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Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

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Unies pour l'alimentation  
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная организация  
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las  
Naciones Unidas para la  
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة  
الغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

# FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

## Thirty-fourth Session

Nadi, Fiji, 9–13 April 2018

## PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

### SENIOR OFFICERS MEETING

9–11 April 2018

## I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1. Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Appointment of Rapporteur
2. Adoption of Agenda and Timetable

*(Please see Plenary Session items 3 to 9 on pages 6-8)*

## II. REGIONAL AND GLOBAL POLICY AND REGULATORY ISSUES

### 10. State of Food and Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific Region, including Future Prospects and Emerging Issues

The Asia and the Pacific region as a whole has made remarkable progress in reducing food insecurity and malnutrition from the levels prevailing in the mid-1960s. The development of agriculture, including crops, livestock, fisheries (blue growth) and forestry, played a key role in making this progress possible. This paper presents an analytical narrative of the process through which the region has reached its present situation. It analyses the different approaches taken by governments in the

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region to promote agricultural development as well as food security and nutrition in order to explain the differences in food security and nutrition seen across countries. The lessons learned from these experiences are used to assess the prospects for attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 2, while tackling new and emerging challenges such as climate change, endemic and emerging diseases and pests or their vectors, urbanization and ageing populations. Delegates are encouraged to exchange views, relate country experiences and share information on the food security situation in the region and to bring to the table ideas and suggestions for achieving the SDGs.

#### **11. Climate Action for Agriculture: Strengthening the Engagement of Agriculture Sectors to Implement the Climate Change Elements of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific**

Climate change poses a systemic risk to the achievement of food security in Asia and the Pacific. In acknowledgement of this risk, member countries in the region have highlighted the agriculture and land sectors as key priorities for action under the Paris Agreement (SDG 13) and the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction. Strategic engagement by Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Fishery Ministries in these international frameworks will enhance the capacity to finance and scale up measures to strengthen the climate resilience of food and agriculture systems. This paper provides a review of current knowledge on climate change risks to food security in the region and the opportunities and challenges for the agriculture and land sectors to play a more ambitious role in implementing the Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework. It discusses the potential benefits of strong, sector-based action in support of achievement of the SDG targets related to food security, as well as the potential contributions from strategic partnerships involving the private sector, civil society, South-South and triangular cooperation and development partners. The paper cites novel adaptation strategies, such as geographic indications - GI and Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems - GIAHS, that can help farmers increase resilience and provide a buffer against extreme climate events.

Member countries are invited to provide guidance on how FAO can best support their efforts to address the needs and priorities of the agriculture sectors under the climate change-related elements of the 2030 Agenda and how FAO, through its Global Strategy and Regional Initiative on Climate Change, can best support member countries to plan and implement sector-specific action to address climate change risks to food security.

#### **12. Accelerating Action on Food Security and Nutrition in Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS)**

The Global Action Programme (GAP) on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) was launched in July 2017 with the aim of accelerating action on food security and nutrition to support the sustainable development of SIDS. Realizing the benefits of the GAP at the community level requires tailoring the Programme to the specific social, cultural and technological characteristics of individual countries in the various SIDS regions. Accordingly, a 'Regional Framework for Accelerating Action on Food Security and Nutrition in Pacific SIDS' (Pacific Framework) is under development and FAO will deliver its contribution to the Pacific Framework through the Inter-Regional Initiative (IRI) on SIDS.

The IRI includes a cross-regional component to promote south-south cooperation, partnerships and experience sharing, as well as components designed to address the specificities and requirements of the three SIDS regions. This paper further presents the approach to developing the Pacific components of the GAP and IRI, and outlines initial FAO activities under the IRI up to December 2018.

Ministers are invited to provide guidance on preferred priority actions as proposed under the Pacific Framework and the Inter-Regional Initiative as mechanisms through which FAO will deliver its contribution to the implementation of the GAP in the Pacific SIDS region. The Chair of the Joint FAO and Pacific Community (SPC) Pacific Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry Meeting that took place in Vanuatu, on 20 October 2017, is invited to report on the outcomes of that meeting as they relate to the GAP. At the Dialogue Meeting between the FAO Director-General and the leaders of the Pacific Island countries, held at FAO headquarters, on 11 November 2017, Pacific Leaders called for expanded partnerships at technical and political level between FAO and the Pacific CROP Agencies, namely the Pacific Islands Forum, SPC and the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, as well as subregional organizations. In this regard, Members are also invited to provide guidance to the Secretariat on how mainstreaming / integrating the GAP into key Pacific regional fora can be accelerated and what priority actions are to be taken by FAO towards enhancing collaboration and partnerships with traditional and new partners for improving food security and nutrition in the Pacific SIDS region.

### **13. Addressing Food Safety Challenges of the Asia-Pacific Region**

In the Asia and the Pacific region, food safety is important from the dual perspectives of improving public health and nutrition and enhancing trade in food commodities. Concerns of consumers on the fitness for consumption of food produced and traded across borders needs to be allayed through effective risk-based systems that assure safety and quality throughout the food chain. The paper discusses the key challenges being faced, some solutions, and potential partnerships (private sector, civil society, South-South triangular cooperation, development partners) that can be used to enhance food safety systems in the region. It describes FAO's contribution to the strengthening of technical capacity to implement risk-based approaches in critical areas such as food inspection, monitoring, and surveillance; laboratory analysis; import control and strengthening the evidence base required for the framing of rules, regulations and procedures. It explains, with examples, how improved food-control measures and codes of practice can be implemented at every step of the chain, enabling smallholders to produce safer food and gain access to markets. It underscores the importance of implementing FAO's action plan for tackling antimicrobial resistance (AMR) through technical capacity development, evidence generation, governance and dissemination of good practices. The paper dwells on FAO's One Health Regional Initiative, currently being rolled out, as an expanded multidisciplinary opportunity to demonstrate benefits to agriculture, food systems and the environment in the region. It argues that the adoption of voluntary and international food standards, especially from Codex, can lead to multiple wins for the consumer, for the private sector and the government in the form of safer and more nutritious food, increased innovation and trade and better public health. Ministers are invited to advise FAO on areas of focus in the development of national capacities in core technical areas of food safety and cohesive actions to harmonize food safety standards in the Asia-Pacific region to safeguard public health and promote trade.

## **III. PROGRAMME AND BUDGET MATTERS**

### **14. Results and Priorities for FAO Activities in the Region**

The Regional Conference will consider how FAO activities have addressed previously agreed regional priorities during 2016-2017 and will provide guidance on areas of regional priority for 2018-2019 and beyond. The discussion will be informed by the results of FAO's work in the region, the Medium Term Plan 2018-21 and Programme of Work and Budget 2018-2019 approved by the FAO Conference in July 2017; priorities and recommendations of the Regional Technical Commissions; and the plans and priorities of partners such as the Regional Economic Organizations, civil society organizations (CSOs) and the private sector.

#### **15. Decentralized Offices Network**

Ongoing efforts to improve and strengthen the work of FAO's Decentralized Offices network in the region will be reviewed and recommendations formulated to enhance the Organization's effectiveness and efficiency at regional and country level. The specific paper will also refer to the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of FAO country Representations (2017-2019), for which commemorative activities are being undertaken to highlight the importance of FAO's field programme and long-term presence through country offices across the region.

### **IV. OTHER MATTERS**

#### **16. Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2016-2019 for the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific**

Development of a Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2016-2019 for the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific is recommended, in accordance with the Assessment of FAO Governance Reforms (C 2015/26 Rev.1), to enable continuity and longer-term planning and accountability.

#### **17. Date and Place of the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific**

#### **18. Any Other Matters**

Any other business.

### **V. CONCLUDING ITEMS**

Adoption of the Report of the Senior Officers Meeting

The Rapporteur will introduce the SOM report prepared by the Drafting Committee for consideration and adoption. The meeting will adopt the report, with appropriate amendments, by consensus.

Closure of the Senior Officers Meeting.

#### **Side Event: Celebrating 40 years of FAO's country Representations in Asia and the Pacific**

This exhibition will celebrate FAO's lasting commitment to the field and country-level cooperation with host governments. It will give visibility to the achievements of FAO's country programmes and advocate for the role of the Organization's country offices. The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary initiative is an opportunity to raise awareness of FAO's decentralized operations and strengthen opportunities for resource mobilization and partnerships, including South-South and Triangular Cooperation. Particular emphasis will be placed on the importance of FAO's long-term presence and technical assistance in the field for contributing to member countries' achievement of the SDGs.

**INFORMATION NOTE<sup>1</sup>****a) Report on the Outcome of the FAO Regional Meeting on Agricultural Biotechnologies in Sustainable Food Systems and Nutrition in Asia-Pacific**

The FAO Regional Meeting on Agricultural Biotechnologies in Sustainable Food Systems and Nutrition in Asia-Pacific was successfully held on 11-13 September 2017 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This note provides members with information on the proceedings of the meeting.

**b) Report on the Outcome of the Asia and the Pacific Symposium on Sustainable Food Systems for Healthy Diets and Improved Nutrition**

The FAO Regional Meeting on Sustainable Food Systems for Healthy Diets and Improved Nutrition was successfully held on 10-11 November 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand. This note provides members with information on the proceedings of the meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> If they so wish, delegates may comment on the information notes under "Any Other Matters".

## PLENARY SESSION

12–13 April 2018

### **3. Statement by the Director-General**

### **4. Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council**

### **5. Statement by the Chairperson of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific**

The statement of the Chairperson of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific will provide a brief on the outcome of the deliberations of the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Conference (Rome, 3-8 July 2017) and the 158<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Council (Rome, 4-8 December 2017) on matters related to the Asia and the Pacific region.

### **6. Statement by the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)**

The CFS Chairperson will provide an overview of the main outcomes of the 43<sup>rd</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup> Plenary Sessions, reporting on the activities undertaken in 2016-2017.

### **7. Statement by the Spokesperson of the Civil Society Consultation**

The spokesperson of the Civil Society consultation will present the statement/declaration of the outcome of the consultation.

### **8. Ministerial Round Table on Zero Hunger**

FAO has a Zero Hunger vision. In the Asia and Pacific Region, it is possible to achieve this vision through SDG 1, 2 and 3 and with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This event will showcase the Regional Zero Hunger processes that demonstrate progress made towards that vision and especially the successes to date in SDG 2 made by FAO in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The Asia and Pacific region currently faces complex challenges in malnutrition and hunger manifested by a triple burden of undernourishment, micronutrient deficiencies and obesity. New insights on these issues have been provided by a series of recent FAO publications and events: the 2017 Asia and the Pacific Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition; the Pacific Week of Agriculture held in Port Vila, Vanuatu, in October 2017; and the Asia and the Pacific Symposium on Sustainable Food Systems for Healthy Diets and Improved Nutrition, held in Bangkok in November 2017. Within the framework set by these publications and events, the session will open a dialogue on lessons learned, gaps and opportunities for even more effective Zero Hunger efforts in the future at the regional level. The discussion will highlight the vision of a Zero Hunger region and steps to make that vision a reality.

## **9. Prioritization of Country and Regional Needs**

The Asia and the Pacific region faces various challenges in the food and agricultural sectors, such as food security, climate change, emergence of infectious diseases and endemic disease burdens, natural resource degradation and depletion and natural disasters. This session allows the heads of country delegations to deliver their statements. Delegates are invited to outline their views on the priorities for addressing national and regional needs in three to four minutes each.

### **Review and Endorsement of the SOM Report of the Conference**

The draft report of the Senior Officers Meeting will be reviewed and endorsed.

The Report will be introduced by the Rapporteur.

### **Round Table on Imagining Future Healthy and Inclusive Food Systems in Asia and the Pacific**

Asia and the Pacific is experiencing major demographic shifts and rapid urbanization. E-agriculture technologies (remote sensing, drones, sensors) are emerging, with potentially profound implications for the entire food system and management of the natural resource base. Structural transformation of the economy has also changed the nature of the food security problem. Earlier, many governments thought that producing more staple food was sufficient to improve food security. However, today's economy, increasingly based on human capital and less on physical strength, requires that policies and programmes promote healthy diets for healthy people. This need for improved nutrition will require shifts in agricultural production and trade patterns. Solving the malnutrition problem in urban areas will also require different solutions than in rural areas, due to the difference in urban and rural food environments. In line with the structural transformation of the economy, farm households also increasingly rely on non-farm income to support their livelihoods and risk management strategies, which has implications for the uptake of new technologies. The demographic shifts, urbanization and structural changes in the economy, coupled with climate change, have made the food security and nutrition problem more complex than in the past. Solutions require input from different stakeholders, both public and private, as well as a range of government ministries, including health, finance, education, environment, trade and social welfare in addition to agriculture. This round table session will encourage delegates to exchange views on these challenges and share suggestions for creating healthy food systems that promote good nutrition and accelerate poverty reduction through inclusive and sustainable agricultural development.

### **Side Event on Strategic Programmes**

The side event on the Strategic Programmes (SP) will discuss how the SP in the region has facilitated interdisciplinary work, improved the integration between the work programmes of headquarters and the field, and improved the overall delivery of the organization. It will be held on Tuesday in order to maximize synergy with the standing agenda item on "Results and priorities for FAO activities in the region," which will take place on the same day.

Using specific examples, Strategic Programme Leaders (SPLs) will describe how developmental issues (e.g. nutrition, rural incomes) of the member countries have been looked at from a multisectoral, multidisciplinary approach, highlighting the value added that was achieved as a result of the SP structure. Government officials will describe how they have witnessed a practical difference in the implementation of the Country Programming Frameworks by the Organization.

**Adoption of the Report of the Conference****Closure of the Conference**