in applying improved farming practices. It agreed that research efforts and related action to increase food production should not be diminished and that many national agricultural research networks needed strengthening.

40. The Committee recognized the importance of radiation sterilized insects in eradication campaigns against the Mediterranean Fruit Fly, especially in Central America, and recognized that food irradiation was a new and valuable method of reducing post harvest losses and food-borne pathogens.

41. The Committee noted with satisfaction the progress made by the FAO Current Agricultural Research Information System (CARIS) and appreciated the assistance provided for more effective participation in and use of the system.

42. The Committee emphasized the increasing importance of remote sensing in assisting agricultural and rural development efforts. It commended the increasing assistance through trust funds being provided to the FAO Remote Sensing Centre to expand practical training in the application of remote sensing techniques, and to expand operational improved remote sensing services for environmental monitoring for food security.

43. The Committee recognized the importance of environmental concerns, including the maintenance and restoration of the ecological balance. It appreciated the contribution of joint FAO/UNEP projects to the Organization's work in the environment area.

44. The Committee stressed the important role of energy in promoting rural and agriculture development. It emphasized the valuable contribution of TCDC and regional networks in this area and commended the work of the European Cooperative Network on Rural Energy.

2.1.5 Rural Development

45. The Committee appreciated the emphasis given to programmes and activities aimed at the alleviation of rural poverty, and urged that this orientation should continue. It also welcomed FAO's efforts in assisting countries in the implementation of the WCARRD Programme of Action.

46. The Committee strongly supported FAO's activities in training and their expanded coverage of small farmers and rural women and welcomed the increased activities in this field during recent biennia. The Committee appreciated the increase in training activities carried out by Regional Offices and proposed that they should be intensified. It welcomed FAO's work on research and urged that linkages between research and extension be strengthened so that research results could be made easily available to agricultural producers, particularly small farmers and women. It further welcomed FAO's efforts to promote the exchange of research results and experiences through TCDC and urged FAO to continue these activities.

47. The Committee supported the importance given to the programmes on women in agricultural development and proposed continued activities for supporting women as agricultural producers and active participants in development. It encouraged Member Governments to facilitate the attendance of women in training courses organized by FAO, since their participation had declined during the last three years.

48. The Committee endorsed the importance given to projects on people's participation and agricultural cooperatives and stressed the need for decentralization and the involvement of people in development. The important role of farmers' organizations in rural development was also stressed. It referred to the FAO/Italy Co-operative Programme on integrated rural development and urged that its experience be analyzed with a view to applying it to other rural development programmes.

49. The Committee appealed to Member Governments of the Near East and Latin America Regions to proceed with the establishment of Rural Development Centres, which could play an important role in promoting TCDC in these regions.

50. The Committee supported FAO's work in developing an analytical tool for agricultural sector analysis, Computerized Agricultural and Population Planning Assistance (CAPPA). A number of members stressed that the demographic aspect played a very important role in agricultural development and food security. They welcomed the importance of the work done by FAO in analyzing this problem and its contribution to an integrated approach.

51. The Committee endorsed the assistance provided to member countries to prepare and implement medium-term marketing plans; to evaluate the economic efficiency of public marketing agencies; and to support TCDC activities on marketing extension. It also commended the joint programmes with the Regional Offices to promote cereal banks, marketing training, small farmer marketing programmes, and support to food marketing associations.

52. The Committee stressed the important role of agricultural credit in small farm development. It endorsed the collaboration between FAO and Regional Agricultural Credit Associations as a cost-effective TCDC mechanism to build up national banking services. The Committee welcomed the training programmes in monitoring and evaluation, crop insurance and savings mobilization.

2.1.6 Nutrition

53. The Committee commended the preparation of the Fifth World Food Survey that had provided a comprehensive assessment and analysis of the nutritional status of developing countries, its causes and consequences.

54. The Committee supported the ongoing efforts to promote cultivation and use of traditional food crops in developing countries, and stressed their importance in combatting malnutrition and contributing to food security. The Committee recognized that indigenous food plant species were in many instances becoming scarce and disappearing. Nevertheless they were an obvious and important food resource especially for subsistence farmers whose possibilities for purchasing major staples for consumption were limited. The Committee therefore urged FAO to strengthen its efforts to conserve and develop indigenous food plants as a food source in countries where their use was stagnating.

55. The Committee stressed the importance of extending FAO's promotional activities on traditional food crops from eastern Africa to other developing regions. Educational and participatory campaigns, as reported in the document, were important means of encouraging their cultivation and consumption. The Committee urged that greater resources be allocated to such promotional activities.

56. The Committee expressed satisfaction with the timely implementation of plans concerning the follow-up on the role of underexploited indigenous food crops in nutrition and food security, as described in the progress reports on selected development problems.^{1/}

57. The Committee supported the continuing priority accorded to the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and to the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme. It noted the progress that had been made in the acceptance by countries of Codex standards on maximum residue levels for pesticide residues in foods, but urged that greater efforts be made in this regard.

2.1.7 Food and Agricultural Information and Analysis

58. The Committee appreciated the regular assessments of the market situation and outlook for agricultural commodities and analysis of related international trade problems. It recognized FAO's continuous efforts to expand and improve the food and agricultural information system through increased access to and integration of computerized data banks providing comprehensive worldwide time-series data on various aspects of food and agriculture. It welcomed the progress towards establishing an international framework on collaboration and exchange of related information among member countries. The system enabled FAO to meet a rapidly growing number of requests for statistical information from users both within and outside the Organization.

^{1/} COAG/87/3 Sup. 1

59. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Programme for the 1990 World Census of Agriculture had been published. It was informed of activities undertaken by FAO to help developing countries carry out their agricultural census. These ongoing activities included the preparation of publications such as technical manuals on the use of micro-computers and sampling methods, and the provision of training courses for national agricultural census personnel.

60. The Committee endorsed the increased resource allocations for the Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) in 1986-87 to strengthen crop assessments and the collection and dissemination of timely information. It also noted with satisfaction the methodological improvements which were being introduced into the System's activities. The Committee stressed the valuable role which the GIEWS had played in monitoring and forecasting the food supply situation during the African Food Emergency of 1984-85, and recently in the context of the need to arrange triangular transactions involving cereal surpluses in certain developing countries. The Committee supported the development of cooperative links between the GIEWS and sub-regional and regional food information and early warning systems.

2.1.8 Food and Agricultural Policy

61. The Committee, noting with concern the trade problems and low prices faced by commodity exporting countries, and particularly by developing countries, in international markets, emphasized the importance of FAO's intergovernmental commodity bodies as mechanisms for consultations on remedial action. It stressed the need to improve access to markets for the commodity exports of developing countries and supported activities aimed at expanding trade among them. The Committee encouraged FAO to continue its assistance to developing countries in their commodity policy formulation and improvement and policy harmonization among countries for crucial export crops.

62. The Committee fully supported activities aimed at strengthening the analytical basis of the work of the Committee on World Food Security. It emphasized, in particular, the importance of enhancing stability of and access to food supplies and the role of roots, tubers and plantains in food security.

63. The Committee noted with appreciation that donor commitments for projects under the Food Security Assistance Scheme (FSAS) had increased during 1984-86 and supported the priority given by the Scheme to the establishment and strengthening of food information and early warning systems in Africa. The Committee looked forward to the results of the external evaluation of the FSAS which the Director-General had initiated.

64. The Committee emphasized the importance of FAO's work in food and agricultural policy analysis. It recommended that FAO intensify its assistance to developing countries on agricultural policy formulation and analysis and urged that FAO's analytical studies be used more widely to that effect.

65. FAO's study Agricultural Price Policies, presented to the Twentieth-third Session of the FAO Conference in 1985, was widely appreciated for its balanced analysis and sound conclusions. The Committee looked forward to the forthcoming publication of the final version of the Study. It endorsed the follow-up activities FAO had mounted, particularly the series of workshops and seminars.

66. In stressing the importance of developing countries having an adequate capacity to make food and agricultural policies and link them to macro-economic policies, and their need for training in this regard, the Committee recommended that FAO launch a 5-year programme for training of developing country nationals in food and agricultural policy formulation, planning and implementation. The Committee was informed that a project proposal for such training in Sub-Saharan Africa had been prepared for consideration by donors. The Committee also stressed the importance of training in project formulation, planning and implementation.

67. The Committee agreed that "Agriculture: Toward 2000" (AT 2000) was an important contribution to assessing long term trends and issues in the global food and agricultural situation, and noted with interest that the study was being updated.

Medium and Long-Term Outlook for Food and Agricultural Development and Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1988-89 1/

68. The Committee discussed Agenda Items 4, Medium and Long-Term Outlook for Food and Agricultural Development, and 5, Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1988-89 together, in line with its own established practice as well as that of the Council and Conference. It noted that its views would be taken into account by the Council in discussing the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1988-89 and would also be considered by the Director-General in formulating the full Programme of Work and Budget.

69. The discussion was based on two documents: COAG/87/4 "Medium and Long-Term Outlook for Food and Agricultural Development", and COAG/87/5 "Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1988-89". The Committee recognized that COAG/87/5 was an extract from the document bearing the same title which was to be submitted to the Ninety-First Session of the Council in June 1987. 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 analyze and assess the general lines of work and programme changes regarding the Agriculture Department and the Economic and Social Policy Department, and the related work of Regional Offices and Joint Divisions. Regret was expressed at the late receipt of COAG/87/5. A number of members stated that because of the time constraints, their authorities had been unable to give full and thorough consideration to the important proposals contained in the document. They were, therefore, not yet in a position to express definitively their governments' views on the recommended priorities and programmes for 1988-89.

70. The Committee recognized that the problem was not new, as the preparation of the document was dependent on that of the entire Summary Programme of Work and Budget. Nevertheless, it urged that every attempt be made to achieve earlier distribution, and agreed also to consider scheduling its own session slightly later in the cycle so as to ensure timely consideration of the document beforehand.

71. The Committee welcomed the fact that special attention had been devoted to the content and presentation of COAG/87/4 in the light of the comments regarding objectives and priorities made at the Ninetieth Session of the FAO Council in November 1986. Section II of the document covered long-term trends and focused on the challenges facing the Organization and its Member Nations, and then identified eight goals for world agriculture up to the end of the century, together with some strategies for their achievement, while Section III covered medium-term objectives in relation to FAO's programme structure. Improvements had also been made in the content and presentation of COAG 87/5, which provided more information than ever before on the changes envisaged and new priorities. In particular, tabular information showed in specific terms shifts within the base allocation, as a result of reallocation of funds from completed work and reductions in lower priority activities. A few members requested that programmed resources for the current biennium be included in future tabulations.

72. The Committee noted that the consideration of the two documents jointly reflected the logical link between them, and that COAG/87/3, covering implementation of the programme of work for the current biennium, could provide the third essential element, the assessment of past experience, in the continuous programming process. In this connection it was suggested that at future sessions the Committee might consider the three documents simultaneously, thus enabling it to focus more clearly on all aspects relevant to individual programmes.

1/ COAG 87/4; COAG 87/5

73. The Committee considered that while further improvements could be made, significant progress had been achieved in establishing a process through which the evaluation of previous experience, the consideration of long-term trends, the elaboration of long-term goals and strategies and the choice of medium-term objectives led to the setting of priorities for biennial programmes of work, as evidenced by the documents before the Committee. It felt that the proposals constituted a basis for enhancing the dialogue among members about FAO's work and was encouraged by this development.

74. While recognizing the desirability of considering the medium-term objectives in conjunction with the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1988-89, some members felt that the link between the two documents was not established with sufficient clarity. They felt that the stated longer and medium-term goals had not yet been adequately prioritized. In particular, they felt that COAG/87/4 did not define specifically enough the objectives which Member Nations might wish to achieve over a defined period, the strategies and working methods which FAO would adopt in providing assistance to them, and the complementarity of the Organization's work with that of other entities. Furthermore, they considered that the establishment of priorities could best be undertaken on the basis of a continuing assessment of all ongoing programmes, and that reference to such assessments should be reflected in the proposals themselves.

75. The Committee stressed that the long-term strategies and medium-term objectives addressed basic agricultural problems and situations which had not yet been solved. In fact, these situations had worsened in many respects, with increased agricultural protectionism, record low prices, the increased indebtedness of developing countries, and a greater number of people having inadequate access to food. Most members shared the view that long-term strategies and the choice of medium-term objectives could not be narrowly restricted, and that the selection of priorities could only be reflected in the biennial programme of work. Most members were in full agreement with the approach taken in COAG/87/4, and satisfied that its content provided a clear basic framework both for the Organization's action in the long and in the medium-term, and for the elaboration of proposals for the coming biennium. They recalled that the strategies, objectives and priorities of FAO had been fully endorsed by the Programme and Finance Committees, the Council and the Conference. They also stressed that the process of priority selection took into account a wide range of recommendations and requests from specialist technical bodies and governments expressing their needs individually and in intergovernmental fora.

76. It was stressed that evaluation was being undertaken on a broad front under the overall guidance of the Conference. The results of evaluation were made available to the Governing Bodies and were taken into account in formulating proposals.

77. Several members recalled some suggestions made at the last Conference and Council sessions that the time was ripe for another review of the long-term goals and strategies of FAO. Some felt that a high-level group of experts could be established by the Conference to assist in this review. Most, however, did not share this view and stressed that the long-term goals and strategies had been determined by a consensus which did not need to be questioned at the present time. The Committee recognized, however, that the matter could not be resolved within its mandate and could be pursued in the Council and Conference.

78. In considering long term goals and strategies for agriculture, the Committee agreed with the assessment of long-term trends contained in document COAG/87/4 and placed particular stress on indications of a further imbalance in the world food system, with surpluses in some regions accompanied by chronic shortages in others, and on the threat to the environment arising from pollution and the degradation of natural resources.

79. The Committee endorsed the eight principal goals identified for world agriculture. While the relative importance of the eight goals varied both nationally and regionally, they had sufficient universality to provide the basic framework for FAO's medium-term objectives and programme of work. On the other hand, some members felt that these goals did not in themselves adequately point to the necessary selection of priority objectives for the Programme of Work and Budget. The Committee agreed that goals of reduction of

hunger and malnutrition, and of attaining world food security, were interrelated and required simultaneous action on many fronts. The Committee reiterated that poverty was the main cause of hunger and that vigorous action was necessary to attain the goal of reducing rural poverty and promoting equity among rural people. The promotion of increases in developing countries' food production must go hand in hand with conservation of natural resources and environmental protection and the meeting of energy requirements in rural areas.

80. The Committee expressed deep concern at persistent and widespread protectionism, coupled with low commodity prices and high levels of external indebtedness, which had a serious adverse impact on developing countries and on agricultural producers in many exporting countries. The Committee therefore placed particular stress on the need to improve the international trading environment for agricultural commodities, and on the importance of consideration of agricultural trade during the new round of multilateral trade negotiations launched at Punta del Este under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). It noted that the goal of reducing structural food surpluses in developed countries was also relevant to this issue. Some members felt that the problems of agricultural surpluses should be addressed immediately rather than as a longer-term objective.

81. With regard to COAG 87/5, the Committee expressed its support of and general agreement on the scope and direction of the programme and the shifts proposed, which reflected the wishes of Member Nations as expressed in the Conference, the Council, the Regional Conferences, and other intergovernmental fora. Some members felt that greater selectivity would need to be exercised in programming in order to reflect budgetary realities. Without commitment of individual Member Nations on the budgetary implications of the proposals, the Committee agreed that they constituted an appropriate basis for the elaboration of the full Programme of Work and Budget.

82. The Committee in general endorsed the overall programme priorities, which centered on promotion of food production and increase in food security and had been determined by the need to ensure both continuity and innovation. It welcomed the continued reorientation of activities, under all programmes, towards meeting the requirements of small-scale producers and disadvantaged rural groups, particularly women. During the debate various opinions were expressed about individual programme priorities to which members attached importance. These are reflected under the sections of the Committee's report dealing with individual programmes, as are the Committee's comments on specific medium-term objectives related to those programmes.

83. The Committee in general also endorsed the Organisation's priorities in means of action. It supported training as an essential contribution to human resource development, and the focus on economic and technical cooperation among developing countries. It considered that the improvement of information systems and enhancement of data bases was essential to enable the Organization to respond to the needs of Member Nations for policy analysis and advice and implementation of development programmes. In this connection FAO's action in the field should be seen as the logical extension of and complement to the policy advice provided to countries. The Committee agreed that this should not involve duplication or competition with other organizations. However, FAO should fully exercise its mandate within its fields of competence and the limits of the resources made available to it.

2.1.1 Natural Resources

84. The Committee endorsed the medium-term objectives of this programme, which emphasized the planning and implementation of measures for the more productive and efficient use of land, water and inputs on a sustainable basis and without degradation. The Committee supported the programme priorities, including the establishment and effective use of FAO's integrated data base on natural resources, evaluation of soil and water resources, land use planning, more efficient use of mineral fertilizers and integrated plant nutrition systems, irrigation planning and management, safeguarding soil and water resources and the increased use of marginal quality water and marginal lands. The Committee recognized the need for TCDC and South-South cooperation in all fields under this programme and recommended increased emphasis in this area.

85. The Committee stressed the importance of reliable information, data and strategies on land use options, soil conservation practices, irrigation and land use in analytical and policy level studies. It welcomed the development of a geographic information system to be applied to land use planning and for use in agricultural policy and planning analysis, and requested that this information also be available in appropriate form to member countries. The Committee endorsed continued assistance to national application of agro-ecological zoning and crop assessment techniques, with particular reference to the Near East and North Africa regions. The Committee supported further work on the assessment of water resources, including groundwater, for use in agriculture.

86. The continued importance of the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme (IFS) was stressed, and it was hoped that the donor community would increase its contributions to this scheme. The Committee endorsed greater support to activities on integrated plant nutrition systems and further work on inoculant quality and biological nitrogen fixation. The Committee emphasized the importance of developing viable alternatives to shifting cultivation where these practices were causing long-term environmental degradation, and supported increased attention to the development of appropriate production systems.

87. The Committee recommended further work on improved irrigation planning and management, including activities on the design and performance of irrigation systems, and stressed the importance of full participation of users in all aspects of irrigation development. Concentration on small-scale systems was advocated. The Committee commended FAO for the Lomé Consultation and supported proposed follow-up action including a technical advisory service for irrigation development in Africa.

88. The Committee placed special emphasis on the need for conservation of the resource base and protection of the environment. It supported the high priority accorded to soil conservation activities, including assistance to national conservation programmes and a soil conservation strategy for Africa. In this context, the Committee emphasized the need for continued attention to soil salinity and other causes of degradation of the resource base.

89. The Committee stressed the importance of activities on the increased and safe use of marginal quality water and sewage effluent for agriculture. With increasing population pressures, attention should also be paid to the problems of marginal lands and their use for agricultural production.

90. The Committee welcomed the emphasis on farming systems development to provide analysis of the development of small farms; to improve farm management expertise for programme and policy analysis; to strengthen national capacity to improve the management skills of small and emergent farmers, and to provide appropriate training.

91. The Committee endorsed FAO's approach to farming systems development. It recognized that sustained production would result from sound technical and socio-economic farming systems, largely based on existing technologies and practices of better farmers. It emphasized the importance of farmer participation in planning, execution and evaluation of farming systems, as well as the careful selection of target groups and analysis of the existing situations.

2.1.2 Crops

92. The Committee endorsed the priority and emphasis given to crop development in the medium-term objectives and in the proposed Programme of Work 1988-89. It noted the continuing need to develop crop production and protection techniques that optimized crop yields under different agro-ecological and socio-economic conditions, as well as crop conservation and transformation techniques. It recognized the importance of the Crops programme, one of the three largest in Major Programme 2.1 - Agriculture. It also endorsed the high priority accorded to work on crop improvement and management and crop protection.

93. The Committee recognized the importance of plant genetic resources. It was noted that the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources would provide assistance in facilitating the availability and use of plant genetic resources, particularly by

strengthening national plant breeding programmes and national capabilities for collection, conservation and evaluation. A few members proposed that the Undertaking or the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources be assigned a low priority. The Committee welcomed the strengthening in the relationship between FAO and the IBPGR. It appreciated that FAO and IBPGR activities would be designed to complement each other. The Committee stressed that duplication should be avoided in this important field. In addition one member urged that all possible means be adopted to reduce to a minimum the need to expend funds in the area of plant genetic resources, inter alia by the closest possible cooperation between FAO and IBPGR.

94. The Committee endorsed the proposed work on crop improvement and management. It noted with satisfaction that links among national, regional and international institutions would be strengthened and recommended special programme activities for the development and improvement of root, tuber and plantain production. It emphasized that mixed cropping systems should be promoted for smallholders. It supported the priority and emphasis given to the improvement and transfer of production technologies related to fruits, vegetables, oil and fibre crops. Some members stressed the need for technical support to tobacco growing.

95. The Committee recognized the fundamental importance of seeds and noted with satisfaction that the Seed Improvement and Development Programme (SIDP) would continue to assist in the establishment of seed production and distribution programmes, in particular for production of seed and planting material for selected cereal, root, oil and vegetable crops through increased support to national seed policies and programmes. It supported training activities for technical and managerial staff on various aspects of seed production. It appreciated the important extra-budgetary contributions to the Seed Improvement and Development Programme and looked forward to the outcome of the Director-General's independent evaluation of the Programme, which would be presented to the Conference.

96. The Committee noted that continued assistance in crop protection would be provided for improving the control of weeds, insect pests, plant diseases, rodents and the reduction of post-harvest losses. It agreed on the importance given to the follow-up of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

97. The Committee supported the activities related to locusts, grasshoppers, grain-eating birds and army-worms and migratory pest control. The Committee endorsed the coordinating role of FAO in the grasshopper and locust emergency campaigns - in particular during 1986 and 1987 - through its Emergency Centre for Locust Operations (ECLO).

98. The Committee stressed the importance of cost-effective and appropriate mechanization to support increased agricultural production. It agreed on the need to develop relevant policies and strategies and to support any practical measures with advice on the selection of hand tools, animal draught and power equipment, training and appropriate mechanized farming systems, and endorsed FAO assistance in this area. It further stressed the need for continued work on improved design, construction and management of low-cost farm and off-farm storage, drying, handling and processing of farm produce, including roots and tubers.

99. The Committee endorsed the high priority given to the work of the Action Programme for the Prevention of Food Losses (PFL) in assisting member countries to establish national post-harvest programmes covering cereals, roots and tubers, as well as fruits and vegetables.

100. The Committee agreed that in agro-industries development particular attention should be given to the upgrading of traditional technologies for food processing, especially for the preservation of perishables. It supported the work on apiculture, sericulture, hides and skins, cotton and other natural fibres processing, and the appropriate application of biotechnology in this area.

2.1.3 Livestock

101. The Committee agreed with the medium-term objectives and the priorities for livestock and endorsed the activities planned for the programme in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1988-89. It supported the emphasis given to work on animal health including vaccine production and feed resources. The Committee welcomed the initiatives in regard to activities on biotechnology in animal production and health, which would be implemented through training activities and would concentrate on animal reproduction, animal nutrition and disease diagnosis and vaccine production.

102. The Committee endorsed the further strengthening of activities aimed at controlling the major infectious diseases and the improvement of vaccine production. It also supported the strengthening of veterinary services in Africa. The Committee stressed that FAO had a crucial role to play in assisting in the organization of control campaigns for such diseases as rinderpest, foot-and-mouth disease and trypanosomiasis. The Committee noted that the results of the Director-General's independent evaluation of the Special Action Programme for the Control of African Trypanosomiasis and Related Development would be presented at the forthcoming session of the Conference in November 1987.

103. The Committee endorsed the animal production activities concerning large and small ruminants and other small animals. It appreciated the work aimed at improving production systems for small farmers and pastoralists and the integration of draught animal power into farming systems. It also supported the promotion of TCDC, particularly through networks.

104. The Committee recommended the proposed work on management, improvement and conservation of animal genetic resources and the development of artificial insemination and breeding programmes. It supported the emphasis given to the improvement and conservation of indigenous breeds, the rehabilitation of artificial insemination services and the promotion of biotechnological methods in genetic improvement.

105. The Committee emphasized that inadequate feed resources, both quantitatively and qualitatively, were a serious constraint to increased livestock productivity in most developing countries. The Committee agreed that production of more feed should be promoted through the integration of crop/livestock production systems, the introduction of improved methods to increase the nutritive value of low quality feed and the better utilization of agricultural by-products.

106. The Committee agreed that strategies for matching livestock and available feed resources should be promoted and activities supporting sound grazing management, improvement of techniques for drought-prone rangelands and improved utilization of agricultural by-products should be emphasized. The Committee stressed that TCDC was particularly suitable for promoting improvement in feed utilization.

107. The Committee emphasized the importance of integrated dairy development as a part of rural development. It welcomed the emphasis being given to the improvement of technologies for processing indigenous milk products and to simple methods of meat preservation in developing countries. It appreciated that training and education would continue to feature prominently in the livestock programme.

108. Some members suggested the establishment of a Livestock Committee because of the importance and complexity of this sector in agricultural development.

2.1.4 Research and Technology Development

109. The Committee endorsed the priority and emphasis given to research and technology development in the medium-term and in the proposed Summary Programme of Work for 1988-89.

110. The Committee agreed with the increased emphasis given to strengthening national agricultural research systems in the areas of planning, organization and evaluation and requested further strengthening of support for policy formulation and programme

management of agricultural research. It emphasized the importance of the development, assessment and transfer of technology to meet the requirements of small farmers in low-income countries and recommended strengthening national institutions to ensure that improved techniques reached the farmer.

111. The Committee stressed the desirability of greater cooperation in and complementarity of research efforts at all levels. It recommended the intensification of the interaction of national research systems with the international agricultural research centres, particularly those of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

112. The Committee appreciated the close cooperation between FAO and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in initiating a quick response to the problems arising after the Chernobyl accident and supported the proposed programme changes to strengthen these activities. The Committee recognized the potential application of isotope research and biotechnology for increasing agricultural production and stressed the need for these techniques to be made available to developing countries. It noted the increasing role of irradiation to prevent post-harvest losses and reduce food pathogens and welcomed the convening of an international conference on food irradiation. It urged that increased assistance be given to Central American countries in using sterile insect techniques for eradicating the Mediterranean Fruit Fly.

113. The Committee stressed the importance of FAO's information systems and data bases and agreed to the further improvement of CARIS for the dissemination of information on research capabilities and ongoing research projects, in order to support national research systems and foster cooperation among researchers.

114. The Committee supported the need for improving early warning systems and preparedness to meet emergencies and recognized the important contribution of remote sensing applications, including high resolution satellite imagery, both to these systems and to the broader areas of acquiring information on renewable natural resources, particularly as related to agriculture, fisheries and forestry. It agreed with the increased emphasis being given to satellite monitoring to support food security, to training in remote sensing and to the strengthening of remote sensing information services.

115. The Committee noted that degradation of natural resources was continuing and stressed that increased agricultural production should not be achieved at the cost of irreversible damage to the environment, including the land and water resource base. It emphasized the importance of effectively addressing the problems of pollution and degradation/depletion of natural resources and the need for special attention to integrate environmental concerns in development activities and in projects related to small farmers. The Committee agreed with the priority given to strengthening work on environmental impact assessment and on national and regional conservation strategies. The Committee welcomed the cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other organizations within and outside the UN system and called for the strengthening of such cooperation in the field of environment.

116. The Committee stressed the importance of meeting energy requirements of rural areas and the need to develop alternative energy sources. It identified biomass conversion to energy and biogas as areas requiring increased attention. It agreed with the increased emphasis being given to strengthening energy assessment and planning capabilities and the utilization of renewable sources of energy for agricultural and rural development. It stressed the role of regional networks and TCDC approaches, in cooperation with the Regional Offices, in facilitating the exchange of information and energy technologies between countries.

2.1.5 Rural Development

117. The Committee endorsed the objectives of the programme, which were to create favourable socio-economic conditions designed to increase production, ensure participation and achieve equitable distribution of income and benefits.

118. The Committee recognized that the number of poor had continued to increase in the rural areas and supported the priorities of the programme intended to promote integrated actions to improve the conditions of small farmers, rural women, rural youth and landless. It reiterated that achievements in this area depended on the commitment of member countries to the task of alleviating rural poverty through increasing involvement of rural people in development efforts notably by increased access to resources, inputs and services. It also concurred with the priorities to programmes related to rural women and their access to resources, training inputs and credit, and recommended the sub-programme changes as proposed.

119. The Committee supported the increased emphasis on agricultural extension as well as on the special training programmes aimed at small farmers, women farmers and rural youth, and endorsed the assistance to countries in developing national capacity to implement rural communication programmes.

120. The Committee recommended the proposed work on the analysis, identification and design of improved strategies and programmes related to agrarian reform and land settlement. It recognized the importance of consultations and exchange of experience among countries in the different regions and welcomed the participation of other UN agencies in the policy missions which provided advice to Member Governments.

121. The Committee supported analysis and formulation of national rural development policies, programmes and projects designed to increase employment opportunities for the landless and pastoralists. It welcomed studies on landlessness. It stressed the need for continued assistance in the promotion and strengthening of rural organizations and groups at the receiving end of services, inputs and supplies provided by government and non-governmental organizations. Consequently, the Committee also recognized the importance of strengthening national institutions and local mechanisms for formulating and implementing rural development programmes and projects at the local level.

122. The Committee welcomed the focus on agricultural activities of rural women and on the efforts to increase education and training programmes designed for them. It also agreed with the support to rural development services reaching women farmers, with emphasis on new relevant subject matters such as energy, technology and allocation of resources within a household. Strengthening of women's units within national governments for better coordination and coverage of rural women was also endorsed.

123. The Committee emphasized the need to develop more competitive and efficient marketing systems, especially for small farms and rural women. It also endorsed strengthening of rural marketing through increased emphasis on management of marketing agencies, food marketing policies, and improving marketing services for the poor.

124. The Committee concurred with the emphasis on mobilization of rural savings and on increasing the efficiency of rural financial institutions. It agreed on FAO's continued support to these institutions through the Regional Agricultural Credit Associations and the Scheme for Agricultural Credit Development (SACRED) and other appropriate TCDC activities. It also agreed on the importance of strengthening rural credit institutions, of monitoring and evaluation of rural finance systems, and of training of personnel. It endorsed the activities on risk management and, in particular, on crop and livestock insurance linked to loan schemes.

2.1.6 Nutrition

125. The Committee agreed with the medium-term objectives and the programme priorities, with a focus on the strengthening of food and nutrition information and surveillance systems, on the role of traditional crops in promoting nutrition, on improvement of food systems and food quality control, and on the strengthening of Codex Alimentarius activities.

126. The Committee stressed that nutrition was a key consideration underlying agricultural and rural development strategies. Information gained from food and nutrition surveillance systems was a major tool for monitoring the impact of action programmes.

127. The Committee commended FAO's work on traditional or autochthonous food crops as a source of staple foods and nutrients. The promotion of these crops, would help meet the needs of rapidly expanding urban populations and farming households and thus contribute to reducing dependence on imported cereals.

128. The Committee emphasized the value of nutrition education which promoted appropriate diets utilizing locally available foodstuffs together with measures to increase local food production. Such interventions also held promise for developing the participation of rural women in income-generating activities and in meeting the food and nutrition needs of their families.

129. The Committee supported FAO activities focused on reducing post-harvest losses of foodstuffs incurred through contamination in various forms, including contamination which crossed national boundaries. It noted the efforts to develop the potential of irradiation techniques for prolonging the shelf-life of food products and preventing growth of pathogenic organisms. It also encouraged programme activities in the area of consumer education.

130. The Committee welcomed the priority given to work in the field of radionuclide contamination in conjunction with IAEA, and the useful accomplishments to date, and suggested that standards on radionuclide contamination of foods be incorporated in the Codex Alimentarius. Training activities in food control in respect of radionuclides and other forms of contamination were strongly encouraged. Work on microbiological aspects was also encouraged.

131. The Committee welcomed the accomplishments of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The development of standards for tropical fresh fruits and vegetables was commended, particularly because this was an accomplishment of the first Codex Commodity Committee to be hosted by a developing country. The Committee encouraged FAO to cooperate with the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on standards for fruits and vegetables.

132. The Committee fully supported the work on food standards which would contribute to the promotion of trade and economic development. It cautioned against the misuse of standards as non-tariff barriers to international trade in food. In this regard, the value of FAO technical support to countries in the negotiations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade was appreciated. The Committee stressed that international shipment of foodstuffs contaminated with radionuclides in excess of recommended limits was unacceptable.

133. The Committee encouraged closer links with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) in respect of training and educational activities.

2.1.7 Food and Agricultural Information and Analysis

134. The Committee endorsed the objectives of the programme, focused on the collection, analysis and dissemination of information on food and agriculture, and assistance to member countries in the establishment and strengthening of national agricultural statistical systems.

135. The Committee endorsed the priorities and proposals and stressed the importance of improving the quality of data. This was essential both for FAO's policy analysis and advisory work and for the formulation and implementation of sound agricultural and rural development policies and programmes. It stressed that high priority be given to statistics on the feed/livestock sector, to nutrition assessment and to indicators for monitoring progress in agrarian reform and rural development.

136. The Committee stressed the importance of regular reviews and assessment of economic and food and agriculture situations, at world, regional and country levels. It requested that studies and analysis of agricultural development be intensified, with special attention to the near-term outlook and the impact of policy changes on the performance of the agricultural sector.

137. The Committee agreed that member countries, particularly low-income countries that depended heavily on agricultural exports, required up-to-date market and commodity trade information and analysis, and endorsed the high priority given to the maintenance of FAO's activities in these areas. As regards individual commodities with possible export growth potential, the Committee suggested that FAO should expand its work on the economic significance and future prospects of tobacco.

138. The Committee recommended that FAO continue to provide technical assistance to developing countries in institution-building and training in agricultural statistics to increase the effectiveness of existing data-collection systems. It requested the development of computer networks to improve quality and timeliness in processing, analysing and disseminating agricultural information.

139. The Committee stressed the usefulness of satellite imagery to supplement traditional ground surveys for improving the collection of agricultural information in developing countries. It urged Member Governments which had developed this and related technologies to make them available to FAO and developing countries requesting assistance.

140. The Committee strongly supported the activities of the Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS). It recognized the important role of GIEWS as a mechanism for facilitating quick action by vulnerable countries, donors and FAO to deal with the threat or occurrence of food emergencies. The Committee agreed that the GIEWS should give increased attention to monitoring not only weather and crop conditions but also socio-economic and other early warning indicators of food shortages. It agreed also that emphasis should continue to be given to the establishment and strengthening of national, sub-regional and regional information and early warning systems. The Committee agreed further that communication links between the GIEWS and Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and local institutions should be strengthened. Up-to-date communication systems should be employed, where feasible, to facilitate donor responses to food shortages and measures such as triangular transactions to deal with the food surpluses of a range of developing countries including, if appropriate, food-deficit developing countries which occasionally had surpluses.

2.1.8 Food and Agricultural Policy

141. The Committee endorsed the medium-term objectives and priorities of the programme. It agreed with the importance of activities relating to national food and agricultural planning and policy-making, agricultural planning assistance, analytical work in support of the producer/consumer consultations on commodity and trade policy issues and work on world food security.

142. The Committee stressed the importance of the policy analysis work of FAO. It accorded high priority to the proposed global studies and underlined FAO's unique role in this area. The Committee encouraged FAO to expand its policy advisory activities. It stressed that FAO should base its policy advisory activities on a well articulated programme of policy analysis, special regional and country studies and training.

143. The Committee encouraged follow-up action to the recently completed study "African Agriculture: the Next 25 Years". Most members reiterated their support for the study on the feasibility of aid-in-kind. The Committee supported the study for Latin America and the Caribbean that was being prepared for submission to the Regional Conference in 1988, the updating of the AT 2000 study and encouraged further follow-up to the study on agricultural price policies which was submitted to the Conference in 1985.

144. The Committee endorsed the proposed analytical work on the impact of policy changes on the food and agricultural sector, on financing of agricultural development and the monitoring of flows of external assistance.

145. The Committee reiterated the importance of Economic Cooperation Among Developing Countries (ECDC) and TCDC in promoting food and agricultural development and welcomed FAO's support in this area.

146. The Committee agreed that the improvement of the international trading environment for agricultural commodities demanded urgent inter-governmental action. It agreed that the heavy protection of agriculture, including the use of export subsidies and similar practices, needed to be reduced and, if possible, eliminated. The Committee also agreed that it was imperative to reduce structural food surpluses in developed countries without distorting trade flows and prices of international markets. The Committee further agreed that developing countries must also be helped to increase their exports, both to markets in industrialized countries and through increased trade between themselves.

147. The Committee therefore welcomed the new round of multilateral trade negotiations in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and agreed that FAO should assist in the process, in particular by providing information and analytical studies on agricultural commodity trade developments and prospects.

148. The Committee agreed on the need for FAO to maintain an effective programme of trade policy analysis and consultations within the framework of the intergovernmental commodity groups and the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP). It also endorsed the emphasis placed on assistance to developing countries in the formulation of viable commodity policies and on the promotion of trade among developing countries.

149. The Committee agreed that the achievement of improved world food security required attention to both external and domestic dimensions of food insecurity. The Committee urged improvements in early warning systems and the adoption of domestic policies conducive to increased food production in developing countries, stability in food supplies and access to supplies by the poor, in line with the broadened concept of world food security.

150. The Committee agreed that the Food Security Assistance Scheme (FSAS) should strengthen its support to developing countries for the formulation and implementation of food security policies, programmes and projects, and for the development and maintenance of early warning systems and of national preparedness plans for coping with acute and large-scale food shortages. The Committee looked forward to the outcomes of the external evaluation of the Scheme.

151. The Committee stressed the need for developing countries to strengthen their capacity for formulating, monitoring and evaluating appropriate policies. The Committee also emphasized the importance of improving national capacities and policies to deal with the process of structural adjustment, and to mitigate its adverse effects on the poorest population groups. It emphasized the important role of FAO in assisting countries in this regard.

152. The Committee noted the increase in field projects and endorsed the proposals for increased planning assistance to help countries improve and reorientate their planning and policy making. It welcomed the proposed expansion of training activities to the area of policy impact analysis.

FOOD AND NUTRITION

Role of Food Quality and Standards in Food Security, Trade and Health^{1/}

153. The Committee considered document COAG/87/6, "Role of Food Quality and Standards in Food Security, Trade and Health" which reviewed the importance of FAO food quality and standards activities, particularly the work of the FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme in domestic and international consumer protection and trade promotion activities.

^{1/} COAG/87/6

154. The Committee expressed unanimous support of the work of the FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme and stressed the importance of its activities in removing non-tariff trade barriers to international trade and in promoting consumer protection in the area of food quality and safety. The Committee also strongly endorsed the leading role of FAO in assisting countries, especially developing countries, in strengthening national food control strategies and infrastructure. The Committee pointed out that food control programmes were necessary to protect all groups of the population in a country, both rural and urban, from health risks and fraud, as well as to assist consumers in making informed food purchases by appropriate labelling information.

155. The Committee noted that the work on individual commodity standards undertaken by the Codex Alimentarius Commission over the past twenty-five years was nearing completion. However considerable work remained to be done in Codex general subject committees dealing with food additives, methods of analysis and sampling, pesticide residues, other contaminants such as veterinary drug residues in foods, and food labelling. The Committee called upon Member Governments to increase their formal acceptances of recommended Codex standards and contaminant limits.

156. The Committee stressed the need for up-dating food legislation and regulations so that they encompassed the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission; it urged training for all necessary types of food control personnel, including chemists, micro-biologists, laboratory technicians, inspectors and technical administrators. The Committee also called attention to the need for close cooperation between government ministries and agencies concerned and for close links between government, the food industry, and educational and research institutions. The Committee emphasized the need for regional coordination and commended activities currently carried out through the Codex Regional Coordinating Committees. It stressed the need for promoting technical cooperation between developing countries with a view to sharing information and experience through regional and subregional training programmes.

157. The Committee commended the Codex Alimentarius Commission for its vital role in combatting technical barriers to trade through development of consensus on international food standards, and noted the positive impact and complementary nature of this activity on the regulatory efforts of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Many members pointed out that some industrialized countries have additional or more stringent regulations than Codex standards for imported foods and recommended that they be harmonized with Codex or eliminated to facilitate international trade in foods. The Committee called attention to the large volume of trade problems, such as rejections of contaminated or improperly labelled foodstuffs, caused by non-compliance with recommended international food standards and pointed out that improved programmes of governmental food control and food industry food quality control could eliminate such problems.

158. In discussing the need for increased formal acceptances of Codex recommended standards, the Committee acknowledged that despite a number of national problems with existing legislation, constitutional framework and regional bodies which interfere with acceptance procedures, progress is being made by many countries. The Committee further noted the benefits of the Codex Alimentarius Commission as a forum for the meeting of food control personnel from many countries, and for food industry and government regulators to find solutions to non-tariff trade barriers and for scientists to share information and stimulate transfer of technology.

159. The Committee noted that a wide range of regional and international bodies were involved in different aspects of food standardization and urged better coordination of these activities or their integration into the Codex system. The Committee pointed out the importance of the food industry giving full support to Codex activities and utilizing its recommended standards in food quality control programmes and as the basis for international food sales. It also noted the usefulness of Codex work designed to strengthen health protection and hygienic inspection in domestic food control and food security programmes.

160. The Committee noted that the Codex Alimentarius Commission enabled countries to quickly start new initiatives on problems such as veterinary drug residues in foods and contaminants such as radionuclides. The Committee encouraged the Codex Alimentarius Commission to emphasize work on topics such as food additives, pesticide residues, food contaminants and food labelling which are common to all trade in foodstuffs and have a significant impact on food safety to consumers. Several members stressed the need to harmonize legislation on radionuclide contamination in foods and suggested that FAO should formulate guidelines to this effect in collaboration with WHO and IAEA as soon as possible.

161. The Committee discussed the need for increased participation in Codex activities by developing countries and recognized that lack of technical personnel, and especially funding, have prevented them from being more active in this field. The Committee noted that despite these impediments, participation by developing countries was increasing as the realization of the need for improved food quality control grew.

162. The Committee urged FAO and WHO to continue to give full support to the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and to FAO's programme of support to developing countries in strengthening food control and food quality control programmes. The Committee expressed its full support for the recommendations to governments and FAO contained in paragraph 79 of document COAG/87/6. These recommendations call for governments to strengthen food control systems to better promote trade and protect consumers; to implement Codex work at the national level; to ensure improved food handling and quality assurance procedures throughout the food chain; to improve coordination of food control activities among all involved governmental agencies; and to develop appropriate extension and educational materials and activities on food protection and safety. They also call for FAO to continue to promote and support food quality and standards as important elements linking food security, trade and health; to continue to provide food control assistance to developing countries; to coordinate food quality and standards work with other international organizations; to promote increased acceptance of Codex standards; and to develop appropriate extension, education and training activities.

SELECTED DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS

Improving Productivity of Dryland Areas ^{1/}

163. The Committee considered the document COAG/87/7, "Improving Productivity of Dryland Areas", and commended the Secretariat on a comprehensive yet concise presentation. It noted that the subject of dryland agriculture had been debated in 1974 and that the background document also contained a brief summary of familiar aspects such as classification, geographical distribution and physical characteristics. It further noted that planned irrigation development was specifically excluded from the document.

164. The Committee recognized that classification of dryland climates was limited by scarcity of data. It was agreed that the most useful classification for the indication of land use potential was a classification into growing periods and arid and semi-arid zones. The Committee noted with satisfaction that weather prediction had improved with the aid of satellite photography of cloud patterns, but noted that meteorologists were still not able to forecast seasonal droughts.

165. The Committee referred to the present situation in many of the drylands and concluded that the total dryland population exceeded the estimated supporting capacity of the land at the present low levels of inputs. The Committee expressed concern that millions of people in the drylands would still be short of food even if inputs were increased to the levels currently used in commercial farming within dryland areas. It recognized that out migration appeared to be inevitable in many areas, at present low levels of economic growth and high rates of population increase, since agricultural production was declining because of over-grazing, soil erosion and environmental degradation.

^{1/} COAG/87/7

166. The Committee reviewed a number of major socio-economic and institutional factors that may be considered in improving the productivity of drylands. These included: the carrying capacity of the land; political commitment; inappropriate price policies; land tenure problems and the lack of an integrated approach. Within this same area, constraints to support services were highlighted. Discussion was focused upon the lack of applicable research in agriculture, and upon the need for measures to overcome difficulties currently being experienced in extension services.

167. The Committee examined the production constraints related to natural resources and other physical factors and noted the problems caused by unpredictable droughts. Discussion was focussed upon soil erosion and declining soil fertility; over-grazing; shortages of fuelwood and forages; and upon the lack of assessment of the natural resource situation.

168. The Committee stressed the importance of national policy decisions in overcoming the constraints that were reviewed. In the socio-economic field, the Committee drew attention to the need to give national priority to dryland development; to promote an integrated approach to this development; to devise effective approaches to family planning; to plan outmigration to areas of higher potential, wherever possible, while controlling migration into dryland areas, and to improve producer prices for agricultural products wherever possible.

169. The Committee emphasized the need to give priority to applied and adaptive research into agriculture, forestry and hydrology, and noted the location-specific nature of much of this research. It drew attention to the need to promote measures for improving reward systems, living conditions and career prospects for service in dryland areas. Rural service centres should be encouraged, together with a policy of decentralizing planning and decision making, and of involving the local community and local leadership in sustaining development efforts on a participatory basis.

170. The Committee supported a range of policy decisions to overcome resource and physical constraints. It urged that innovative solutions be developed for improved mixed smallholder and pastoral systems, and stressed the need to develop and maintain national food reserves, and to improve crop and livestock forecasting. The importance of local and farm-level storage arrangements was emphasized.

171. The Committee endorsed the need to take account of the risks involved when developing technological solutions, and urged that this same consideration of risk be included in the planning of extension activities. It emphasized that all policies should be formulated on the basis of an understanding of current practices, and that specialist advice should be guided by an appreciation of the overall system.

172. The Committee recommended that soil conservation should be organized on a watershed basis, and that water harvesting and improved efficiency in the use of water resources should receive high priority. The use of livestock manure on crops was considered to be effective in maintaining soil fertility and controlling soil erosion and the Committee agreed that every attempt should be made to avoid its direct use as fuel. The Committee emphasized the importance of livestock as a source of food and as a survival mechanism in times of drought. In order to reduce overgrazing, it suggested the provision of incentives to eliminate unproductive stock; and the integration of grazing control with the development of water supplies. It also urged greater efforts to develop successful rural marketing and credit arrangements.

173. The Committee drew attention to the need to mount campaigns to plant trees for fuelwood and supplementary forage. It noted that shortage of fuelwood was now causing severe distress throughout the drylands and agreed upon the importance of developing solar energy applications. The Committee also endorsed the promotion of policies to control fires that destroy valuable crop residues, shrubs and grass fodder. It was noted that legumes responded vigorously to small applications of phosphatic fertilizer and it was agreed that this type of fertilizer use should be encouraged wherever appropriate. The Committee agreed on the need for policies to improve surveys of ecological resources, including land, water, vegetation and wildlife.

174. The Committee stressed that animal draught for tillage and transport was a major factor in viable dryland agriculture and recognized the critical need for rapid offtake of stock during drought periods, together with re-supply when good rains return. It was concluded by the Committee that reduction of stock numbers was an inescapable requirement for the restoration of productivity to land rendered barren by overgrazing. It was noted that it was essential for resting of land to be complete, as a mere reduction in stocking rate did not permit the regeneration of desirable species. Some members considered that, in the drier areas, the role of camels and of wildlife should receive major consideration. It was agreed that improvements in animal health and disease control were a prerequisite for stock reductions and improvement in animal husbandry.

175. The Committee endorsed a range of programme components for the implementation of dryland policies and noted that the variation in geography and economic development made it impossible to advocate standardized programmes. It emphasized that programme components were inter-related, but recognized that not all were equally critical. The Committee urged that constraints be addressed by a series of coordinated measures that should be continuously maintained and supported.

176. The Committee noted the ranking of necessary measures into short, medium, and long-term components. It further noted that the purpose of the paper was to present a comprehensive overview and agreed that it was not possible to prioritize measures on a general basis, since each country should select those most relevant to its particular circumstances. Some members, however, expressed the view that it would be a valuable exercise for FAO to develop criteria for evolving sets of priorities for specific situations. The Committee also agreed that it would be useful for FAO to identify and document proven approaches within member countries, perhaps by undertaking a series of case studies. Member Governments were invited to provide the Secretariat with relevant information regarding their approach to the exploitation of arid zones.

177. The Committee stressed the importance of cooperation and coordination with UNEP and other UN agencies, international research institutes and other relevant bodies. It recommended that FAO further strengthen its integrated, interdisciplinary approach and suggested that an agro-sylvo-pastoral concept formed an appropriate basis for this approach.

178. The Committee recommended that FAO take the initiative in coordinating TCDC activities for drylands development and stressed the role of South-South cooperation and regional coordination. It agreed that the importance of this type of development should be reflected in the Programme of Work and Budget. Some members recommended that an FAO Programme of Action for the Drylands should be developed, using the Africa Study as a starting point.

The Effects of Land Tenure and Fragmentation of Farm Holdings on Agricultural Development 1/

179. The Committee considered document COAG/87/8 and commended the Secretariat for a comprehensive and perceptive analysis on a very complex subject.

180. The Committee emphasized the importance of institutional issues in agricultural development and recognized the wide range of effects of land tenure on agricultural development. The Committee recalled that appropriate land tenure systems which determine access to land and natural resources were a critical component of the WCARRD Programme of Action with its focus on growth, equity and people's participation. Land tenure affects production and productivity through the incentives and security it provides for production and investment, as well as through the manner in which land is divided into large or small holdings. The Committee recognized, however, that the effects of land tenure systems and of changes therein are transmitted to agricultural development through production structures, supporting service structures, farming systems and technological systems.

1/ COAG/87/8

181. The Committee further noted that the lack of access to land by large numbers of the rural population - particularly women - would have adverse distributional effects. The effects of land tenure on ecology or on environment were also recognized.

182. The Committee noted that, in general, it has been found that per hectare yield in small farms is higher than in large farms. Moreover, small farms play an important role in providing income, employment and food security for a large part of the population in developing countries. In this light the Committee agreed that a wider distribution of land would result in higher output, income and employment of the rural poor, provided that complementary changes in supporting service structures, delivery systems and technologies which are based on the small farmers' needs, capabilities and resources are undertaken.

183. In regard to tenancy and sharecropping, the Committee recognized the difficulties of formulating legislation regulating tenancy in a context of acute competition for land, as well as of providing adequate supporting services to the beneficiaries. The Committee nevertheless emphasized the potential role of tenancy regulation as part of programmes of more widespread access to land and the role of beneficiaries' organizations in their implementation.

184. The Committee discussed the advantages and disadvantages of dualistic tenurial structures. These structures, often led to large-scale mechanization, more capital-intensive and less labour-intensive patterns of production, while its external linkages led to a more export-oriented pattern of growth. The Committee noted especially the adverse effects of these tenures on equity and rural employment, which had aggravated rural poverty and the exodus to the towns. In this context, the Committee felt that a reduction of the dualism in Latin American agriculture by transferring land from large and under-utilized farms in order to expand the base of medium and small-scale farms, would contribute both to growth as well as to equity, if accompanied also by appropriate changes in production structures and supporting services to the beneficiaries. One member felt that the term "tenure" is specific and refers to the weaker relationships of the person with the land. Consequently, this member suggested that in future, one should speak of "juridical relationship with the land" or "relationship of tenancy, possession and ownership". In order to learn from past experience and to disseminate the knowledge gained from the present study, the Committee called upon FAO to assist countries, on request, in undertaking evaluations of their past agrarian reform programmes in order to assist in future policy formulation in this field. The Committee noted the importance of the political commitment in these countries. The Committee recommended that country-specific studies be undertaken by FAO on the effects of the plantation system in different country situations, with special regard to their growth and equity effects.

185. In regard to customary tenures in Africa, it was noted that such tenures had usually achieved a comparatively high degree of equity. In regard to their potential for attaining higher levels of production, the Committee felt that this needed further investigation. Moreover, progress in African agriculture also depends on other factors such as technological modernization, efficient delivery systems, and physical infrastructure development. It recognized that it may be necessary for the State to intervene in order to bring about needed changes in customary tenurial systems. The Committee welcomed the tenurial studies carried out by FAO and urged the monitoring of tenurial changes in Africa, including studies of options to safeguard and ensure women's rights to land.

186. The Committee expressed concern at the increasing degree of subdivision and fragmentation of holdings. It noted that subdivision had not necessarily led to a decline in agricultural production and productivity per unit of land, although the resulting miniscule size of holding was often not adequate to support the farm family. However, for the marginal farmer with no other employment opportunities, the real alternative to subdivision was landlessness. The Committee felt that neither legislation forbidding the subdivision of holdings nor legislation for the enlargement or "consolidation" of holdings could be adequate in the absence of other measures to syphon off some of the pressure from the land through land redistribution, land settlement and/or the provision of non-farm or industrial employment in the rural and urban areas.

The Committee, therefore, urged a vigorous policy of rural industrialization and non-farm employment, which alone could complement the emerging reality of multitudes of under-employed farmers in most of the developing regions. It was suggested that this policy should also encourage the landlords to play a role in the creation of rural industries. The Committee recommended that FAO should work in the relevant fields in cooperation and coordination with ILO, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and Unesco.

187. It was noted that fragmentation was a problem, though somewhat exaggerated in the context of subsistence and rainfed agriculture. The Committee, however, recognized that even as farming becomes modernized, irrigated and/or mechanized, the continued fragmentation of holdings could hamper growth in productivity. The consolidation of holdings would be a relevant, appropriate and feasible solution under certain circumstances. It also presents problems of implementation, in view of its considerable costs and delays. The Committee, therefore, recommended that while FAO should assist countries on request in undertaking feasibility studies and evaluations of their programmes for the consolidation of holdings, it should also investigate alternative approaches and means of overcoming any diseconomies caused by fragmentation.

188. The Committee noted that landlessness was emerging as a major agrarian problem in the developing world, covering 20-40 percent of all rural households in all regions, except Africa. Landlessness per se would not really be a problem if alternative employment through non-farm employment or rural industrialisation could be found for the landless in the rural or urban areas: but given the relative absence of alternative employment in the developing countries, the economic and social costs of landlessness were enormous. While emphasizing the need for land redistributive measures for the landless, the Committee recognized these would not suffice in most countries, given the magnitude of the problem. The Committee, therefore, stressed the further need for the adoption of more labour-intensive types of agriculture, public works programmes for rural infrastructure development and a closer integration of industry with agriculture. The importance of organizations of landless workers for enhancing their economic strength and promoting rural income generating activities, was stressed. The Committee recommended that FAO should assist countries in formulating policies and programmes along the above lines, in cooperation, wherever appropriate, with other concerned agencies, such as ILO, UNIDO and Unesco.

189. The Committee recognized that although women constitute a large part of the labour force in agriculture (often, as heads of households and managers of farms), they usually do not possess rights of access either as owners or as holders with secure usufructuary rights - a situation which had inevitably negative effects on production as well as distribution. While welcoming the studies undertaken by FAO in this field, the Committee urged that countries and FAO should undertake further investigations as a basis for adequate policy formulation, but especially should concentrate on policies and programmes to provide women with full rights of access to land, to secure their ownership and usufructuary rights and to enjoy the fruits of their labour.

190. The Committee recognized that land tenure could have both direct as well as indirect effects on the environment. The Committee recommended that FAO should assist countries in undertaking specific studies on the environmental effects of land tenure under different types of tenure and under different demographic conditions. It further stressed that countries should introduce appropriate institutional arrangements to regulate the access of individuals and groups to common lands, in a manner compatible with sustained ecological conservation.

191. In conclusion, the Committee underlined the importance of agrarian reform programmes. These, when necessary, constitute a basis both for sustained growth and equity. In this connection the importance of a dialogue between governments and farmers' organizations on the question of land tenure and agrarian reform was also stressed. The Committee commended the work done by FAO in the field of land tenure and agrarian reform and recommended that its future work in this field should be more specifically oriented to the needs of the individual countries.

Strategies and Requirements for Improved Production of Roots, Tubers and Plantains ^{1/}

192. The Committee reviewed document COAG/87/9 on "Strategies and Requirements for Improved Production of Roots, Tubers and Plantains" and complimented the Secretariat on the timely and detailed presentation of the subject. It noted that there was evidence of a renewed interest in roots, tubers and plantains and stressed the need to improve production of these crops in view of their effective and potential contribution to national self-reliance in food, particularly in the regions of humid tropics and the areas of the sub-humid tropics where agro-climatic conditions were most favourable.

193. While the document mainly concentrated on the major root staples (cassava, sweet potato, white potato, yams and aroids) some countries referred to other root species which over the centuries had been used as subsistence food crops. The Committee agreed that studies of these lesser-known traditional species should be continued to assess their agronomic potential and nutritional value.

194. The Committee noted general lack of root, tuber and plantain production increases in recent years, with the exception of potatoes, and discussed the various factors responsible for this. It emphasized the need for national and regional action programmes, based on a multidisciplinary approach to improve production, processing, storage and marketing which would increase consumption and thus contribute to food security at both national and household levels.

195. The Committee recognized that roots, tubers and plantains had poor post-harvest keeping qualities and that this led to a high level of losses during marketing, resulting in higher prices to the consumer and a lower than optimum volume of production being marketed. It agreed that, to overcome this problem, a concerted effort to improve post-harvest handling and storage, marketing and processing was necessary. The Committee agreed that an increase in market demand would provide the necessary motivation for the adoption of existing and new improved production techniques.

196. The Committee noted that market demand for roots, tubers and plantains, particularly in urban areas, was affected considerably by the availability and relatively low prices of imported cereals. Such cereals also offered greater convenience in preparation. The Committee, therefore, emphasized that research and development efforts should concentrate on meeting consumer requirements in terms of convenience and price, while at the same time ensuring appropriate farmer remuneration. They should also attempt to stabilize shifting cultivation in order to limit the ill-effects of transhumance and save time in the actual work in the fields, increase the cultivated area and improve yields.

197. To assist such activities, the Committee recommended that sound national data bases on the supply and demand situation and market characteristics and requirements should be developed to provide country-specific information upon which rational research and production efforts could be based.

198. The Committee discussed a number of constraints, such as the non-availability of quality planting material, losses caused by pests and diseases and inadequate agronomic practices in the cultivation of roots, tubers and plantains. The Committee recognized that considerable advances had already been made by international and national research institutions and urged that available technological knowledge should be transferred to farmers through appropriate training and extension activities. It emphasized the need to further strengthen plant improvement programmes for the selection of improved varieties.

199. In connection with the plant improvement programmes, the Committee stressed the need for coordinated research efforts between national institutions, International Agricultural Research Centers (IARCs) and specialized institutions concerned with these crops. The Committee emphasized that adequate attention should be given in breeding programmes to the elimination of toxic substances.

^{1/} COAG/87/9

200. The Committee emphasized the importance of making optimum use of local, ecologically well-adapted, varieties meeting consumers' tastes. It recommended the establishment and intensification of national adaptation trials and demonstration plots in order to select and promote the cultivation of those varieties best suited to specific environments.

201. The Committee noted the serious yield losses which could be caused by pests and diseases. It recognized that pest and disease resistance should be a major objective to be included in crop improvement programmes.

202. The Committee expressed concern that improved nucleus planting material was only obtainable in limited quantities and therefore recommended the establishment and development of rapid propagation technologies and nurseries to supply the farmer with sufficient quantities of improved and healthy planting material.

203. The Committee noted the high yield increases that can be achieved through improved production practices and through the use of improved varieties. It agreed that studies should be conducted in order to investigate different cropping systems for small scale and commercial farming, including mixed cropping systems. The Committee stressed that adequate attention should be paid to nutritional aspects. Some members felt that consumption of roots, tubers and plantains should be promoted.

204. The Committee emphasized the important role of women in the production, processing and marketing of roots, tubers and plantains, particularly in Africa. It stressed the need for appropriate policies and activities to reach the female members of farming families to address specific problems such as land tenure.

205. The Committee recognized the advantages of farmers' associations and agreed that such groups would facilitate access to both credit and purchase of inputs and would also improve marketing of roots, tubers and plantains.

206. The Committee reviewed the detailed proposals made for improvements to marketing, post-harvest handling and processing. It noted that improvements in production would be lost if marketing systems and processing techniques remained inadequate. Noting the present limited knowledge of roots, tubers and plantains marketing practices, the Committee recommended that detailed studies of marketing systems and marketing costs should be conducted to identify ways in which these systems could be assisted. It also stressed the need for the development of a full understanding of different consumer demands for fresh and processed products to assist in the development of appropriate processing technologies.

207. The Committee urged that special studies should be made of economic post-harvest treatment and storage of fresh cassava, solanum potatoes and sweet potatoes under tropical conditions. It also recommended the need for detailed study of the techniques and economics of village cassava processing. Some members gave other examples of processing and conservation from their own countries which they felt could be more widely disseminated.

208. The Committee welcomed the forthcoming discussion of similar aspects on root, tuber and plantains by the Committee on Food Security.

209. The proposal was made by some members to discuss roots, tubers and plantains again at either one of the forthcoming sessions of COAG or at Regional Conferences. The establishment of an intergovernmental working group was also mentioned.

210. In conclusion, the Committee endorsed the strategies presented in COAG/87/9 and emphasized that they should be included into national food security policies. It recommended that FAO continue and strengthen its activities in roots, tubers and plantain production, processing, storage and marketing in particular the development and implementation of field programmes. It also recommended that Member Governments should give high priority to root, tuber and plantain activities.

OTHER MATTERSOther Business

211. 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 Tenth Session.

212. In this connection the Deputy Director-General reminded the Committee that, in line with earlier decisions, one agenda item should deal with a nutritional subject. Normally, not more than three items would be devoted to selected development problems. The final selection of the subjects for the agenda would aim at a satisfactory balance between different areas of work, including the socio-economic aspects of agricultural development. It would also take into account any matters that might be referred to the Committee by the Council or the Conference.

213. The following possible topics received support from a number of members:

- People's participation in agricultural and rural development;
- Environmental aspects of agricultural development;
- Protection of animal genetic resources;
- Economic significance of tobacco and its prospects;
- Improvement of regional distribution and marketing of agricultural products.

The following additional topics were also suggested during the discussion: Appropriate integration of agriculture and forestry; Remote sensing for early warning and resources management; Transfer of technology; Diversification of crops in substitution of coca and other drug crops; Biotechnology and agriculture; Energy and rural development; Follow-up action on roots, tubers and plantains; Progress report on FAO's study - "Africa - the Next 25 Years"; Impact of decline in world commodity prices on food and agriculture development; Women in development.

214. Taking up suggestions from the floor regarding the importance of linkages between agriculture and forestry, the Chairman suggested consideration of possible consecutive meetings of the Committee on Forestry and the Committee on Agriculture, giving an opportunity for delegation members to participate in both sessions.

Date and Place of Next Session

215. The Committee noted that in accordance with Rule XXXII-3 GRO and Rule II of its Rule of Procedure its Tenth Session should be held at FAO Headquarters in Rome. As to the timing the Committee recognized the advantage in holding Committee sessions somewhat later in the year, possibly in the second half of April or early in May, and noted that the Director-General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee would propose the exact date, taking fully into account the overall meetings schedule of the Organization.

APPENDIX A

AGENDA FOR THE NINTH 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 1984-86
4. Medium and Long-Term Outlook for Food and Agricultural Development
5. Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1988-89

FOOD AND NUTRITION

6. Role of Food Quality and Standards in Food Security, Trade and Health

SELECTED DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS

7. Improving Productivity of Dryland Areas
8. The Effect of Land Tenure and Fragmentation of Farm Holdings on Agricultural Development
9. Strategies and Requirements for Improved Production of Roots, Tubers and Plantains

OTHER MATTERS

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

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Ninth Session

Rome, 23 March - 1 April 1987

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El Salvador	Netherlands	Yugoslavia
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农业委员会

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
COMITE DE L'AGRICULTURE
COMITE DE AGRICULTURE

الدورة التاسعة

第九届会议

Ninth Session/Neuvième session/Noveno período de sesiones

روما، ٢٣/٣ - ١/٤/١٩٨٧

1987年3月23日至4月1日 罗马

Rome, 23 March - 1 April 1987

Rome, 23 mars - 1er avril 1987/Roma, 23 de marzo - 1º de abril de 1987

قائمة المندوبين والمراقبين

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Agriculture Canada
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Canadian International Development
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Professor, Royal Veterinary and
Agricultural University

S. SOENDERGAARD Rome
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Alternate
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Embassy of Dominica

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* NABIL EL SAYED EL MOWELHI Cairo
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Water Research Institute

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Rome
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Forestry
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Bonn
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Rome
Permanent Representation of Greece
to FAO

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Roma
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Roma
Agregado, Embajada de Honduras

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Rome
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of Hungary to FAO
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Budapest
Deputy Director, Ministry of Foreign
Trade
M. GALVOLGYE (Mrs.)
Budapest
Senior Officer, Ministry of Agriculture
and Food
Alternate
Z. KALMAN
Rome
Assistant to the Permanent Representative
of Hungary to FAO

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Permanent Secretary, Ministry of
Agriculture, Government of India

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A.M. KHALEELI Rome
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of
India to FAO

Alternate
V.K. SIBAL Rome
Alternate Permanent Representative of
India to FAO

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Alternate
H.G. ATMADJA Rome
Acting Attaché of Agriculture
Embassy of Indonesia

H. ADANG Rome
Alternate Permanent Representative
of Indonesia to FAO

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ISLAMIQUE D'/IRAN, REPUBBLICA ISLAMICA DEL

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* T.A. AL-MESH-HEDANI Rome
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Iraq to FAO

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Agricultural Attaché, Deputy
Permanent Representative of Ireland
to FAO

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Permanent Representative of Israel
to FAO

Alternate
A. SHINAR Jerusalem
Director, Foreign Relations and
Technical Assistance Department
Ministry of Agriculture

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A.T. FRITTELLI ANNIBALDI (Mme.) Rome
Représentant permanent adjoint
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Direction coopération et développement

B. PALESTINI Rome
Ministère de l'agriculture
Direction générale production agricole

E. ERCOLE Rome
Ministère de la santé
Direction générale hygiène et aliments

N. GIACONE (Mme.) Rome
Ministère de la recherche scientifique

R. ALBERTINI Rome
Ministère de la recherche scientifique

C. BARBERIS Rome
Institut national de sociologie rurale

L. DI BUSSOLO BATTAGLIA (Mme) Rome
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de l'Italie auprès de la FAO

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Conseil national de la recherche

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Senior Official, Economic Affairs
Division, United Nations Bureau
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

K. NARITA Tokyo
Section Chief, International Cooperation
Division, International Affairs
Department, Economic Affairs Bureau
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Ministry of Agriculture

Nairobi

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of Kenya to FAO

Rome

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Agricultural Attaché

JANG BAE YOUN

Assistant Agricultural Attaché

Rome

Rome

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لبنان

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* S. SARRAF

Chef de département
IRAL (Recherche agronomique)
Ministère de l'agriculture

Beyrouth

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* M. KHORAYCH

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Rome

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مدير قريش

الممثل الدائم المناوب

لدى المنظمة

Adjoint

* T. DADA

Chef Section, Conseil du Developpement
et de la Reconstruction

Beyrouth

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Recursos Hidráulicos

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Roma

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Roma

Asesore

S. OSORIO

Asist. del Consejero Agropecuario
para Europa Occidental

Paris

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Permanent Representative of the
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Rome

Alternates

N. SLOT

Policy Advisor of the Ministry of
Agriculture and Fisheries

The Hague

A.J.M. OOMEN

Head FAO Section,
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

Rome

P.A.L. DE RIJK

Directorate International Economic
Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture

The Hague

K. DE VEY MESTDAGH

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Rome

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Maseru
M. RAMAEMA
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Maseru
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Permanent Representative of Libya to FAO
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Rome

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Madagascar auprès de la FAO
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Rome

Alternate
M.Z. MOHAMMED
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Rome

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to FAO
Rome

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Senior Executive Officer, Royal
Ministry of Development Cooperation
Oslo

Alternates
L. FORSELL
Head of Division, Royal Ministry
of Agriculture
Oslo
N.R. KAMSVAG
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Deputy Director General for Planning
and Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture,
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Chef de Division, Ministère de
l'Agriculture, Elevage et Forêts

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سفير المملكة العربية السعودية

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Alternate
* A.S. HARIRI Rome
Assistant to Permanent Representative
of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to FAO

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أ. س. الحريري

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العربية السعودية لدى المنظمة

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Representante Permanente de España
ante la FAO
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Director de Programas, Ministerio de
Agricultura Pesca y Alimentación
C. ALONSO Madrid
Jefe Gabinete de Derecho Agrario,
Ministerio de Agricultura Pesca y
Alimentación

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Representative of Sri Lanka to FAO

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Committee, Ministry of Agriculture
L. LEANDER Stockholm
Deputy Head of Division, Swedish
International Development Authority

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Agriculture, Ministère de l'agriculture
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Secrétaire du Comité National
Suisse de la FAO
P. WIESMANN Rome
Représentant permanent adjoint de
la Suisse auprès de la FAO

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Alternate Permanent Representative of
Tanzania to FAO

THAILAND/THAILANDE/TAILANDIA

Representative
A. SENANORONG Bangkok
Deputy Director-General, Department
of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture
and Cooperatives

Alternates
V. ISARANKURA Rome
Agricultural Counsellor, Permanent
Representative of Thailand to FAO

D. CHANTASEN Rome
Alternate Permanent Representative
of Thailand to FAO

P. KORSIEPORN Rome
Alternate Permanent Representative
of Thailand to FAO

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Représentant permanent de Tunisie
auprès de la FAO

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م. عبد الهادي
الممثل الدائم لتونس
لدى المنظمة
روما

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Permanent Representative of Turkey
to FAO

Alternate
E. ISTANBULLUOGLU Ankara
General Director of Projects
and Implementation, Ministry of
Agriculture

Associate
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Agricultural Counsellor, Deputy
Permanent Representative of Turkey
to FAO

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Representative
M. SIMBWA-BUNNYA Entebbe
Principal Research Officer
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

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Deputy Chief Natural Resources Adviser
Overseas Development Administration

Alternates
P. TULEY London
Senior Agricultural Adviser
Overseas Development Administration

G.G. FREELAND London
Animal Health Adviser
Overseas Development Administration

R.F.R. DEARE Rome
Minister, Permanent Representative of
the United Kingdom to FAO

J.D. AITKEN London
Head of FAO Section
Overseas Development Administration

C.P. WEST (Miss) London
Principal Officer, Ministry of
Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Advisers
E.A. ATTRIDGE (Mrs.) London
Grade 3, Emergencies, Food Quality
and Pest Control, Ministry of
Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

A. COVERDALE London
Senior Economic Adviser
Overseas Development Administration

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

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Associate Deputy Chief for Programs,
Soil Conservation Service
Department of Agriculture

Alternates
W. DENNEY Washington, D.C.
International Relations Adviser,
Office of International Cooperation
and Development,
Department of Agriculture

H.T. JENNINGS Washington, D.C.
Chief, Agricultural Development Division
Office of International Development
Assistance, Bureau of International
Organizations, Department of State

Advisers
D. WEYGANDT Rome
Acting Permanent Representative of
the United States of Mission to FAO

J.E. ROSS Rome
First Secretary (Food and Agricultural
Affairs), Alternate Permanent Rep-
resentative, United States Mission to FAO

R. VAN HAEFTEN (Mrs.) Washington D.C.
Office of International Cooperation
and Development, Department of
Agriculture

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Representante

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Roma

Embajador, Representante Permanente de Venezuela ante la FAO

Suplentes

M.A. CASELLAS OLIVO (Dra.)

Roma

Consejero, Representación Permanente de Venezuela ante la FAO

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

Representative

* A.M. KHALED

Rome

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen to FAO

روما

مندوب

أ.م. خالد

سفير، الممثل الدائم لليمن

الديمقراطية لدى المنظمة

YUGOSLAVIA/YOUGOSLAVIE

Representative

M. TAPAVICKI

Rome

Permanent Representative of Yugoslavia to FAO

ZAIRE

ZAMBIA/ZAMBIE

Representative

M.M. LISWANISO

Rome

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Zambia to FAO

Alternate

T.F.F. MALUZA

Rome

Alternate Permanent Representative of Zambia to FAO

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非农业委员会成员的成员国观察员

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I. GANSORE

Rome

Attachée, Ambassade du Burkina Faso

BURMA/BIRMANIE/BIRMANIA

U SAN MAUNG

Rome

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Burma to FAO

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC/REPUBLIQUE DOMINICAINE/REPUBLICA DOMINICANA

D.M. CEDENO PEREZ

Roma

Consejero, Representante Permanente Alterno de la República Dominicana ante la FAO

MALTA/MALTE

A. GAUCI

Rome

Alternative Permanent Representative of Malta to FAO

URUGUAY

G. SOMMA RIBA

Roma

Representante Permanente Alterno del Uruguay ante la FAO

دولة الفاتيكان

罗马教廷 - 常驻观察员

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

- * H.E. Agostino FERRARI-TONIOLO
Permanent Observer of the Holy See to FAO
Vatican City
- * Dr. Lelio BERNARDI
Vatican City

ممثلو الأمم المتحدة والوكالات المتخصصة

联合国和专门机构的代表

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

G.Y. VAN HAELEST (Ms)

Rome

External Relations Officer

Division of External Relations

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

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Director, Environmental Management
B. EKBLOM Geneva
Director

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

I. CORDISCHI Rome
Assistant Director, ILO Branch Office

WORLD BANK/BANQUE MONDIALE/BANCO MUNDIAL

C. BLANCHI Washington D.C.
Assistant Director, Agriculture and
Rural Development Department

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

S. HARALAMBOUS Rome
Assistant to Chief, Policy Department
E. PACHERO Rome
Senior Economist

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

B. SIGURBJOERNSSON Vienna
Director, Joint FAO/IAEA Division of
Nuclear and Biotechnology Applications
in Food and Agriculture

المجموعة الاقتصادية الأوروبية

欧洲经济共同体

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY
COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE EUROPEENNE
COMUNIDAD ECONOMICA EUROPEA

J.J. RATEAU Bruxelles
Administrateur Principal
Direction Générale de l'Agriculture

المراقبون من المنظمات

الحكومية الدولية

政府间组织观察员

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DE DEVELOPPEMENT/BANCO AFRICANO DE
DESARROLLO

M.T. FUTA Abidjan
Division Chief, General Agriculture
and Rural Development

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

E. AMPUERO Washington, D.C.
Agriculture Specialist, 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

G. VASTA Rome
Consultant, Directorate for Food,
Agriculture and Fisheries

المراقبون من المنظمات الدولية

غير الحكومية

国际非政府组织观察员

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ORGANIZACIONES INTERNACIONALES NO
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Permanent Representative

CARITAS INTERNATIONALIS

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LIAISON POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT/CENTRO DE
ENLACE PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE

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Permanent Representative

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INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES/ALIANZA
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Permanent Representative

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UNIONS/ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DES
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CONSUMIDORES

D. MYERS (Ms)
Permanent Representative

Nairobi

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Rome

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UNION INTERNACIONAL RAIFFEISEN

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Expert, Casse Rurali ed Artigiane

Rome

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY/ASSOCIATION
INTERNATIONALE DES SCIENCES ET TECHNOLOGIES
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CIENCIA Y TECNOLOGIA CEREALERAS

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UNION INTERNATIONALE DES SCIENCES DE LA
NUTRITION/UNION INTERNACIONAL DE CIENCIAS
DE LA NUTRICION

F. FIDANZA
Institute of Nutrition and Food
Science

Perugia

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ASSOCIATION/ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE
RURALE CATHOLIQUE/ASOCIACION INTERNACIONAL
RURAL CATOLICA

F. PRULLER
Special Assistant

Rome

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SYNDICALE MONDIALE/FEDERACION SINDICAL
MUNDIAL

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Permanent Representative

Rome

INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE
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SYNDICATS LIBRES/CONFEDERACION
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LIBRES

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Rome

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CATOLICAS

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Permanent Representative
B. COLEMAN-SANTORO (Ms)
Permanent Representative

Paris

Paris

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE/
ALLIANCE COOPERATIVE INTERNATIONALE/
ALIANZA COOPERATIVE INTERNACIONAL

L. VISANI
Permanent Representative to FAO

Rome

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لها صلة الاتصال بالمنظمة
同粮农组织没有正式关系的国际组织观察员
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NOT HAVING STATUS WITH FAO/
OBSERVATEURS D'ORGANISATIONS
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STATUT OFFICIEL AUPRES DE LA FAO/
OBSERVADORES D'ORGANIZACIONES
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INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN/
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES FEMMES/
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MUJERES

L. PASSERINI (Mrs.)
Permanent Representative to FAO
L. ROSSINI VAN HISENHOVEN (Mrs.)
Representative to FAO

Rome

Rome

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

G. PELA (Ms.)
Permanent Representative

Rome

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN AGRO-
FORESTRY/CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL POUR LA
RECHERCHE EN AGROFORESTERIE/CONSEJO
INTERNACIONAL PARA INVESTIGACION EN
AGROSILVICULTURA

B.O. LUNDGREN
Director

Nairobi

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Ninth Session

Rome, 23 March - 1 April 1987

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APPENDIX ESTATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Mr. Chairman,

May I first extend to you my warm congratulations on your election to this important post.

The Committee on Agriculture deals, I need hardly say, with the subject that is the very essence of FAO. This gives it a unique status among the Technical Committees of the Organization. I am delighted to see so many participating Member Nations and Observers here today.

Our debates will take place against the backdrop of a world agricultural situation dominated by more than ample supplies at the global level. However, conditions in individual countries vary widely from surplus to serious shortage. The contrasts are especially striking in Africa South of the Sahara. This year 12 countries need donor support for triangular and "swap" arrangements to dispose of their temporary cereal surpluses, while 5 countries still require substantial emergency food aid.

Globally, surpluses have put pressure on prices. In many developed countries farmers' incomes have declined, and their distress has begun to spill over into the agro-industrial sector. Fertilizer prices and the demand for agricultural machinery have fallen sharply. As well as farmers, many agro-industrial enterprises, both large and small, are facing financial difficulties.

Trade prospects, to which I shall return in a minute, are highly disturbing for exporters, and especially for those developing countries that depend on agricultural products for most of their foreign exchange earnings.

Indeed, many of the poorer food-deficit countries find themselves in an agonizing position. They have finally resolved to devote more resources to agriculture. But reduced export earnings, huge foreign debt problems, and limited aid flows, make it more and more difficult for them to translate this decision into practice.

Paradoxically, the overall situation could provide a new opportunity to promote the acceleration of agricultural development in the food-deficit countries. Up to now, aid in kind has consisted mostly of food. Indeed, food aid is currently running at a level equivalent to more than 20 percent of official commitments of assistance to agriculture. There is a general recognition of the overwhelming importance of fertilizers, improved seeds, pesticides and appropriate machinery, but such inputs have been provided as aid-in-kind on a much smaller scale than food.

I believe there is a serious case for stepping up input aid-in-kind, especially but not exclusively to those African countries which are facing serious problems both with their agricultural production and with their balance of payments. Thus the under-used capacity in the industrialized world could be mobilized to produce inputs which the poorer nations could not normally afford to purchase. At the same time, aid would be directed toward building up the delivery systems, and developing the policy framework, which will be required if food-deficit countries are to maintain a higher level of agricultural technology at a later stage when international input aid is progressively scaled down.

We have now embarked on a detailed study of this idea, in the light of discussions at the last Regional Conference for Africa, and at the FAO Council in November. We have asked both donor countries and African Governments to nominate contact points for the collection of information. Detailed case studies are being made in Ghana, Niger, Senegal and Zambia. A study is also being made of the policies which have led to Zimbabwe's success in establishing a modern agricultural sector in which inputs play an important role.

We shall be giving a brief progress report to the Council in June, but the first substantive results of this work will be available only later in the year, in time for the Conference in November.

Returning to the overall situation, there are unfortunately no signs of any major improvement in the near future in world trade in food and agricultural products. A great deal must therefore depend on a successful outcome in changing the conditions of this trade in the new Uruguay Round of GATT multilateral trade negotiations. It is already a significant breakthrough that agricultural products will receive a comprehensive treatment for the first time.

This is so important that I would like to mention a few further details. The Contracting Parties to the GATT have agreed that it is urgently necessary to bring more discipline and predictability to world agricultural trade by correcting and preventing restrictions and distortions, including those related to structural surpluses. Greater liberalization of agricultural trade (including that in processed and semi-processed products) will be sought through the reduction of import barriers and stricter discipline in the use of all subsidies and other measures affecting agricultural trade either directly or indirectly. The negotiations will give special attention to tropical products.

FAO is ready to make any contribution that may be requested of it to help in ensuring the success of the Uruguay Round.

My remarks so far, Mr. Chairman, have dealt mainly with the problems arising from overproduction in agriculture. These exist side by side with problems of underproduction in food-deficit countries, which are of course far more serious in human terms since they are among the principal causes of rural poverty and of hunger and malnutrition. The problems of over- and underproduction are linked, in that the surpluses overhanging world markets and the resulting low prices make it more difficult for the governments of food-deficit countries to give their farmers adequate incentives to expand domestic production.

It is therefore appropriate that three of the selected development problems for discussion by COAG this year are concerned with some aspect of raising production in developing countries. One of them deals with the dryland areas that are being so rapidly degraded as a result of the pressure from human populations and their livestock. Another draws attention to the often neglected roots, tubers and plantains which are important traditional food staples in many tropical countries. The other is about some aspects of land tenure, in particular the effects of the subdivision and fragmentation of holdings. It thus takes us into the wider questions of more equitable access to production resources, and of poverty-oriented rural development, addressed by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in 1979.

One of the most basic requirements for increasing agricultural production in the developing countries is of course the availability of sufficient funds for investment. I have already mentioned the growing difficulties of these countries in finding enough domestic resources for this purpose. Increased development assistance for agriculture is thus especially vital at the present time.

Official development assistance for agriculture has fluctuated considerably, but it is a long time since it has shown any really significant increase in real, inflation-adjusted terms. By far the most important single source of aid to agriculture is the World Bank. The eighth replenishment of the Bank's International Development Association was finally agreed last December. We can be happy that the agreed level represents a substantial recovery from the low figure of the current period. However, we must also realize that it is less in real terms than the figure originally set for the sixth replenishment in 1981. We await the outcome of the current negotiations for the third replenishment of IFAD, which is so important for agricultural and rural development, and for the fifth replenishment of the African Development Fund.

After speaking of certain prominent features of the world agricultural situation, I would like to mention some of the internal FAO matters with which the Committee is also concerned.

Our programme is still a hostage to the cash flow problems that have beset the Organization for more than a year. I have been obliged to make savings which now amount to some \$21 million. We are trying to minimize the damage to activities of highest priority, but the situation remains one of grave concern. Today, however, I shall concentrate on the future work of FAO.

As usual, this Committee is the first to discuss my initial proposals for the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium, and for the medium-term objectives of FAO, as they start on their way through the Programme and Finance Committees and the Council toward the ultimate decision by the full Conference of all Member Governments.

The present financial problems have made it unusually difficult to draw up my proposals for the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1988-89. The Committee has before it an extract relating to the Major Programme, Agriculture. I have, in spite of the overall constraints, felt able to propose a modest shift of resources to the Agriculture and Economic and Social Policy Departments, which are responsible for the execution of most of this major programme. If my proposals are approved, there will thus be a small increase of \$3.6 million in the resources available to the two Departments in 1988-89 as compared with the approved budget for 1986-87.

These immediate proposals have, as always, to be looked at in the wider context of longer-term requirements. There were some suggestions at the last Council Session that the time might have come for another of those fundamental reviews of FAO's longer-term priorities and objectives which the Organization has undertaken from time to time. We have therefore used a broader brush than usual in the document on this subject which we have prepared for the Committee.

We have put forward first our view of the longer-term goals and strategies for world agriculture up to the end of the century and beyond. Within this general framework, we have suggested a set of more specific objectives for the work of FAO. In approaching this subject, we must - in my view - seek to blend continuity with innovation.

The agricultural scene is in perpetual evolution. New technologies, new perceptions of development problems, constantly modify the nature of the challenge facing us. We are shooting at a moving target, and must be ready to shift our aim.

But at the same time, we cannot afford to drop existing lines of work every two or four or six years, just because new issues suddenly seem to become important. If we jump about constantly from one objective to another, we shall wind up finishing nothing, and accomplishing nothing. Agriculture moves at the rhythm of the seasons. Patience is a necessary virtue also of the international agricultural policy-maker.

In other words, if we are too conservative, and cling tenaciously to the objectives and programmes of the past and the present, we run the risk of becoming out-dated and irrelevant. If, on the other hand, we constantly pursue novelty and change, we shall sooner or later lose credibility and support. These are the two rocks, the Scylla and Charybdis, between which we must attempt to steer.

Mr. Chairman, it only remains for me to wish the Committee an interesting and constructive session. Your conclusions can be of great value, not just for FAO, but for agricultural policy-makers in our Member Nations.

