

council

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

(Rome, 22-30 April 1991)

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MATTERS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

The Committee:

Implementation of the Programme of Work 1988-90

- (i) stressed the need for continued improvement of the analytical part of the report including more impact assessments, while maintaining its conciseness (para.7).
- (ii) urged all Member Nations to meet their financial obligations to the Organization in a timely manner, so as to ensure effective programme implementation (para.9)
- (iii) emphasized the need for additional efforts to increase participation of women in training activities given the important role of women in agriculture and rural development (para.11).
- (iv) recommended that increased attention be given to environmental monitoring including the development of an effective environmental agriculturally-related accounting system and to environmental training programmes (para.14).

Review of the Field Programme 1988-9

- (i) recommended that the fields of application of the Special Action Programmes and be extended to new priority areas (para.23).
- (ii) recommended that FAO identify the difficulties encountered in national execution and assist governments in strengthening their institutional and administrative capacities, and further recommended the development of additional measures in order to further adapt FAO's services to the requirements of national execution (paras.25 and 27).

Medium-Term Perspectives and Programme Priorities in Food and Agriculture 1992-97

- (i) recommended that the consideration of medium-term perspectives and programme priorities in the area of food and agriculture, should become a regular feature of its agenda (para.30).
- (ii) urged that appropriate training programmes on policy analysis be introduced to ensure that countries have the capacity to collect and process agricultural statistical information and to introduce new statistical techniques (para.35).
- (iii) urged that adequate attention be given to raising and sustaining production in the future, including "more" attention to rainfed agriculture, and that this aspect be reflected in FAO's medium-term plan (para.38).

- (iv) cautioned that while the process of liberalizing agricultural markets should be supported, market forces should be allowed to play a greater role in determining prices for agricultural commodities (para.41).
- (v) stressed the role of FAO in assisting developing countries to improve their capacity, in collaboration with the private sector, as appropriate, in production diversification strategies, product processing, export marketing and related services (para.41).

Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93

- (i) endorsed the creation of a data base on land use systems and crop requirements and the gradual change from global assistance to effective applications at national and local levels (para. 52).
- (ii) recommended increased cooperation with national institutions concerned with soil productivity (para. 54).
- (iii) welcomed the special action programme on conservation and rehabilitation of African lands and urged the launching of a similar programme in Asia (para.56)
- (iv) recommended that attention be given to improving productivity of underutilized crops which are of great importance to small farmers (para.60).
- (v) welcomed the positive results to date in the eradication of the New World Screwworm in North Africa and urged FAO to continue its efforts, including through the FAO/IAEA Joint Division, on the utilization of the sterile insect technique in the control and eradication campaign (para.68).
- (vi) endorsed the plans for the preservation and improvement of animal genetic resources which would aim at increasing output per animal and genetic improvement for future generations (para.70).
- (vii) supported the proposals for AGRIS, CARIS and Field Documentation Activities and recommended continued assistance to countries in the effective use of these systems (para.75)
- (viii) supported the continued expansion of the remote sensing satellite monitoring system (ARTEMIS) for environmental monitoring, natural resources assessment and early warning of food emergencies (para.76).
- (ix) supported the proposed increase in resources for the sub-programme on environment, energy and sustainable development and requested that attention be given to people's participation and women in development in relation to environment and sustainable development issues (para.77).

- (x) welcomed the proposed assistance to Member Nations on gender analysis, training at various levels, design of methods for reaching rural women and reinforcing integration of WID issues into mainstream programmes and projects (para.82).
- (xi) stressed the importance of marketing services especially for the small farmers, and supported FAO's assistance to member countries particularly in reviewing their food marketing policies (para.83).
- (xii) emphasized that additional extra-budgetary resources would be essential for the successful outcome of ICN (para.86).
- (xiii) supported preparations for the Sixth World Food Survey, and called for its scope and coverage to be broadened to global nutrition problems (para.87).
- (xiv) endorsed the increased emphasis given to food control and work of the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission, particularly on GATT-related activities (para.88).
- (xv) emphasized that the provision of information and objective assessments of agricultural commodity market and trade developments was essential to the formulation of policies and strategies at national and international levels (para.90).
- (xvi) emphasized the high value of the information provided by the Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) in alerting the international community of impending food problems and in facilitating the response of donors and of the governments of vulnerable countries to assist affected populations (para.91).
- (xvii) supported the increased role of FAO in policy analysis and advice and considered that the establishment of the Country Policy Information System (CPIS) would be a useful step in strengthening FAO's capacity in carrying out this role. It further stressed the need to assist member countries in their transition from centrally planned to market-oriented economies (para.95).
- (xviii) agreed that FAO should undertake analyses of the global effects on agriculture of the eventual outcome of the Uruguay Round, especially its impact on the developing countries (para.98).

Towards Better Nutrition for all: Preparing for the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN)

- (i) stressed the importance of preparatory activities at the country, sub-regional and regional levels and supported the actions taken by the sponsoring agencies to initiate such preparatory activities (para.101)
- (ii) stressed the need for greater involvement of other UN organizations, bilateral and non-governmental organizations in the preparations for the ICN (para.102).

- (iii) recommended that the ICN should place particular emphasis on under-nutrition in relation to poverty and other manifestations of underdevelopment and further recommended that the ICN should consider other issues related to the problems of nutrition including household food security; the effects of trade and food aid; the role of food standards on the safety and quality of foods; the development of agro-food industries; and the improvement of infrastructures necessary for the marketing and processing of food, including local and traditional foods (para.103).

Biodiversity - Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

- (i) recommended that steps should be taken for FAO and UNEP to ensure a closer cooperation on matters covered by UNCED that fell under the mandate of both Organizations, in particular with respect to a legal instrument on biodiversity (para.108).
- (ii) appreciated FAO's efforts to develop a Special Action Programme on Biological Diversity for Food and Agriculture, welcomed the establishment of the related technical working group, and recommended continued elaboration and further strengthening of these efforts (para.112).
- (iii) welcomed the increased attention and activities aimed at strengthening national capabilities in developing countries for the conservation and utilization of animal genetic resources, and also urged FAO to include camelides - camels and especially alpaca - in the pilot projects for genetic improvement (para.114).

Integration of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development

- (i) emphasized the need for the collection of gender disaggregated data on women's agricultural work, land tenure and access to rural services, to identify better women's productive roles, contributions and needs (para.118).
- (ii) emphasized the need to remove the major constraints farm women faced including: lack of access to land, and fewer opportunities to obtain credit, training, extension and marketing facilities, and called for greater efforts to integrate the issues of women's access to resources into national mainstream development policies as well as in FAO's mainstream programmes (para.121).
- (iii) recommended that consideration should be given, where necessary, to the revision of civil, land and other relevant legislation, to improve women's access to land, taking into account specific cultural, social and economic conditions (para.121).
- (iv) recommended that research and technology should take into account women's special needs, and particularly the reduction of the time spent by women on their agricultural production activities as well as on their household work (para 122).

- (v) emphasized the need for FAO to intensify its efforts to assist governments to develop and implement policy and plans of action on women in development, and urged donors to consider providing extra-budgetary resources for this purpose (para.124).

Other Matters

- (i) support was given to the following suggested special development topics for consideration at the next session:
- The Role of Livestock, Improvement of Pasture, Feed and Forage and Combatting Desertification
 - Sustainable Agricultural Development, Rainfed Agriculture and Water Management
 - Agricultural Credit, Cooperatives and Savings in Agriculture
 - The Role of Education and Extension in Agricultural Development
 - The Impact of Liberalization of Trade on Sustainable Agricultural Development
- (para.130).
- (ii) noted, with particular reference to developing countries, the continued decline in participation of technical experts in the deliberations of technical committees, such as the COAG, and considered that the matter would need to be pursued by Member Nations in appropriate fora (para.132).

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Eleventh Session (Rome, 22-30 April 1991) was attended by 87 of the 96 Member Nations of the Committee, by observers from 2 other Member Nations of FAO, and by the Permanent Observer of the Holy See. Also participating were observers from the USSR, 9 agencies and organizations of the United Nations, representatives of the European Economic Community and 4 intergovernmental organizations, and observers from 17 international organizations having status with FAO. The list of Members of the Committee is attached as Appendix B, and the list of delegates and observers as Appendix C.

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen

2. In accordance with Rule I of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee elected Sra. Doña Mónica Deregibus (Argentina) as Chairperson of the Committee, Rudolph de Pourtales (Switzerland) as First Vice-Chairman, and Gerard P. Khojane (Lesotho) 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 for the Drafting Committee: Angola, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Ghana, Indonesia, Japan, Morocco, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Saudi Arabia and the United States of America. Mr. Peter G. Franklin (Australia) served as Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

Statement by the Director-General

5. The Committee heard a statement by the Director-General which was delivered on his behalf by the Assistant Director-General of the Economic and Social Policy Department. This statement is attached as Appendix E.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK 1988-90

6. The Committee welcomed the report on the Implementation of The Programme of Work 1988-90 (documents COAG/91/3 and COAG/91/3 Supp.1) which incorporated suggestions for improvement made at previous sessions of COAG. The report provided a clear and comprehensive review of FAO's activities and outputs during the reporting period. The Committee expressed appreciation for the additional information on objectives and priorities for each programme, the inclusion of tables and graphs which added clarity to the information presented, and the enhanced coverage of interdisciplinary activities.

7. The complementarity between this Report and the Review of the Regular Programme, which was more evaluative, was recognized. The Committee stressed the need for continued improvement of the analytical part of the report including more impact assessments, while maintaining its conciseness.

8. The Committee supported the overall objectives and priorities of the Major Programme which included an emphasis on small-scale producers and disadvantaged groups including women, improving national institutional capabilities, the environment and the continent of Africa. It agreed that the activities implemented conformed well to these priorities. The Committee supported the increased cross-programme responses in areas such as environment and sustainable development, policy analysis, planning, structural adjustment and the involvement of women in development. It appreciated the increased effectiveness in the planning and implementation of activities involving several programmes which had been achieved through such mechanisms as interdepartmental working groups and greater attention to joint programming.

9. The Committee regretted that the continuing financial crisis had prevented the full implementation of the Programme of Work of the Major Programme, Agriculture. It appreciated the efforts made by the Director-General to protect the technical programmes from budget reductions. The Committee agreed that the Organization had responded well to the financial constraints imposed upon it. Looking to the future, the Committee urged all Member Nations to meet their financial obligations to the Organization in a timely manner, so as to ensure effective programme implementation.

10. The Committee welcomed the strengthening of cooperative arrangements with other institutions particularly with the International Agricultural Research Centres and UN organizations such as WHO, IAEA and the World Bank. It recognized the importance of such cooperation in optimizing the utilization of limited resources, pursuing areas of comparative advantage and avoiding their duplication.

11. The Committee noted with concern the decline in training courses, workshops, expert consultations and other meetings during 1988-89 and that even with significant improvements in 1990 the level of these activities was less than in earlier biennia. The Committee emphasized the need for additional efforts to increase participation of women in training activities given the important role of women in agriculture and rural development. The Committee also noted with concern the reduction in regional training activities and direct support and consultancies. It stressed the importance of maintaining and increasing these types of activities.

12. The Committee commended the efforts undertaken to respond to technical assistance requests from member countries and to provide support to the field programme. It noted that extra-budgetary resources could not substitute for Regular Programme shortfalls. Concern was expressed at the negative impact of the large number of vacant posts due to the financial crisis on the Organization's ability to respond to the requests for assistance and to provide follow-up to the Field Programme.

13. The Committee noted with satisfaction the increase in UNDP and other extra-budgetary resources. Many delegates expressed disappointment at the low level of TCP expenditures during 1988-89 in comparison with the preceding biennium. Many member countries, placed high priority on the full implementation of the Technical Cooperation Programme, recognizing its important catalytic role in agriculture and rural development. The Committee was reminded of the Conference Resolution 9/89 for increased allocation to TCP.

14. The Committee appreciated the increased attention given to environment and sustainable development in FAO programmes in response to Resolution 3/89 of the 1989 FAO Conference. It supported the strengthening of internal arrangements which included appointment of the ADG/Special Advisor, establishment of a Steering Committee and restructuring of the IDWG on Environment and Sustainable Development. Several delegates expressed concern that a number of critical programmes in other areas were affected by diverting regular programme resources to programmes on environment and sustainable development, and felt that these activities should have been funded mainly through extra-budgetary resources. The Committee recommended that increased attention be given to environmental monitoring including the development of an effective environmental agriculturally-related accounting system and to environmental training programmes.

15. The Committee appreciated the efforts to increase cooperation with UNEP, IUCN, the UNCED Secretariat and others in environment and sustainable development and supported continuing efforts in this cooperation.

III. REVIEW OF THE FIELD PROGRAMME 1988-90

16. The Committee considered the subject of "Review of the Field Programme 1988-90" on the basis of document COAG/91/4, which examined the size, composition and trends of the Organization's Agricultural Field Programmes as well as their links with the Regular Programme, and presented a synthesis of project evaluations. The document covered the following four specific issues: size of the Agricultural Field Programmes, balance between the Regular Programme and the Field Programmes, National Execution, and Internal Operational Measures.

17. The Committee commended the quality of the paper and considered that it presented a well-documented overview of the main features and issues of the agricultural Field Programmes.

18. The Committee recognized the importance of its reviewing the Organization's agricultural Field Programmes, as recommended by the 1989 Conference, with a view to recommendations on the orientation and adjustments of these programmes.

19. The Committee recognized the complementarity of the Regular Programme and Field Programmes, and stressed that neither could substitute for the other. It agreed that the latter was crucial for sustaining the vitality of the Organization through exposure to national and local realities, and that the servicing of an expanded Field Programme would call for increased technical support from the Regular Programme. It noted that the Regular Programme defined in general terms the priorities which the Field Programmes adopted and focused for the specific needs of each country and the areas in which donors were interested in providing assistance. It was also mentioned that FAO's Field Programmes should concentrate on areas and activities where the Organisation had a comparative advantage.

20. The Committee recognized the value of the Field Programmes in providing technical assistance and facilitating the transfer of new technologies to developing countries, with a view to the development of their food, agricultural and rural sectors. A few members,

however, stated that at a time of severe financial constraints, when difficult priority decisions needed to be made, the Regular Programme should be preserved in order, inter alia, to ensure an efficient Field Programme.

21. The Committee regretted the generally stagnant trend in the overall size of the agricultural Field Programmes, and noted with concern - in view of the Technical Cooperation Programme's catalytic role - the sharp decline in the available resources for TCP in the agricultural sector during 1988/89 and in the number of agricultural projects funded thereunder. A number of delegations expressed the need to develop the Field Programme more selectively, not only in the light of the present financial constraints, but also in line with comparative advantage. They further expressed the view that the quality of projects could be improved by limiting the number of projects. The Committee underlined the need to maintain the balance between normative and operational missions of the Organization.

22. The Committee expressed concern at the sharp decline of the livestock sub-sector's share in the agricultural projects.

23. The Committee recognized the value of the Special Action Programmes and recommended that their fields of application be extended to new priority areas.

24. The Committee recognized the importance of inter-country, sub-regional and regional projects to promote and institutionalize TCDC and ECDC cooperation. In this respect, several countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region advanced the need for a Regional Training Centre for meat technology and quality control, and requested financial assistance from donor countries for its establishment.

25. The Committee supported acceleration in the process of national execution following Resolution 44/211 of the UN General Assembly and the UNDP Governing Council decision 90/21. The Committee agreed that national execution should be introduced progressively, selectively, and in an orderly manner, taking into account the capacity and/or interest of the country and the type of project. It recommended that FAO identify the difficulties encountered and assist governments in strengthening their institutional and administrative capacities.

26. The Committee noted with satisfaction the increasing use of national professionals in projects in their own country, as well as of professionals from developing countries for the implementation and management of the agricultural projects, and requested that this practice be strengthened.

27. The Committee supported the internal operational measures introduced by FAO in respect of further decentralization to the field, including the delegation of authority to country and project representatives on personnel, financial and administrative matters; training of national project directors and review of the procedures and systems for field operations. It recommended the development of additional measures in order to further adapt FAO's services to the requirements of national execution.

28. The Committee stressed the importance of evaluations of project execution which would serve as a reference for further improving the development, design, implementation and sustainability of FAO's field programmes. Some delegates made special reference to the need for ex-post evaluation.

29. In reviewing the synthesis of 160 project evaluations covering the 1988-90 period, the Committee expressed general satisfaction with the positive findings, but urged that future reports on the Field Programme include a statement on steps taken to address the problems identified in these evaluations. Some delegates called for more evaluations on TCP projects.

IV. MEDIUM-TERM PERSPECTIVES AND PROGRAMME PRIORITIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE 1992-97

30. The Committee considered this Item on the basis of document COAG/91/5 which it welcomed as a first but significant step forward in the process of preparing FAO's Medium-Term Plan. It expressed satisfaction with the scope of the document which was in line with the request in Resolution 10/89, adopted by the Twenty-fifth Session of the FAO Conference regarding the involvement of the technical committees of the Council. The Committee recommended that the consideration of medium-term perspectives and programme priorities in the area of food and agriculture, should become a regular feature of its agenda. Several members underlined that the identification of needed changes over the medium term and of corresponding FAO priorities would be meaningful and useful, only if they were supported by adequate financial resources.

31. The Committee acknowledged the changing economic and developmental situations to which FAO needed to respond. It noted that in some respects this changing environment was detrimental for development, such as the build-up of debt and the deterioration in trading relations, which required even greater attention to assisting developing countries in their development efforts. In other respects it posed new challenges for FAO, such as providing technical assistance to formerly centrally planned economies seeking greater market orientation in their policies and new agrarian structures. Some delegations recognized the linkages between population growth, poverty and environmental degradation. The Committee also stressed that FAO should continue to focus its activities on the Least Developed Countries (LDC) as being those in greatest need for assistance, as recommended by Resolution 1/98 on the Least Developed Countries adopted by the Ninety-eighth Session of the FAO Council. The Committee underlined that FAO, when appropriate and feasible, would need to exploit its comparative advantage in strategic areas of work and pursue its catalytic role, and in that context stressed the important role of the TCP in helping developing countries to achieve the objectives highlighted in the medium-term perspectives. It would also have to continue to strengthen its collaboration with its traditional development partners, forge new links and modalities for cooperation, as appropriate, with the non-governmental organizations, and support private sector initiatives.

32. The Committee underlined the importance of development strategies that met environmental concerns and the general objective of sustainability. It welcomed the report on the outcome of the recent FAO/Netherlands Conference on Agriculture and the Environment, and congratulated FAO and the Netherlands Government for this initiative.

33. The Committee agreed that one of the greatest challenges for the future was to raise rural incomes in the developing countries and to promote growth with equity, which would require a broadly based participation of rural people, as well as strengthened efforts by governments themselves and by the international community. It

accepted that meeting this overriding challenge would require action on a range of other factors in which FAO had a critical role to play, notably human resources development, reversal of deterioration in international agricultural trade; policy advice, the development and adoption of sustainable production systems as a key component of sustainable agricultural and rural development (SARD); integration of women in the development process, and finally, the redirection of research and extension to serve more closely the needs of the resource poor farmers in situations of unreliable rainfall and to promote a two-way flow of information between farmers and researchers.

34. The Committee endorsed the six priority cross-sectoral tasks proposed for the medium term; namely, improving information systems; promoting productivity increases to raise food production or food purchasing power; improving support services for small farmers; widening people's participation; promoting SARD; and assisting the development of a more liberal agricultural trade regime. It noted that the above tasks were not ranked in any order of priority.

35. The Committee stressed FAO's key role in policy analysis and improving the overall planning framework, particularly within the context of structural adjustment programmes. This policy advisory role had to be based on reliable and timely statistical information in which the development of FAO's corporate data base, the World Agricultural Information Centre (WAICENT) was an important factor. It urged that appropriate training programmes be introduced to ensure that countries have the capacity to collect and process agricultural statistical information and to introduce new statistical techniques. The Committee underlined the strategic position of FAO in assisting countries in the multidisciplinary context of formulating and analysing the effects of agricultural and rural development policies, as well as the macroeconomic policy framework in which they were set. It recalled that the three roles of FAO are complementary - in assembling and disseminating information; in serving as an international forum for reaching agreement and promoting action on issues; and in providing technical assistance to Member Nations - and welcomed the recent establishment of a coordinating mechanism at Headquarters to promote this complementarity.

36. The Committee agreed that one of FAO's main objectives in a medium-term perspective should be that of fostering growth with equity in order to eradicate rural poverty and ensure food security. This required the conjuncture of appropriate national and international policies. The Committee underlined the importance of training and the development of human resources as key inputs to the development process. Non-agricultural employment and income generation in the rural areas would also be vital in view of the economic and ecological limits to a further expansion of agricultural production in resource-poor areas. The Committee underlined that people's participation and the greater involvement of women in the development process were vital. It was noted that new modalities which the people themselves controlled, would have to be promoted.

37. The Committee supported the principal areas of emphasis proposed for FAO's programmes on natural resource conservation and development. It stressed the important contribution of FAO's work on resource assessment and remote sensing in support of land-use planning and food security monitoring. It underlined the importance of progress on soil

and water conservation, water logging, small-scale water control techniques, salinity control and eradication and water resource management. The need for special attention in the foregoing context to the arid zones in South and South West Asia was underlined.

38. The Committee emphasized that raising and sustaining production in the future will have to give more attention to rainfed agriculture than in the past, and urged that adequate attention be given to this aspect in FAO's medium-term plan. It further emphasized the need for continued development of FAO's work on the analysis, improvement and promotion of new technologies and balanced production systems, as appropriate, in crop and livestock production. The Committee supported the intention to expand multidisciplinary activities where FAO had comparative advantage. It noted the proposals for supporting the increased involvement of the private sector and the overall stress on farming systems development.

39. The Committee welcomed the increased involvement of FAO in conjunction with WHO and other international organizations in nutrition-related problems. Several ideas were put forward in this regard including the need for education and publicity on nutritionally-balanced diets.

40. The Committee strongly supported the emphasis proposed to be placed on the strengthening of support services. It emphasized the critical role of research policy formulation and research extension linkages. It urged FAO to collaborate closely with other international partners regarding research and the conservation and use of genetic resources. It also stressed the important role of off-farm inputs, credit, improved rural marketing, distribution and financial systems.

41. The Committee stressed the importance of improving agricultural trading relations as a means of achieving the key development objectives outlined in the medium-term perspectives document. It recognized that continued growth in agricultural trade would provide a strong foundation for the resumed economic growth of developing countries. While the Committee cautioned that the process of liberalizing agricultural markets should be considered, taking into consideration the wide variety of agricultural and rural situations prevailing in member countries, particularly in the developing countries, it urged that market forces should play a greater role in determining prices for agricultural commodities. In these contexts, it reiterated the importance of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTNs) achieving a successful conclusion. It acknowledged the important role that FAO played, notably through servicing of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and of the International Plant Protection Convention. It also stressed the role of FAO in assisting developing countries to improve their capacity, in collaboration with the private sector, as appropriate, in production diversification strategies, product processing, export marketing and related services.

V. SUMMARY PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET 1992-93

General

42. The Committee discussed Agenda Item 6 on the basis of the document COAG/91/6, Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93, which provided an extract from the Director-General's proposed Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93, to be submitted, through the Programme and Finance Committees, to the Ninety-ninth Session of the Council in June 1991. The Committee recalled that its views would be available to the Council and noted that its comments and conclusions would be taken into account in formulating the full Programme of Work and Budget.

43. The Committee noted the overall approach in formulating the summary proposals for 1992-93 which had considerable implications for Major Programme 2.1, Agriculture. It was informed that following the consensus recommendations of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees in January 1991, the Director-General had framed his proposals with no real programme increase. A number of areas had been targeted for increased resources with the result that counter-balancing reductions had to be effected in particular for the Regional Offices and selected technical and economic activities.

44. The Committee welcomed the format and clear presentation of the document. Some delegations, however, expressed the need of including approximate expenditure figures for the present biennium in order to get a clearer picture of proposed changes in priorities. The Secretariat explained the difficulty of doing so and drew attention to the annual report on budget performance submitted through the Finance Committee to the Conference.

45. The Committee noted that this approach embodied a compromise with the primary aim of facilitating consensus by all Member Nations at the next Conference. Many members, however, expressed their deep regret at the lack of net programme increase at a time of ever pressing demands placed on the Organization and expectations for greater assistance from FAO in all regions. They hoped that the low budget levels would be supplemented by an increased flow of extra-budgetary resources. The Committee recalled the need for the Organization to be able to count upon stable flows of resources and requests that in the future its member states should pay their contribution in a timely manner so as to put an end to the financial crisis and to avoid its adversely effecting the implementation of the Programme of Work for the next biennium.

46. The Committee recognized that a number of key aspects relating to the Summary Programme of Work and Budget went beyond the scope of its review of the proposals regarding Major Programme 2.1, Agriculture. It nevertheless expressed its broad agreement with the approach, pending consideration of the full Summary Programme of Work and Budget proposals by the Council during which Member Nations would be able to express fuller views.

47. In particular, the Committee reiterated the vital developmental role of the TCP highly valued by recipient countries. Many members, therefore, welcomed the net increase proposed for the TCP, while regretting that this would still not permit the percentage of the TCP appropriation to the overall budget level as embodied in Conference Resolution 9/89. Some members reiterated their view that they did not see a need for a net increase for the TCP at the present stage.

48. The Committee noted the other areas of priority proposed to receive additional resources, including environment and sustainable development, agricultural data development, women-in-development, policy advice, the International Conference on Nutrition, as well as the strengthening of FAO's country offices. The Committee also welcomed the intention to develop an overall programme framework for FAO's activities linked to sustainable development, to be considered by the Council and Conference.

49. Several members expressed regret that a combination of factors had led to a substantial reduction in the provision for Regional Offices. In this connection, the need for FAO assistance to the eastern and central European countries in a state of transition and reform of their agriculture, were stressed. Other delegations emphasized that this should not be done at the expense of a reduction of assistance to the other regions.

50. In reacting to the programme proposals, a great number of members regretted the many reductions affecting selected sub-programmes and programme elements. At the same time, the Committee agreed that the proposals for Major Programme 2.1, Agriculture, in the given circumstances, were generally in consonance with the earlier guidance of FAO Governing Bodies and responsive to new concerns, while safeguarding the most essential priorities, despite the overall net reduction. Accordingly, the Committee concluded that from a substantive point of view, and in the light of comments indicated below, the proposals provided an acceptable basis for the preparation of the full Programme of Work and Budget.

2.1.1 Natural Resources

51. The Committee was concerned at the net decrease for the Natural Resources Programme, which dealt to a major extent with sustainable agricultural development and environmental protection. It noted in this connection that natural resource assessments, farming systems development, soil management and conservation, fertilizer use and water development were the very basis for development. The Committee agreed that land-use planning should remain one of the central activities in assessment and planning.

52. In recognizing FAO's role in the collection and dissemination of information for supporting policy decisions, the Committee appreciated the continued work on agro-ecological zoning on method development for land and water resource assessment, including Geographic Information Systems applications. The Committee endorsed the creation of a data base on land use systems and crop requirements and the gradual change from global assistance to effective applications at national and local levels.

53. The Committee emphasized the promotion of sustainable production systems. It concurred with the view that an understanding of the interactions between farm households and their socio-economic environment was essential in the eradication of rural poverty. It noted that the budget allocation might not be sufficient to fully exploit FAO's expertise in farming systems development.

54. The Committee noted with concern the threat to food production posed by plant nutrient depletion, highlighted the importance of sustainable development of soil productivity through soil management and improvement of existing cultivation practices through promotion of

low/medium input, cost-effective tillage methods and other agricultural practices. It recommended increased cooperation with national institutions concerned with soil productivity.

55. The Committee supported the proposed work on investigation, transfer and dissemination of new water management techniques in collaboration with the International Commission of Irrigation and Drainage (ICID). The Committee underlined the importance of improved irrigation management through promotion of optimal irrigation scheduling, water distribution operation and maintenance, as well as of drainage and salinity control.

56. While noting the budget reduction for soil conservation and rehabilitation activities, the Committee welcomed the special action programme on conservation and rehabilitation of African lands and urged the launching of a similar programme in Asia.

57. The Committee supported the budget shifts proposed in favour of the International Action Programme on Water and Sustainable Agricultural Development. This Programme would also contribute to the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development. The Committee encouraged FAO to seek extra-budgetary funding for future action at country level.

2.1.2 Crops

58. The Committee endorsed the priority given to sustainable crop improvement and production. It noted the continuing need to develop better crop management through ecologically and economically sound practices. It recognized the importance of the Crops Programme with its complementary components of work on plant genetic resources, crop improvement, seed production and plant protection.

59. The Committee noted that the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources would continue to foster support to member countries and welcomed the active follow-up to the recommendations and decisions of the Commission. The Committee encouraged FAO's cooperation with other organizations involved in plant genetic resources activities. It expressed the hope that the Memorandum of Understanding with IBPGR would ensure full complementarity of functions, avoiding duplication of efforts and resources. It noted with satisfaction that the establishment of a network of ex-situ base collections in genebanks, under the auspices of FAO, was in progress.

60. The Committee endorsed the proposed work on Crop Management and Diversification which would cover provision of information, advice and technical assistance to member countries on staple food crops, cereals, legumes, roots and tubers, bananas and plantains, fruits and vegetables as well as on export-earning industrial crops. It recommended that attention be given to improving productivity of under-utilized crops which are of great importance to small farmers.

61. The Committee recognized the fundamental importance of work on seeds and noted with satisfaction that the Seed Improvement and Development Programme (SIDP) would continue to assist member countries in developing national seed policies and national seed programmes.

62. The Committee noted that assistance in crop protection would be provided in a more coordinated approach encompassing weed control, insect pests, plant diseases, rodents and the reduction of

post-harvest losses. It agreed on the lead role that FAO was expected to play in support of the implementation of the International Plant Protection Convention, and supported plans to establish an IPPC Secretariat which could assist the Uruguay Round of GATT. It also supported FAO's role in improving pesticide management now expanded to include Prior Informed Consent activities in relation to the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

63. The Committee recognized the need to support the Emergency Centre for Locust Operations in controlling the desert locust in Africa and the Near East.

64. The Committee noted the proposed increase in resources devoted to the wider dissemination and exchange of agricultural engineering information. It recognized the importance of providing assistance in developing mechanization strategies adapted to the development objectives and farming systems of member countries. The Committee reiterated the high priority given to the Special Action Programme for the Prevention of Food Losses (PFL) and regretted the decrease in resource allocation. It noted FAO's efforts in promoting the integration of production, transformation and marketing throughout the food delivery system.

65. The Committee recognized the role of viable rural agro-industries in enabling farmers to expand income opportunities beyond subsistence farming. It requested FAO to continue the development of marketable foods based on indigenous crops and livestock products.

2.1.3 Livestock

66. The Committee supported the priorities for the livestock programme but expressed regret at the reduction in the resources allocated to this programme in view of the livestock sector's significant contribution to rural development.

67. The Committee recognized the importance of feed resources, including fodders and grassland, as these were the major limitations to animal production in most developing countries and were important, in particular, in relation to sustainability in agriculture. It supported the emphasis given to Integrated Management of Arid and Semi-Arid Grazing Resources, the development of pastures in humid areas as well as biological nitrogen fixation.

68. The Committee welcomed the positive results to date in the eradication of the New World Screwworm in North Africa and urged FAO to continue its efforts, including through the FAO/IAEA Joint Division, on the utilization of the sterile insect technique in the control and eradication campaign. It was informed that information on screwworm infections would be included in the FAO monitoring system on animal diseases.

69. The Committee supported the activities on the control of animal diseases, of which foot-and-mouth disease was of major importance. The control of emergency diseases should continue to receive particular attention. The Committee supported the introduction of biotechnological methods in livestock development, the diagnosis of animal diseases and vaccine production.

70. The Committee endorsed the plans for the preservation and improvement of animal genetic resources which would aim at increasing output per animal and genetic improvement for future generations. The Committee appreciated that biotechnology could play a major role in this context and that support for TCDC networks was of particular relevance in furthering related activities.

71. The Committee supported the focus given to the development of practical technologies for sustainable growth in animal production without affecting the natural resource base. It also supported the work on strategies for sustainable livestock development including the analysis of policy issues as a framework for planning livestock production.

2.1.4 Research and Technology Development

72. The Committee supported the increased resources proposed for this programme which will provide a major input to the overall priority on Environment and Sustainable Development.

73. The generation, adaptation and application of technologies suitable to local conditions were recognized as an essential component for sustainable food and agricultural production. The Committee appreciated that work on technology assessment and transfer would be strengthened within sub-programme 2.1.4.1 on research development. The need to strengthen national agricultural research systems and institutions was emphasized and the continued assistance in this area through research management training, advisory assistance and cooperation with international agricultural research institutions, was welcomed.

74. The Committee supported the programme proposals for sub-programme 2.1.4.2 on agricultural applications of isotopes and biotechnology. It appreciated the contribution of the research and training activities of this sub-programme to many areas of FAO's technical work.

75. The Committee recognized the essential value of agricultural information systems and supported the proposals for AGRIS, CARIS and Field Documentation Activities. It was noted that the apparent increased resources under this sub-programme 2.1.4.3 resulted from a shift, within the same division, from Programme 5.1.2 to consolidate and rationalize technical information activities. Continued assistance to countries in the effective use of these systems was emphasized.

76. The Committee agreed with proposals on remote sensing and agrometeorology which would strengthen support to remote sensing education and training and to assessment of the impact of climate change. The Committee supported the continued expansion of the remote sensing satellite monitoring system (ARTEMIS) for environmental monitoring, natural resources assessment and early warning of food emergencies. The extra-budgetary support for this sub-programme was appreciated and it was noted that efforts would be made to reduce dependency on extra-budgetary resources.

77. The Committee supported the proposed increase in resources for sub-programme 2.1.4.5 on environment, energy and sustainable development and the changes in programme elements. It agreed that this increase responded well to the call of the FAO Conference for

enhancing interdisciplinary work, ensuring integration of environmental considerations in relevant FAO activities, strengthening cooperation with other organizations and participating actively in the preparation of the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The strengthening of interdepartmental coordination, including the appointment of a Special Advisor for Environment and Sustainable Development, was welcomed. The Committee agreed with the proposed areas for cross-sectoral action which included integration of environment and sustainability considerations in policy advisory services and planning assistance, biological diversity, climate change, agroforestry, desertification, integrated coastal area management and energy. It requested that attention be given to people's participation and women in development in relation to environment and sustainable development issues. In this connection the Committee was informed of recommendations of the FAO/Netherlands Conference on Agriculture and Environment and the Den Bosch Declaration and Agenda for Action. A number of countries stressed that the overall priority on environment and sustainable development should not detract from other technical programmes of benefit to the developing countries. The desirability of extra-budgetary resources being made available to support country preparation for, and participation in, UNCED was noted.

2.1.5 Rural Development

78. The Committee endorsed the emphasis on up-grading human resources for sustainable development, on analysis of alternative strategies for increased collaboration between rural people, government and private sector, in achieving equitable growth and fighting rural poverty and on design of mechanisms for ensuring recognition and involvement of special targeted groups, especially women, in development. The Committee regretted the reduction in resources for the Programme in the light of the overriding importance of poverty alleviation.

79. The Committee supported the shift in focus of agricultural education and extension activities on environment and sustainability issues and noted with satisfaction the emphasis on participatory approaches, especially in extension and training, addressed to small farmers, rural women and youth.

80. The Committee agreed with the importance of providing assistance on policy and strategy formulation regarding agrarian issues as well as the effects of structural adjustment programmes and practical actions for increased access to land and other scarce resources.

81. The Committee supported the attention to institution building, the emphasis on small farmers and their organizations, the assistance on income and employment generation, self-help associations and the role of NGOs, in their interaction with government institutions.

82. The Committee underlined the importance of the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development in expanding opportunities to enhance rural women's potential contribution. The Committee welcomed the proposed assistance to Member Nations on gender analysis, training at various levels, design of methods for reaching rural women and reinforcing integration of WID issues into mainstream programmes and projects.

83. The Committee stressed the importance of marketing services especially for the small farmers. It supported FAO's assistance to member countries particularly in reviewing their food marketing policies and noted that market orientation was of particular significance for economies in transition.

84. The Committee noted with concern the reduced resource level for rural finance activities. It considered that traditional agricultural lending institutions needed to take on responsibility for mobilization of local financial resources. It noted that assistance would be given on lending policies geared towards environmental concerns.

2.1.6 Nutrition

85. The Committee endorsed the broad programme priorities of this Programme; particularly the holding of the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN); the Codex Alimentarius work undertaken in the context of the GATT multilateral trade negotiations; nutrition education; and nutrition policy at country level.

86. The Committee fully supported preparations for the International Conference on Nutrition and the proposed budget increase and stressed the importance of this Conference for combatting nutritional problems, in both developing and developed countries. It observed that this budgetary provision might be insufficient and emphasized that additional extra-budgetary resources would be essential for the successful outcome of ICN. It further expressed the hope that preparations for the ICN should not be at the expense of implementing other priority nutrition activities.

87. The Committee appreciated FAO's work in providing a comprehensive assessment and analysis of nutrition problems. It supported preparations for the Sixth World Food Survey, in a series of standard reference documents, and called for its scope and coverage to be broadened to global nutrition problems.

88. The Committee endorsed the increased emphasis given to food control and work of FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission, particularly on GATT-related activities. It stressed the importance of these activities in removing sanitary and phytosanitary barriers to trade and harmonisation of national and regional food standards. It expressed support for FAO's Field Programme on Food Control. Several members expressed concern that the resources for sub-programme 2.1.6.5. Codex Alimentarius were at the minimum required to meet the challenges presented by the follow-up to the GATT Uruguay Round.

89. The Committee supported the provision of assistance for the formulation of national policies to improve nutritional status and access to food, and stressed the linkage of these activities with the preparations for the ICN.

2.1.7 Food and Agricultural Information and Analysis

90. The Committee reiterated that one of FAO's basic functions was to provide information and objective assessments of agricultural commodity market and trade developments, particularly for the benefit of countries that do not possess national commodity information systems. The Committee emphasized that the provision of such information was essential to the formulation of policies and strategies at national and international levels. It noted the efforts to implement the World Agricultural Information Centre (WAICENT) which

would be demonstrated at the time of the Twenty-sixth Conference and would be fully operational by the end of 1992. It also underlined the importance of data quality and, in this respect, stressed FAO's role in advising countries in their development of statistical systems. It endorsed the increased provision for WAICENT and urged completion of this project as early as possible.

91. The Committee supported the continued high priority accorded to the work of the Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS). It emphasized the high value of the information provided by the System in alerting the international community of impending food problems and in facilitating the response of donors and of the governments of vulnerable countries to assist affected populations. The Committee appreciated the increased emphasis accorded to the early identification of areas and regions facing food problems through more extensive use of crop and food supply assessment missions and closer cooperation with Non-Governmental Organizations. It supported the further strengthening planned in the System's analytical capabilities and the wider use of electronic means for rapid dissemination of its analysis and alerts.

2.1.8 Food and Agricultural Policy

92. The Committee endorsed the high priority accorded under this programme to food security policy analysis at the national and global levels.

93. The Committee appreciated the work undertaken under "Global Perspective Studies" and supported the increased budgetary allocation. It agreed that "Agriculture: Toward 2000" had been a very useful study and that a new issue, with a time horizon beyond 2000, was necessary.

94. The Committee was informed that resource constraints had not permitted the undertaking in the current biennium, of a regional study for Asia and the Pacific, but that the analytical work under way for the 1993 edition of "Agriculture: Toward 2000" would lead to an updated assessment of the food and agricultural prospects for the region. Member Nations from the Asian Region observed that this would not provide an extensive coverage such as the comprehensive regional studies conducted for some other regions and called for its initiation during the 1992-93 biennium.

95. The Committee supported the increased role of FAO in policy analysis and advice and stressed that it was one of the areas in which FAO had a comparative advantage. In this context the Committee welcomed the proposed creation of a new programme element on Agricultural Policy Advice. It recommended that FAO should assist member countries in the formulation of structural adjustment programmes. The Committee also stressed the need to assist member countries in their transition from centrally planned to market-oriented economies. It further emphasized the need for FAO to strengthen its collaboration with concerned international financial institutions. It considered that the establishment of the Country Policy Information System (CPIS) would be a useful step in strengthening FAO's capacity in carrying out this role.

96. The Committee welcomed the incorporation of environmental and sustainable development considerations into the mainstream of agricultural policy analysis and planning. It reiterated the importance of strengthening national capacity in policy analysis through various training programmes.

97. The Committee agreed on the importance of producer/consumer consultations in promoting growth and stability in international commodity markets. It also stressed the importance of activities to expand trade amongst developing countries. It emphasized the need for FAO to maintain an effective programme of trade policy analysis, intergovernmental consultations and advice to countries on their national commodity policies. It stressed the need for detailed analysis of the links between environmental problems, sustainable agriculture and agricultural commodity trade. The Committee welcomed FAO's involvement in drawing up project proposals on commodity development measures for financing by the Common Fund for Commodities in order to help boost the export earnings of the developing countries.

98. The Committee welcomed the continued technical assistance being provided by FAO to the GATT and to the participants in the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. The Committee agreed that FAO should undertake analyses of the global effects on agriculture of the eventual outcome of the Uruguay Round, especially its impact on the developing countries.

99. The Committee supported the need to strengthen world food security, particularly through the implementation of the expanded mandate of the Food Security Assistance Scheme (FSAS); building international awareness of policy options to ensure food security, especially in the low-income food-deficit countries, and promotion of related international action, particularly through the Committee on World Food Security.

VI. TOWARDS BETTER NUTRITION FOR ALL: PREPARING FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUTRITION (ICN)

100. The Committee reviewed the document "Towards Better Nutrition for All: Preparing for the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN)", COAG/91/7, which outlined the broad linkages between agriculture, nutrition, health, and social and economic development, and reported on the progress being made towards preparations for the ICN subsequent to the Ninety-eighth Session of the FAO Council. The Committee was informed about the actions taken by FAO and WHO since the preparation of the document and the future plans for the organization of the ICN.

101. The Committee endorsed the multi-disciplinary approach outlined in the document to develop strategies to address the multifaceted nature of nutrition problems in both developing and developed countries. It stressed the importance of preparatory activities at the country, sub-regional and regional levels and supported the actions taken by the sponsoring agencies to initiate such preparatory activities. It expressed the hope that donor countries would provide the necessary financial support to the preparatory activities at the country, sub-regional and regional levels. The Committee was of the opinion that FAO should give broad publicity to the Conference and pay particular attention to assisting developing countries, in order to ensure the broadest participation of these countries. Several delegations also referred to obtaining resource assistance for the participation of the developing countries that request it, especially the Least Developed Countries, in the Conference itself. Delegates of several developed countries expressed their interest in supporting such activities.

102. The Committee welcomed the collaboration between FAO and WHO and noted the cooperation through the ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition (ACC/SCN) with other UN, multilateral and bilateral agencies. It stressed the need for greater involvement of other UN organizations, bilateral and non-governmental organizations in the preparations for the ICN. In this connection, particular reference was made to the need for cooperation with UNICEF in the light of the follow-up to the UNICEF World Summit for Children and the ongoing work of the Task Force on Child Survival. The Committee also emphasized the need for support from member governments, the private sector, NGOs and the media, in the preparatory activities essential for the success of the ICN. The Committee was informed of the FAO and WHO efforts to enlist support from other UN organizations, bilateral donor agencies, NGO's and the private sector.

103. The Committee recommended that the ICN should place particular emphasis on under-nutrition in relation to poverty and other manifestations of underdevelopment. It should also consider problems of overnutrition in both developed and developing countries. It also recommended that the ICN should consider other issues related to the problems of nutrition including household food security; the effects of trade and food aid; the role of food standards on the safety and quality of foods; the development of agro-food industries; and the improvement of infrastructures necessary for the marketing and processing of food, including local and traditional foods. The Committee also proposed that ICN should address the factors affecting consumers' demands in relation to their knowledge and attitude to food and nutrition. The functional consequences of malnutrition, such as reduced work and learning capacities, should also be examined. The nutritional effects of sudden changes in diet of migrant and refugee populations should be studied, as well as the longer-term changes in nations undergoing economic reform and structural adjustment.

104. In view of the need to allow adequate time for organizing the national, sub-regional and regional preparatory activities as well as the fact that member countries were currently engaged in the preparations for the UN Conference on Environment and Development in June 1992, it was suggested that FAO, together with WHO, should consider the postponement of the ICN to 1993.

VII. BIODIVERSITY - GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

105. The discussion was based on document COAG/91/8 "Biodiversity - Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture". The Committee noted that the plant genetic resources component of biodiversity had been discussed in considerable detail by the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources (CPGR) held from 15 to 19 April 1991.

106. The Committee recognized the pioneering and long-standing work of FAO on different fields of biological diversity. It agreed that FAO, in accordance with its mandate, should continue to contribute more actively to the conservation and sustainable utilization of biological diversity of current and potential interest to agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

107. The Committee noted a number of important initiatives taken in the field of biodiversity by others, especially UNCED and UNEP, and commended FAO's active cooperation with UNCED in its preparatory process for the forthcoming UN Conference on Environment and

Development. The Committee emphasized that through this cooperation FAO could help to ensure full compatibility and complementarity between the conservation of genetic resources on the one hand and the development of agriculture, forestry and fishery, as well as food security, on the other.

108. In the above context, most delegates felt that the status of FAO, which was presently that of observer, in the UNEP inter-governmental negotiating Working Group on Biodiversity, required strengthening. The Committee in general recommended that steps should be taken for FAO and UNEP to ensure a closer cooperation on matters covered by UNCED that fell under the mandate of both Organizations, in particular with respect to a legal instrument on biodiversity.

109. The Committee welcomed the oral report provided by the Chairman of the CPGR on its Fourth Session. The Committee noted with appreciation the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by FAO and IBPGR. The Committee expressed its satisfaction with the development of the FAO Global System on PGR and requested that it be presented to appropriate meetings of UNCED and UNEP.

110. The Committee recognized that a great deal of progress had been made on PGR activities, but much remained to be done, mainly on the development of the State of the World PGR, the Global Information and Early Warning System, and a Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources. In this context, the Committee was informed of the current financial constraints facing the Secretariat and appreciated the CPGR recommendation to strengthen it. The Committee supported the CPGR recommendation that FAO convene a Fourth International Technical Conference, utilizing extra-budgetary funds, and that the first State of the World and Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources should be developed as part of the preparatory process.

111. The Committee discussed the question of transforming, with appropriate revision, the International Undertaking into a legally binding instrument that could become a protocol of the proposed framework convention. The Committee in general, while recognizing that there were clear links between an eventual legal instrument on biodiversity and the activities performed within the framework of the International Undertaking on PGR, felt that it was premature to change the nature of the International Undertaking.

112. The Committee appreciated FAO's efforts to develop a Special Action Programme on Biological Diversity encompassing different elements of biodiversity for food and agriculture and welcomed the establishment of the FAO technical working group on biodiversity for food and agriculture. The Committee recommended continued elaboration and further strengthening of these efforts.

113. The Committee noted that biotechnology could play an increasingly important role both in the utilization and the conservation of genetic resources and the overall management of biodiversity.

114. The Committee welcomed the increased attention and activities aimed at strengthening national capabilities in developing countries for the conservation and utilization of animal genetic resources. It noted that this went a long way in responding to the Council recommendation that FAO prepare a programme for the sustainable

development of animal genetic resources on a global level. The Committee supported the idea and, in particular, the activities proposed to initiate the programme, i.e.:

- to procure information for the Global Data Bank on breeds/populations;
- to estimate genetic distances between breeds and to design conservation policies;
- to undertake pilot projects for the genetic improvements of valuable under-utilized breeds and promote their use and conservation;
- to make comparative evaluations of germplasm within and across region, in order to design breeding strategies for improved livestock economic efficiency;
- to preserve endangered breeds through in situ and cryopreservation schemes; and
- to undertake in-service training and workshops on the above subjects.

The Committee urged care to ensure that in selecting for one trait, other traits of equal or greater value are not lost. The Committee also urged FAO to include camelides - camels and especially alpaca - in the pilot projects for genetic improvement.

115. Following the request of the last session of the Council the Committee examined the possibilities for widening the mandate of the Commission of Plant Genetic Resources to become the Commission for Biodiversity in Food and Agriculture. The Committee could not agree to broaden the mandate at this time and consequently, it recommended calling an expert consultation, provided that funds could be located, to assist in making a more informed judgement about the desirability of establishing a separate forum for animal genetic resources. The expert consultation would also assess the proposed programme on animal genetic resources.

VIII. INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

116. The Committee discussed the item on the basis of document COAG/91/9, "Integration of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development" that had been prepared in response to the requests made by the Council at its Ninety-fourth Session in November 1988 and by the Conference at its Twenty-fifth Session in November 1989. The Committee appreciated the work of the Secretariat in preparing the report and addressing the topic. It welcomed the discussion in the document of the impact of structural adjustment programmes on women and of the role of women in environmental and natural resource management. Some delegates stated that the document did not include the most recent information on women's roles in agriculture and that it did not provide specific strategies for solving the problems identified.

117. The Committee acknowledged the increasing recognition of women's crucial contributions to agriculture and rural development and their important role in the sustainable development of agriculture. Women comprised a large proportion of the population engaged in agriculture and provided much of the labour in small-scale agricultural and livestock production and in storage, processing and marketing of agricultural products. Their role as breadwinners and heads of households was also increasing because of male emigration. Yet women's economic participation continued to be under-counted in statistics.

118. The Committee emphasized the need for the collection of gender disaggregated data on women's agricultural work, land tenure and access to rural services, to identify better women's productive roles, contributions and needs. It supported the development of data bases and analyses leading to the formulation of policies, programmes and projects which specifically address constraints on women farmers. In this context, it noted that an Inter-agency Consultation on Statistics and Data Base on Gender in Agriculture and Rural Development was planned for September 1991.

119. The Committee noted with satisfaction that Women in Development was a priority issue in the Medium-Term Perspectives and Programme Priorities and that despite financial constraints, the resources for this programme had been proposed to be increased in the Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93.

120. The Committee also noted that it was important to recognize the interrelations between women's productive and domestic roles and rural development. The Committee pointed out that women in development issues were central to concerns on poverty in general, and that women's constraints could not be overcome unless poverty was alleviated.

121. The Committee emphasized the need to remove the major constraints farm women faced including: lack of access to land, and fewer opportunities to obtain credit, training, extension and marketing facilities. The Committee called for greater efforts to integrate the issues of women's access to resources into national mainstream development policies as well as in FAO's mainstream programmes. It noted with concern that agrarian reforms rarely benefited women, while population growth and land concentration had increased landlessness and inequalities in land distribution. The Committee recommended that consideration should be given where necessary, to the revision of civil, land and other relevant legislation, to improve women's access to land, taking into account specific cultural, social and economic conditions.

122. The Committee stressed the importance of strengthening extension services for women and welcomed FAO's effort to develop extension approaches explicitly designed for women farmers and to train extension staff on women's role in agricultural development. It recommended that research and technology should take into account women's special needs, and particularly the reduction of the time spent by women on their agricultural production activities as well as on their household work.

123. The Committee emphasized the need to give greater attention to women's roles in sustainable development, as they were most affected by resource depletion and degradation. It recognized the critical role women played in relation to the environment, especially forest resources, watershed management, potable water and sanitation.

124. The Committee emphasized the need for FAO to intensify its efforts to assist governments to develop and implement policy and plans of action on women in development, and urged donors to consider providing extra-budgetary resources for this purpose.

125. The Committee noted with satisfaction that a training programme for FAO professional staff in gender analysis had been developed as a follow-up to the Conference directive and that slightly over half of

all Headquarters and Regional professional staff had been trained. It was envisaged that the remainder of the professional staff would be trained by the end of the biennium.

126. The Committee was informed of the progress made by the Organization in increasing the number of women professional staff. Some delegates suggested that the Organization should consider introducing more preferential measures in favour of women candidates from developing countries.

127. The Committee noted that a detailed progress report on the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development would be submitted to the Twenty-sixth Session of the Conference in November 1991.

IX. OTHER MATTERS

128. 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 Twelfth Session.

129. In this connection the Committee was advised that in line with earlier decisions, one agenda item should deal with a nutritional subject. 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.

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

- The Role of Livestock, Improvement of Pasture, Feed and Forage and Combatting Desertification
- Sustainable Agricultural Development, Rainfed Agriculture and Water Management
- Agricultural Credit, Cooperatives and Savings in Agriculture
- The Role of Education and Extension in Agricultural Development
- The Impact of Liberalization of Trade on Sustainable Agricultural Development

131. The following additional topics were also suggested during the discussion:

- Agriculture-Related Energy Policies
- Farming Systems with Reference to Irrigation
- Research Support for Development
- Biotechnologies for Agriculture
- Biological Control for Plant Protection
- Studies on Eradication of Plant and Animal Diseases

132. The Committee noted, with particular reference to developing countries, the continued decline in participation of technical experts in the deliberations of technical committees, such as the COAG, and considered that the matter would need to be pursued by Member Nations in appropriate fora.

Date and Place of Next Session

133. The Committee noted that, in accordance with Rule XXXII-3 GRO and Rule II of its Rules of Procedure, its Twelfth Session should be held at FAO Headquarters in Rome. The Director-General, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Committee, would propose the exact date, taking fully into account the overall meetings schedule of the Organization.

APPENDIX A

AGENDA

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

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

3. Implementation of the Programme of Work 1988-90
4. Review of the Field Programme 1988-90
5. Medium-Term Perspectives and Programme Priorities in Food and Agriculture 1992-97
6. Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93

FOOD AND NUTRITION

7. Towards Better Nutrition for All - Preparing for the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN)

SELECTED DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

8. Biodiversity - Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
9. Integration of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development

OTHER MATTERS

10. Other Business
11. Date and Place of Next Session
12. Adoption of the Report

LIST OF MEMBER NATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Algeria	Equatorial Guinea	Netherlands
Angola	Ethiopia	Nicaragua
Argentina	Fiji	Niger
Australia	Finland	Nigeria
Austria	France	Norway
Bangladesh	Germany	Pakistan
Belgium	Ghana	Panama
Benin	Greece	Peru
Bolivia	Guatemala	Philippines
Botswana	Guinea	Poland
Brazil	Honduras	Portugal
Bulgaria	Hungary	Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of
Burkina Faso	India	Senegal
Burundi	Indonesia	Spain
Cameroon	Iran, Islamic Rep. of	Sri Lanka
Canada	Ireland	Sudan
Cape Verde	Israel	Sweden
Chile	Italy	Switzerland
China	Japan	Syrian Arab Rep.
Colombia	Kenya	Tanzania
Congo	Korea, Rep. of	Thailand
Costa Rica	Kuwait	Tunisia
Côte d'Ivoire	Lebanon	Turkey
Cuba	Lesotho	Uganda
Cyprus	Liberia	United Kingdom
Czechoslovakia	Libya	United States of America
Dem. P.R. of Korea	Madagascar	Uruguay
Denmark	Malawi	Venezuela
Dominica	Malaysia	Yemen
Ecuador	Mexico	Yugoslavia
Egypt	Morocco	Zaire
El Salvador	Myanmar	Zambia

المرفق جيم

附录 C

APPENDIX C

ANNEXE C

APENDICE C

قائمة المندوبين والمراقبين

代表和观察员名单

LIST OF DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS

LISTE DES DELEGUES ET OBSERVATEURS

LISTA DE DELEGADOS Y OBSERVADORES

رئيس اللجنة

主席

Chairperson

Président

Presidente

:

:

:

Sra. Doña Mónica DEREGIBUS

(Argentina)

النائب الأول للرئيس

第一副主席

First Vice-Chairman

Premier Vice-Président

Primer Vicepresidente

:

:

:

Rudolph DE POURTALES

(Suisse)

النائب الثاني للرئيس

第二副主席

Second Vice-Chairman

Deuxième Vice-Président

Segundo Vicepresidente

:

:

:

Gerard P. KHOJANE

(Lesotho)

اعضاء اللجنة
本委员会成员
MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE
MEMBRES DU COMITE
MIEMBROS DEL COMITE

ALGERIA - ALGERIE - ARGELIA الجزائر

Représentant
Mme. Amina BOUDJELTI
Conseiller d'Ambassade
Représentant permanent adjoint
auprès de la FAO
Rome

مندوب

السيدة أمينة بوجطى روما
مستشار بالسفارة
والممثل الدائم المناوب
لدى المنظمة

ANGOLA

Représentant
Pedro Agostinho KANGA
Conseiller
Représentant permanent adjoint
auprès de la FAO
Rome

Suppléant
Antonio Serráo NUNES
Premier Secrétaire d'Ambassade
Représentant adjoint
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ARGENTINA - ARGENTINE

Representante
Sra. Mónica DEREGIBUS
Representante Permanente Alterno
ante la FAO
Roma

Suplente
Alberto DI LISCIA
Embajada de la República Argentina
Roma

AUSTRALIA - AUSTRALIE

Representative
Peter G. FRANKLIN
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政府间组织的观察员

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Mrs. Maria-Teresa GUICCIARDI Permanent Representative to FAO	Rome		

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

COAG/91/1	Provisional Annotated Agenda
COAG/91/2	Proposed Timetable
COAG/91/3	Implementation of the Programme of Work 1988-90
COAG/91/3 Supp.1	Progress Reports on the Selected Development Problems Discussed at the Tenth Session
COAG/91/4	Review of the Field Programme 1988-90
COAG/91/5	Medium-Term Perspectives and Programme Priorities in Food and Agriculture 1992-97
COAG/91/6	Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93
COAG/91/7	Towards Better Nutrition for All - Preparing for the International Conference on Nutrition
COAG/91/8	Biodiversity - Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
COAG/91/9	Integration of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development

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I look forward to the discussion of the Committee on this subject and its examination of the technical issues and preparatory activities related to the ICN. I particularly value the comments and guidance of this Committee as they will constitute the first major governmental technical input to the process of preparation.

This concern for nutritional wellbeing brings me to the two other development issues that are on your Agenda, biodiversity and the integration of women in agriculture and rural development.

The conservation and utilisation of biodiversity has a vital role to play in ensuring future food security and nutritional wellbeing. The genetic resources for food and agriculture are the key to improving and safeguarding existing crops and animal breeds, for example, by introducing better disease resistance, and for developing crops and animals with higher productivity. It is for these reasons that I have encouraged action programmes on plant and animal genetic resources as well as reviews of how best FAO can contribute to the international action required to safeguard these resources, and how the work should be structured and coordinated within the Organization. You will receive a report about the Fourth Session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources which was held last week and which discussed recommendations made on these issues.

An important priority for the medium-term concerns the need to ensure full participation of women in agriculture and rural development as envisaged in the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development, adopted by the Twenty-fifth Session of the Conference. It is obvious that the full involvement of rural women in the development process cannot be achieved if the constraints they face are not overcome. These constraints must therefore be addressed at the same time as we define the means to achieve the objective. I firmly believe that women's participation must become part of the mainstream development policy, planning and programmes in order to ensure growth with equity. I look forward to the Committee's discussion and conclusions on this important subject.

Finally, at its Twenty-fifth session in November 1989, the Conference requested the technical committees of the Council to review the Field Programmes related to matters under their competence. In compliance with this request, the Secretariat has prepared document COAG/91/6 to facilitate this review, which will become a regular feature of its future sessions. Your conclusions and recommendations with respect to field activities in the agriculture, economic and social fields will be of the utmost value, particularly as regards their integration with the Regular Programme activities in these areas.

Madam Chairperson, at its Twenty-fifth Session in 1989, the Conference decided to introduce a six-year medium-term plan which would set priority areas across the broad spectrum of FAO's programmes and activities. The Conference has requested me to prepare the

Medium-Term Plan, taking into account the views of Member Nations, in particular those expressed in committees such as COAG. The Committee will have the opportunity to express its views on issues relevant to the preparation of the Medium-Term Plan under its Agenda Item V when it considers the document on Medium-Term Perspectives and Programme Priorities in Food and Agriculture.

A medium-term plan for a development agency such as FAO, has to reflect changes and shifts occurring at various levels. The document therefore considers some of the important changes that have taken place in the overall environment for development. At the same time, the plan must also reflect the changes in perceptions of both the developing countries and the donor community in the common pursuit of the development objective. In the light of these new developments and changing perceptions, the document highlights the priority areas for FAO's Programme of Work for food and agriculture in the medium term. Madam Chairperson, these represent our preliminary thoughts on priorities for the Medium-Term Plan and I look forward to the views of the Committee.

Madam Chairperson, I would now like to refer to the Programme of Work in the Agriculture and Economic and Social Policy Departments in 1992-93. My proposals are guided by the need to ensure that there is no overall real programme increase while not precluding the strengthening of the work programme in existing and new priority areas. My proposals therefore aim at a shift of resources to reinforce work in certain high priority areas. These include: environment and sustainable development; development of WAICENT (the World Agriculture Information Centre); Women in Development, the Technical Cooperation Programme, and the preparations for the International Conference on Nutrition in 1992. However, this has inevitably led to programme cuts in other areas so as to avoid any real programme increase.

Regrettably, the Organization faces a continuing cash-flow crisis due to substantial arrears in the payment of contributions. This has resulted in several programme adjustments and has constrained our capacity to implement the approved programme of work. I therefore, urge all Member Nations to fulfil their obligations in full and in time.

Madam Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates and Observers, let me close by wishing you a successful and constructive session.

INTERNATIONAL GROUP OF NATIONAL
ASSOCIATIONS OF MANUFACTURERS OF AGROCHEMICAL
PRODUCTS - GROUPEMENT INTERNATIONAL DES
ASSOCIATIONS NATIONALES DE FABRICANTS DE
PRODUITS AGROCHIMIQUES - GRUPO INTERNACIONAL
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Steering Committee, ICI Agrochemicals

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- UNION INTERNATIONALE DES ORGANISMES
FAMILIAUX - UNION INTERNACIONAL DE
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FEDERATION SYNDICALE MONDIALE -
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ORGANIZATIONS - UNION MONDIALE DES
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Mrs. Geneviève GARZERO Rome
Permanent Representative to FAO

Mrs. Rebecca NCONGI Rome
Permanent Representative to FAO

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NATURE - FONDO MUNDIAL PARA LA NATURALEZA

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WWF Italia

Peter HURST Gland
Chemicals and Consumer Policy Officer
WWF International

Paolo LOMBARDI Rome
International Relations Officer

Opening Statement of the
Director-General

Delivered by B.P. Dutia, Assistant Director-General
Economic and Social Policy Department

Madam Chairperson,
Distinguished Delegates and Observers,

May I first extend to you, Madam Chairperson, my warmest congratulations on your election to this important position.

I do not need to stress the importance I attach to the work of the Committee on Agriculture. The results of the Committee's deliberations play a central role in guiding the work of the two largest technical Departments of this Organization. The agenda for the present session is particularly rich in substantive items and your discussions on them will be of great help in the finalization of my programme proposals for the next biennium.

I shall first refer to the world food situation and then review the main events and activities that have taken place recently. Finally, I will examine our plans for the future, both in the medium term and for the next Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93.

Madam Chairperson, the food situation has improved somewhat at global level because world production of staple foods increased substantially in 1990. Indeed the world as a whole harvested a record crop, exceeding utilization for the first time since 1986/87. This will allow for a marginal aggregate increase in consumption and a modest replenishment of stocks in both importing and exporting countries. Cereal prices on international markets have fallen significantly. Some countries have already taken steps which could lead to a decrease of wheat output in 1991. By contrast global output of coarse grains is expected to rise, but the margin for replenishment of stocks could be very slim, if any. Thus the outlook for global cereal supplies remains finely balanced and developments will call for the utmost vigilance in the months ahead.

The reasonably positive global picture hides the harsh reality in many parts of the world. Many developing countries continue to face a most unfavourable external environment, including low export earnings, huge external debts and worsening terms of trade coupled with rising trade deficits, and continuing high protectionism in major markets for their exports. Thus, despite low prices for staple foods in world markets, the financing of food imports has been seriously compromised in a number of food-deficit developing countries. As a consequence of insufficient rainfall or civil strife, fifteen African countries are currently facing exceptional food shortages. Yet food aid commitments fall short of requirements and deliveries are too slow to meet immediate needs.

In the opening statement to the FAO/Netherlands Conference on Agriculture and the Environment which has just taken place, I drew attention to the deep-lying causes of environmental degradation, such as poverty and underdevelopment, and the need to eliminate them in the context of a dynamic process of sustainable agricultural development.

This Conference, which was convened following an initiative of the FAO Conference in November 1989, carried out a wide-ranging review of issues related to sustainability. In view of its relevance to the work of COAG, I have requested my Special Adviser/ADG for Environment and Development to report to you under Item 3 "Implementation of the PWB".

I shall now turn to some recent events of particular significance for your work.

I am pleased to inform you that on 4 April the revised text of the International Plant Protection Convention entered into force. This was possible only after two-thirds of the Contracting Governments had accepted the revisions proposed. You will also be pleased to learn that FAO is preparing a "Covenant of Good Fertilizer Use Practice". The Covenant will cover sources of plant nutrients, the importance of fertilizer use in the context of integrated plant nutrition systems for sustainable agricultural development, the environmental effects of fertilizer use, the efficient use of mineral fertilizers and the policy aspects of good fertilizer use. The final draft of the Covenant, which will be available at the end of 1991, could be discussed at a future session of this Committee.

In September 1990, a new Training Centre was opened at the FAO/IAEA Agricultural Biotechnology Laboratory at Seibersdorf, near Vienna, Austria. It was built with donations from the United States, Austria and the Federal Republic of Germany together with a contribution of US\$250,000 from FAO. The modern facilities will be used for inter-regional training courses and for fellowship training in the area of nuclear techniques for agricultural research. These courses will be conducted primarily by the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture which forms part of our Department of Agriculture. It is planned that three inter-regional training courses will be held each year, lasting from 4-6 weeks each. In addition 30-40 fellows from developing countries will visit the laboratory for periods of one month to one year.

In view of the complex nature of nutrition problems, the governing bodies of FAO and WHO have agreed that the two Organizations should, in cooperation with other concerned agencies, jointly prepare and organize the first International Conference on Nutrition (ICN) in Rome.

Given the scope and dimensions of nutrition problems confronting the world today, action needs to be taken by many sectors, both public and private, and at all levels - local, national and international. Above all, I attach great importance to the involvement and participation by Member Nations in the preparatory process leading to the ICN as well as in the follow-up to its recommendations. Accordingly, I have sent, together with Dr. Nakajima, an official communication to Member Nations of FAO and WHO inviting them to initiate country level preparatory activities, and to appoint country focal points for the ICN. We envisage the country level preparations

to lead to sub-regional and regional synthesis of the nutritional problems and actions needed to resolve them. In its turn, this process would permit the consideration by the ICN of the regional dimensions of the actions needed to resolve nutritional problems.

I look forward to the discussion of the Committee on this subject and its examination of the technical issues and preparatory activities related to the ICN. I particularly value the comments and guidance of this Committee as they will constitute the first major governmental technical input to the process of preparation.

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