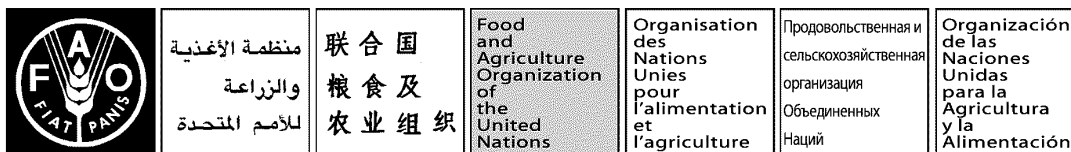


August 2010



**THIRTIETH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE  
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

**Gyeongju, Republic of Korea, 27 September – 1 October 2010**

**PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA**

**SENIOR OFFICERS MEETING**

27 – 29 September 2010

**I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS**

1. Opening of the Senior Officers Meeting
2. Election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda and Timetable

**II. REGIONAL AND GLOBAL POLICY ISSUES**

4. **Integrating climate change mitigation and adaptation for food security and sustainable development in the region**

The agricultural sectors, including crop and livestock production systems, forestry and fisheries, both affect and are affected by climate change. Climate change will have negative impacts on the agricultural sectors and food production in most of Asia and the Pacific region. This is of particular concern due to the role of the agricultural sectors in employment, economic development and food security. Climate change raises temperature levels, changes rainfall patterns and hydrological cycles, puts stress on terrestrial, freshwater and marine resources and thereby impacts agro-ecosystems and increases disaster risks. These elements directly impact crop, livestock, fishery and forest production and ultimately overall food production.

Climate change also directly affects yield growth, water availability and crop stress. It indirectly affects food prices and has strong implications for sustainable social and economic development. Food prices are expected to increase, which could lead to a decline in the demand for food and agricultural trade with adverse nutritional outcomes, particularly for children. In particular, low income countries in the region with agricultural employment above 40 percent or with a poverty incidence above 30 percent will be the most vulnerable. Communities in fragile environments,

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such as mountain areas, coastal zones and small islands, face growing risks. Smallholder farmers whose livelihoods depend on natural resources, and community members who are already disadvantaged due to age, caste, gender, class, occupation or disability, are likely to be most at risk. Poor farmers and poor women are likely to be the most affected. Forest ecosystems and marine environments, and the communities that depend on them for their livelihoods, are also highly vulnerable to climate change.

The Hindu Kush Himalayas needs special consideration as it is the source of the nine largest rivers in Asia, providing water to more than 1.3 billion people. It is the most critical region in the world in which melting glaciers will have a negative impact on water supplies. The Himalayas are home to some of the world's poorest regions; the majority of people are poor and vulnerable to social and environmental threats and to the food crisis.

Recent estimates indicate agriculture, forestry and other land-use sectors to be responsible for about a third of anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. However, forests and agricultural lands also sequester and store large amounts of carbon and thereby contribute to mitigation of climate change. Mitigation and adaptation measures in the agricultural sectors should therefore be an integral part of international, regional and national strategies to deal with climate change. Such measures will contribute to the reduction of GHG emissions and the enhancement of carbon sequestration, the improvement of adaptation capacity as well as sustainably preserving the livelihood opportunities of rural populations, particularly indigenous communities.

Climate change has become and will continue to be a major concern in Asia and the Pacific region. In the last few years, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP) has received ever increasing requests from member countries, development partners, regional and subregional organizations, academic institutes, NGOs and the media for information, technical support, and participation in policy dialogues and cooperation networks/frameworks.

This paper discusses climate change issues in the agricultural sectors in Asia and the Pacific region and the actions needed at various levels. It specifically presents technical options and possibilities and illustrates policies, strategies, legal frameworks, socio-economic development approaches (including gender mainstreaming and pro-poor strategies), incentives and services required to capture synergies among climate change mitigation and adaptation, food security and sustainable development at regional, national and local levels.

## **5. Experiences and policy lessons from the region in dealing with the global food and financial crises**

In 2007-08, commodity and food prices in international markets rose sharply to unprecedented levels not seen since the early 1970s. They have declined from their peaks in mid-2008, but domestic food staple prices still remain high in many countries of the Asia-Pacific region. Recent projections have indicated that agricultural prices will remain at higher than average levels over the medium term than in the past decade. At the same time, shocks from the economic crisis now engulfing the developed world have led to a slowdown in economic growth in the developing countries of this region. Several countries report reduced non-farm employment, pressure on real wages, a reverse flow of labor from urban to rural regions and increases in overall un- and underemployment. The most affected have been the urban poor, the rural net food buyers and female headed households. In trying to cope with the burden of consecutive food and economic crises, the poor have reduced their dietary diversity and spending on essential items such as education and health care. While individual households are drawn into poverty traps negatively affecting their longer-term food security, the capacity of countries to provide safety nets is strained due to lower revenue collection. While several countries in the region seem to be recovering from the shock, others continued to post a negative growth in 2009 and expect low growth rates in 2010. The medium-term outlook remains uncertain.

The exact impact and the macroeconomic policy responses to these crises have been conditioned by each country's initial macroeconomic circumstances, composition of the economy, market

structure and institutions. Therefore, countries need to exchange information on their experiences to learn from one another and these experiences need to be synthesized to draw useful policy lessons for preventing occurrences of such shocks and effectively dealing with them if they occur. FAO is currently conducting a regional study covering 10 countries on this issue.

This paper presents the findings and conclusions from an analytical regional study on the impacts of, and lessons from, the food and financial crises for agriculture and food security in Asia. The paper highlights the global context, impact of the soaring food prices and economic crisis on Asian countries and policy responses, and synthesizes the policy lessons and recommendations to deal with such crises in the future.

## 6. Increasing crop productivity for sustainable food security in the region

The achievements of Asian countries in economic growth, poverty alleviation and hunger reduction in the last several decades are well-known and indeed remarkable. Despite these important achievements, many millions in the region are still mired in poverty and hunger. In 2004-06, Asia and the Pacific region was estimated to have 566 million, or 65 percent of the world's undernourished population (SOFI 2009). The unprecedented increases in food prices and the financial crisis made millions poorer and vulnerable to food insecurity in the subsequent period. By 2009, an estimated additional 144 million people fell below the hunger threshold globally, of which 76 million, or 53 percent, were from this region. This threatens the region's ability to meet its hunger reduction target of 293 million by 2015.

One of the major reasons for lack of progress in hunger reduction and the recent spike in food prices is the decline in the growth of crop productivity in the region. The fact that rice yield growth has generally been slower than population growth during the past 20 years gives some cause for concern over future supply-demand balances, especially if the rice area begins to contract and no remedial action is undertaken.

Although increased food production through improved crop productivity does not automatically translate into improved access to food, it can greatly contribute to it, *inter alia*, through creation of additional farm and non-farm employment, increased income and opportunities for capital formation, and lower domestic food prices. To realize the full potential contribution of crop productivity to food security, productivity growth must be complemented by appropriate post-production strategies and technologies that safeguard harvests and reduce losses. Increases in productivity would also free land for agricultural diversification. When coupled with proper post-harvest strategies it would enhance environmental sustainability through more efficient use of water and land resources.

Crop productivity growth in the region has been sluggish due to underinvestment in agriculture in general and in research in particular. There has not been any recent significant technological breakthrough in the crop sector. Moreover, existing research, including that involving biotechnologies, is generally focused on major cereal crops, largely ignoring the so-called "minor crops" – coarse grains, roots and tubers – grown in less endowed and remote regions under rainfed conditions. This imbalance in research resource allocation neglects the needs of a significant section of small and marginal farmers with adverse impacts on food security and the incidence of poverty. Underinvestment in agricultural research and rural infrastructure by the public sector also discourages private investment in cereal crops. In fact, they have moved to more lucrative high value crops and enterprises. Recent evidence from the food crisis indicated that while a dynamic shift of cropping patterns and diversification in a market-responsive manner can enhance food security, it can also leave the food system vulnerable to economic shocks.

This paper examines trends and patterns of crop productivity growth and diversification of the cropping system and the major underlying reasons for the present performance, including linkages to post-production systems. It assesses issues involved and discusses policy options and required actions at the country and regional levels. Finally, it discusses the roles of different actors, such as

the governments, regional organizations, NARS and the CGIAR system, international/regional financial institutions, the private sector and civil society organizations in promoting sustainable and equitable crop productivity growth in the region for enhanced food security.

### III. INFORMATION NOTES

#### 7. State of Food and Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific Region

In the last four decades, Asia and the Pacific region has achieved rapid economic growth and poverty reduction. Concomitantly, the proportion of undernourished has declined significantly. There is considerable diversity in performance across subregions and countries, and a number of countries still have a long way to go in developing their economy and agriculture sector. The region accounts for nearly two-thirds of the world's undernourished population. The overall situation worsened due to the food and financial crises, with the number of undernourished in the region increasing by 76 million since 2004-06.

The agriculture sector in the region confronts the challenge of sustainably meeting the increasingly diversified demand for food for a growing and urbanizing population in the face of increasing land degradation, water scarcity, environmental pollution and concerns about food safety. The agriculture sector is also adversely affected by climate change and local production faces increased global competition following trade liberalization under the Uruguay Round Agreement. Further, its role in food security can be compromised due to competition from the liquid biofuel sector. To meet these challenges, the agriculture sector needs to increase its productivity in an environmentally sustainable manner and adopt measures for adaptation to, and mitigation of, climate change.

One of the major reasons for the present state of agriculture is the reduced priority in public investment and Official Development Assistance support to the sector. Following the shock of soaring food prices of 2007-08, there is now a much greater appreciation for agriculture and its role in the economy than a few years ago. The crucial role of agriculture in providing livelihoods and food security to people is now better recognized than before. There is also empirical evidence and a greater recognition of the fact that agricultural growth in Asia is typically more "pro-poor" than growth in other sectors.

In the above context, this information note presents a review of the present state of agricultural production, consumption and trade in the region and subregions and discusses the major current and emerging issues affecting agricultural growth and sustainability and their contribution to economic development, food security and poverty reduction.

#### 8. Strengthening the linkages between technical commissions and the APRC

The FAO regional office in Bangkok serves as the secretariat of five Asia-Pacific Regional Technical Commissions (RTC). These statutory bodies of the Organization deal with animal production and health, agricultural statistics, fisheries, forestry and plant protection:

- **Fisheries** – Asia-Pacific Fisheries Commission (APFIC). Established in 1949. Presently has a membership of 20 countries. The Commission actively networks with members, regional fisheries organizations and relevant stakeholders in the region.
- **Forestry** – Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC). Established in 1949. Membership currently stands at 33 countries. Active participation of international non-governmental organizations and the private sector is encouraged.
- **Plant protection** – Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC). Established in 1956. Membership now comprises 24 countries.
- **Agricultural statistics** – Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (APCAS). Established 1963. Membership currently comprises 25 countries.

- **Animal production and health** – Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific (APHCA). Established in 1975. Present membership stands at 16 countries.

These commissions have varying degrees of participation by member countries and observers comprising other related regional organizations, NGOs and even the private sector. The commissions have a unique ability to synthesize the opinions and recommendations of member countries within the region and also gather together opinions on issues of importance to the various sectors through their regular sessions and inter-sessional activities (workshops, projects etc.). In this respect, they are an integral part of FAO's knowledge network, making an important contribution to the work of FAO and underpin its activities within the region by providing direction on priorities and issues of concern. The RTCs are also generally representative of the specific sub-sectoral priorities and issues of the Asia-Pacific members, although their membership is not as comprehensive as that of the APRC.

The 29th APRC requested FAO to strengthen the linkages between technical commissions and the APRC. In response to the above request, this paper outlines:

- suggestions as to how the detailed sub-sectoral recommendations, emerging issues and decisions of the RTC's could be reported to the APRC, and their relevance to that body; and
- potential future avenues for communicating the recommendations and decisions of specific RTC's to other FAO Technical Committees (e.g. COFI and COFO and their related sub-committees if appropriate).

This information note also covers the relationships between the membership of the APRC and the membership of the Regional Technical Commissions as well as procedural aspects relating to their status under the FAO constitution.

## 9. **FAO's strategy for and approaches to disaster preparedness, response and mitigation in the region**

FAO member countries in the region have been preparing for, and responding to, a growing number of disasters. The severity and frequency of hydro-meteorological events, such as tropical cyclones, typhoons, torrential rains, floods and landslides throughout the Asia-Pacific region have increased. Rapid urbanization, high population density and very active seismic zones continue to generate significant earthquake risks in Asia. Recent natural disasters in the region highlight the growing need to improve disaster preparedness, early warning and other risk reduction strategies which have caused loss of life and livelihoods in the agriculture sector, displaced populations, and disrupted the availability and amount of local food supplies.

The FAO Strategic Framework includes a new corporate strategy focused on improved preparedness for, and effective response to, food and agricultural threats and emergencies. This approach is based on the major pillars of disaster risk management: (i) disaster risk reduction (preparedness, prevention and mitigation); (ii) response and rehabilitation; and (iii) support to the transition from emergency response to rehabilitation and development programming. The linkages between preparedness, prevention and mitigation, emergency response, recovery and rehabilitation and transition to development, are dynamic and fluid. Thus, an integrated response plays a key role in boosting community resilience to threats, mitigating the impact of crises and helping vulnerable people to adapt to new conditions and situations.

FAO has developed and improved preparedness tools over many years, such as early warning systems for food and agricultural threats and emergencies, of which a significant portion is related to responding to or reducing the risk of transboundary animal disease threats and emergencies. FAO also provides technical and operational assistance to help governments develop and implement immediate solutions to food chain risks and threats to food safety. FAO has implemented disaster risk management projects over the past ten years in addition to core

emergency response and rehabilitation programmes. These projects focused on ways to enhance local and national capacity with proactive support encompassing livelihood-based risk, vulnerability and food security assessments, preparedness (enhanced early warning and crop forecasting for agricultural producers), sector specific emergency response and rehabilitation, and promotion of good agricultural practices.

A recent UN-ISDR Global Assessment Report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA): 2002-2015 noted that, despite significant progress in the region, a real need exists to accelerate HFA implementation to reduce disaster risk. Linkages between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in the region need to be explored. Focus should also be placed on strengthening subregional cooperation to reduce risk by enhancing cooperation with ASEAN and SAARC. FAO's regional strategy should be further informed by the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Response (AADMER), effective December 2009, which is the first HFA-related binding instrument in the world that will strengthen regional policy on DRM.

This information note presents a preliminary regional disaster risk management strategy for the Asia-Pacific region. The paper also highlights key emerging trends and the possible implications for FAO in terms of programming, partnerships and implementation.

#### **10. Implementation of REDD and what it means for forestry and agriculture in the region**

UN-REDD stands for The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries. REDD is an effort to create a financial value for the carbon stored in forests, offering incentives for developing countries to reduce emissions from forested lands and invest in low-carbon paths to sustainable development. UN-REDD, on the other hand, only seeks to build capacity in countries to implement REDD. The predicted significant flow of funds could result in a meaningful reduction of carbon emissions and could also support new, pro-poor development, help conserve biodiversity and secure vital ecosystem services. The programme also engages and respects the rights of indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities.

Initially, the UN-REDD programme was funded only by the Government of Norway, but recently Denmark and Spain have also given donations. UN-REDD represents a "landmark" event in that three UN agencies (FAO/UNDP/UNEP) have been collaborating closely. UN-REDD has progressed at a fast pace, releasing and committing US\$ 18.8 million during the last 12 months.

The pilot countries Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Viet Nam joined the programme from the very beginning and since then three new countries (Cambodia, Nepal and Sri Lanka) have joined and the Solomon Islands has applied to join.

This information note gives a short update of the UN-REDD process in the Asia-Pacific countries, outlines FAO's role in the programme and the outcomes of the UN Climate Change Conference 2009 (COP15) in Copenhagen, as well as preparation for the Cancun climate conference.

#### **11. International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

The Asian region is endowed with a rich diversity in plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) and agro-biodiversity in general. It is, on the one hand, a recognized centre of origin and diversity of many crop species important for global food security, and on the other hand, it is highly dependent, in its food and agriculture, on genetic resources originating from other regions to meet increasing local and national needs. The value of these resources for the Asian region will only be realized if effective, priority-setting action plans support optimal PGRFA conservation and sustainable use, and if their exchange among countries and regions are facilitated. Given the Region's important status and contributions, the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) has, since

the adoption of the International Treaty by the FAO Conference in November 2001, always considered Asia-Pacific a high priority and has worked very closely with countries in the region in the implementation of the Treaty and fulfilment of its objectives.

Rapid and steady progress has been made in the implementation of the Treaty's Multilateral System on Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS), which is a main pillar of the International Treaty. Under the Multilateral System of ABS for PGRFA, a global gene pool was established, which currently includes more than 1.3 million accessions of plant genetic material of the 64 most important food crops for global food security. Access to these resources is effected through the use of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA) adopted by the Governing Body of the Treaty, which also provides for the sharing of benefits derived from the use of the resources. Between August 2008 and August 2009, more than 440 000 transfers under SMTAs from international genebanks have been made. The Multilateral System sets out four benefit-sharing mechanisms to facilitate access to food crops for global food security and climate change adaptation in agriculture, as follows: (1) exchange of information relating to plant genetic resources; (2) access to, and transfer of, technology; (3) capacity building for conservation and sustainable use for plant genetic resources; and (4) commercial benefit-sharing.

The Treaty also provides for a Funding Strategy including a Benefit-sharing Fund which supports projects and programmes for the benefit of farmers in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The Fund is the first fully operational mechanism in the history of genetic resource governance, which implements international benefit-sharing for plant genetic resources within a binding legal architecture. In April 2010, the International Treaty Secretariat has received the first germplasm-based payment to the Benefit-sharing Fund of the Treaty which resulted directly from genetic material transferred within the Multilateral System of the Treaty. This is a practical illustration of how well the Multilateral System and its benefit-sharing mechanisms are functioning.

The Treaty currently has 124 Contracting Parties. The 4th Session of the Governing Body of the Treaty will be held in Bali, Indonesia from 14 to 18 March 2011.

The Secretariat will continue to firmly support and serve the region in promoting the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA as the members seek to provide facilitated access to PGRFA within the multilateral system of access and benefit-sharing, including through the administration of the Funding Strategy as well as the promotion of technology transfer, information sharing and capacity building. The ITPGRFA provides a consistent and robust framework to assist the region in achieving sustainable agricultural development.

**12. Implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11 and Areas of Priority Actions for Asia and the Pacific Region for the following biennium**

The purpose of this item is to present, for review and recommendation to the Regional Conference, the issues and priorities that FAO will be addressing in the region in the PWB 2010-11 and the proposed priorities for 2012-13 in the context of the Regional Priority Framework (2010-2019).

**IV. OTHER MATTERS**

13. Any other business

**V. CONCLUDING ITEMS**

14. Adoption of the Report of the Senior Officers Meeting
15. Closure of the Senior Officers Meeting

**PLENARY SESSION**  
30 September – 1 October 2010

**I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS**

1. Inaugural Ceremony
2. Election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda and Timetable
4. Statement by the Director-General
5. Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council
6. **Matters arising from the World Summit on Food Security and the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of FAO Conference, notably implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA), including the Decentralized Offices Network**

This item examines the reform of the Organization resulting from the deliberations of the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Conference (Rome, 18-23 November 2009) and its implications for Asia and the Pacific region. It also examines the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) for FAO Renewal, including the Decentralized Offices Network with a medium to a long-term vision for the structure and functioning of the DO network. The item also presents the results of the World Summit of Heads of State and Government on Food Security, held in Rome on 16, 17 and 18 November 2009.

7. **Reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)**

Wide-ranging reforms were agreed to unanimously by Members of the CFS in October 2009, and approved in November 2009 by the FAO Conference. They were also endorsed by the Heads of State and Governments in November at the World Summit on Food Security who committed to “*fully implement the reform of the CFS*” as one of the four strategic goals of the Summit. This item presents these reforms, which aim to make the CFS the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform dealing with food security and nutrition, and provides an opportunity to discuss how the renewed CFS could be linked to national structures to be effectively operational.

**II. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

8. **Report on FAO activities in Asia and the Pacific region in the biennium 2008-09 and actions taken on the main recommendations of the 29<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific**

This item reports on FAO activities in the region in 2008-09 and presents the principal measures and actions taken to implement the recommendations of the 29<sup>th</sup> FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, held in Thailand from 26 to 31 March 2009.

9. **Implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11 and Areas of Priority Actions for Asia and the Pacific Region for the following biennium**

The purpose of this item is to present, for review and recommendation to the Council, the issues and priorities that FAO will be addressing in the region in the PWB 2010-11 and the proposed priorities for 2012-13 in the context of the Regional Priority Framework (2010-2019).



#### 10. **Establishment of One Global Shared Services Centre**

This item examines the initiative of establishing one global Shared Services Centre by consolidating the Bangkok and Santiago hubs into the Budapest hub for efficiency saving measures.

#### 11. **Consideration of the regional priority framework (2010-2019) and structural changes in RAP**

In 2008, RAP began preparation of a Regional Priority Framework (RPF) aimed at translating the Organization's Strategic Framework into regional actions based on a results-based approach. The draft concept note was shared with RAP staff and headquarters to further review and develop it. The RPF concept note was presented at the 29<sup>th</sup> APRC where member countries requested RAP to submit a fully formulated RPF for its review and consideration at the next regional conference. Substantive inputs were received from member countries and economic organizations (ASEAN, SAARC and South West Pacific Ministers of Agriculture) as well as FAO Representatives. A further consultation with Bangkok-based donors and partner organizations took place at the end of 2009. The concept note, covering the period 2010-2019, will be presented for consideration and endorsement by member countries.

RAP has been restructured to more effectively deliver its services to member countries. This agenda item will brief member countries on the restructuring and seek their comments and suggestions.

#### 12. **Report of the Senior Officers Meeting**

- General debate on food and agriculture situation in the region

The delegates attending the 30<sup>th</sup> FAO Regional Conference, during the general debate, are invited to focus on regional trends on food security and agricultural development and propose policy innovations for addressing emerging regional issues and priorities. They are also encouraged to discuss and advise measures to enhance FAO's capacities and activities in the region in line with the Conference decision.

### **III. ROUND TABLE**

#### 13. **Round table – from declarations to actions: follow up to L'Aquila Initiative on Food Security and WSFS in the region**

After decades of neglect and underinvestment, the agriculture sector has received renewed attention and support for growth in the wake of the soaring food prices in 2007-08. Following on the heels of a number of global meetings, including the June 2008 High-Level Conference on Food Security organized by FAO and the Comprehensive Framework for Action formulated by the UN High-Level Task Force on Global Food Security Crisis, raising concerns on the implications of the food crisis, the July 2009 G-8 Summit in L'Aquila, Italy, issued L'Aquila Joint Statement on Food Security laying out the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative (AFSI). It focuses on the medium and long-term implementation of urgent actions to tackle hunger and malnutrition, to improve the agricultural productivity of family farmers (especially women farmers), and to enable small-scale producers to benefit from food processing, marketing and trading systems that respond to their interests. The initiative identifies food security, safety nets, nutrition and sustainable agriculture as political imperatives to be pursued within an evolving context of supply uncertainties and price volatility. It links food and nutrition security to (a) climate change adaptation and mitigation measures; (b) sustainable natural resource management, including biodiversity protection; (c) responses to the interests of women farmers and their communities; and (d) social protection systems that ensure access to food and nutrients among the most vulnerable. Importantly, the

initiative envisages strong multilateral action in support of country-led processes that are driven by national authorities with increased levels of financial assistance that are both sustained and predictable. It calls for effective coordination among all stakeholders. The initiative foresees a strong role for multilateral institutions. To date, the international community has pledged over US\$ 22 billion in financial resources to support the AFSI, and a new financial mechanism is being established under the World Bank to support delivery, the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP).

The November 2009 Summit on World Food Security held in Rome, Italy, unanimously adopted a declaration pledging renewed commitment to eradicate hunger from the face of the earth sustainably at the earliest date. Countries agreed to work to reverse the decline in domestic and international funding for agriculture and promote new investment in the sector, to improve governance of global food issues in partnership with relevant stakeholders from the public and private sector, and to proactively face the challenges of climate change to food security. Towards achieving these strategic objectives, the Summit adopted Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security on which the country's commitments and actions will be based. The Five Principles emphasize: (i) investing in country-owned plans; (ii) fostering strategic coordination at national, regional and global levels including through implementing reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS); (iii) striving for a comprehensive twin-track approach to food security; (iv) ensuring a strong role for the multilateral system; and (v) ensuring substantial and sustained commitment by all partners to invest in agriculture and food security and nutrition.

The challenge now is to translate the declarations into strategically focused programmes of actions, including mobilizing the support of all stakeholders from the policy planning to the grass roots level at the country level, regional action plans to tackle transboundary issues of common interest, knowledge sharing and transfer, trade and investment facilitation and development of regional coordination mechanisms, and successful negotiations at the global level on climate change, trade and other important issues impinging on agricultural development and food security. But to move to implementation, financial pledges should be made effectively available.

Delegates to the 30<sup>th</sup> FAO Regional Conference will be invited to share their experiences and perspectives on how to effectively follow up and coordinate at the country level on the AFSI and WSFS declarations and resource mobilization objectives, during an informal facilitated round table discussion. It is anticipated that suggestions for future collaboration and mutual learning among member countries and organizations will emerge from the round table discussions.

#### **IV. OTHER MATTERS**

14. Any other matter

#### **V. CONCLUDING ITEMS**

15. Date and Place of the 31st FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific
16. Adoption of the Report (including the Report of the Senior Officers Meeting)
17. Closure of the Conference