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COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

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FAO's Work in the Food and Agriculture Sector under the Strategic Framework

Executive Summary

This document provides an overview of FAO's achievements in food and agriculture (agriculture, livestock, food safety, nutrition, natural resource management and rural development) during 2014-2015, global developments and trends that are likely to influence FAO's future work in food and agriculture, and priority areas of work to be taken into account in the quadrennial review of the Strategic Framework and the preparation of the Medium Term Plan 2018-2021.

Suggested action by the Committee

The Committee is requested to:

- a) Take note and provide any comments on the achievements, and the developments and trends identified with respect to the food and agriculture sector (sections II and III).
- b) Provide guidance on the main priorities for FAO's work in food and agriculture to be taken into account in the review of the Strategic Framework and the preparation of the Medium Term Plan 2018-2021 (Section IV).

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. As foreseen in the programming, budgeting and results-based monitoring system put in place by the Conference in 2009, the Organization's Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2014-17 was reviewed during 2014, taking into account trends and developments in the external environment and the guidance provided by the Regional Conferences, Technical Committees, Programme and Finance Committees and the Council. The MTP 2014-17 (reviewed)¹ was approved by the FAO Conference in June 2015.

2. There has been strong and consistent support expressed by the FAO governing bodies during 2015 and 2016 for continuity in the strategic direction of the Organization in order to realize the full impact of the Strategic Framework (see Annex 1). Several important global developments occurred in 2015-2016 which will provide the broad framework for FAO's work in the future. These are as follows:

- a) The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted at the United Nations in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda setting the framework for mobilizing the means of implementation.
- b) The Paris Agreement on climate change adopted at the United Nations Global Climate Change Conference (COP21) which strengthens the global response to the threat of climate change.
- c) The Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) and its outcome documents, the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action which set policies and programmes options to create an enabling environment to improve nutrition in all sectors.
- d) The World Humanitarian Summit, proposing a broad agenda of reforming and rejuvenating the global humanitarian system.
- e) The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, adopting a forward-looking and action-oriented framework for building resilience and reducing disaster risk and losses.
- f) The UN Summit on Refugees and Migrants; and
- g) Habitat III/New Urban Agenda.

3. The quadrennial review of the FAO Strategic Framework and preparation of a new MTP 2018-21 is taking place during 2016, through the Regional Conferences and Technical Committees, for approval by the Council and Conference in the first half of 2017. This offers the opportunity to further focus FAO's work to yield more concrete results, particularly at the country level. The FAO Council has welcomed the alignment of FAO's Strategic Framework with the SDGs, noting that there would be opportunity for bringing further coherence while preparing the MTP 2018-2021.

4. In this context, the document provides an overview of FAO's work in food and agriculture organized as follows:

- a) Brief overview of FAO's achievements contributing to the Strategic Objectives (SOs) in the 2014-2015 biennium.
- b) Global developments and trends influencing FAO's work in food and agriculture to be taken account in the review of the Strategic Framework and preparation of the MTP 2018-2021.
- c) Areas of future priority action in the context of the FAO Strategic Framework and the global trends and developments identified.

¹ C 2015/3

II. ACHIEVEMENTS IN FAO'S WORK IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN 2014-15

5. The Programme Implementation Report 2014-15 (PIR)² documents the achievements of the Organization during the biennium. FAO has worked hard to keep hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition at the forefront of world attention. As a result, food and agriculture lie at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and FAO's Strategic Objectives are broadly aligned with the SDGs. FAO provided technical advice to its member countries to support their involvement in the negotiations of the Paris Agreement and in meeting their commitments, making sure that the linkages are made between climate change, agriculture and food security. The Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action committed world leaders to establishing national policies aimed at eradicating malnutrition and transforming food systems to make nutritious diets available to all.

6. In the 2014-2015 biennium, FAO reached nearly 90 percent of its planned outputs, meaning that the Organization delivered the assistance it committed to in the Programme of Work and Budget. This delivery helped Members reach nearly 80 percent of expected Outcome targets, showing that FAO's work and efforts is having a significant and measureable impact. Where targets were not met, valuable lessons were learned about the constraints FAO faces and how to address them in the future.

7. Thirty-eight percent of countries made good progress in the critical areas of improved governance and coordination mechanisms and partnerships for food security and nutrition compared to just 19 percent in 2014. At the same time, the excellent progress made at the global and regional level during the biennium is gradually translating into progress at country level, especially in the recognition of the role of civil society and the private sectors in the national food security and nutrition governance mechanisms.

8. FAO supported 245 initiatives in 89 countries in sustainable agricultural production practices using participatory approaches with results well exceeding the target, including more than 80 initiatives in Africa alone. Forty-one percent of countries were able to have a high or medium-high reduction in the crop yield gap and over half of countries had reduced the area of natural vegetation and protected ecosystems lost to agriculture. In addition, FAO supported 215 initiatives in 74 countries to adopt integrated and multisectoral approaches at ecosystem level with prominent results seen in natural resources management, ecosystem-based approaches in fisheries and aquaculture, sustainable land and water management, biodiversity conservation, and promotion of land and watershed management plans.

9. Through improved partnerships with regions, countries, and resource partners, FAO supported 18 countries in defining, implementing and monitoring gender-equitable and sustainable rural development and poverty reduction strategies. By using FAO guidance tools, case studies and good practices such as Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools, ten countries formulated and implemented policies, strategies and programmes generating decent employment in rural areas, while only five received support in extending the application of International Labour Standards.

10. Within the Save Food Initiative, a partnership network was built with over 500 members including civil society, the private sector, the UN institutions and academia, and FAO supported 45 countries in reducing food waste and loss. Also FAO helped small-scale value chain actors in 56 countries improve inclusiveness, efficiency and sustainability at local level. FAO's work on supportive policies, financial instruments and investments was fully realized in terms of the number of targets

² C 2017/8 PIR 2014-15 (<http://www.fao.org/pir>)

achieved. Thirty-eight countries received FAO's support to increase responsible investment in efficient and inclusive agrifood systems.

11. Some 76 countries benefited from FAO's support to put in place standards, guidelines and practices for hazard and emergency preparedness. FAO's activities focused on support to training at national, sub-regional or regional level on the FAO Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards and Good Emergency Management Practices. FAO assisted countries in Africa and Asia with enhanced Avian Influenza crisis preparedness strategies. The Organization played a leading role during emergencies that widely affected the agriculture sector. All countries that were in Level 3 emergencies and 88 percent in Levels 1 and 2 benefited from FAO's emergency response coordination support.

12. Summaries of results and achievements for each Strategic Objective, including gender and statistics, are provided in Annex 2, and further detail is available on the FAO web site at <http://www.fao.org/pir>.

III. GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS AND TRENDS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

13. The following developments and trends arise from the topics considered by the current 25th Session of COAG, and the ongoing international processes affecting agriculture, livestock, food safety, nutrition, natural resource management and the social, technical, economic, institutional and structural aspects relating to agricultural and rural development in general in the context of the trends presented at the 24th Session of COAG in 2014³.

A. Global development context and its relevance to food and agriculture

a) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda

14. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which entered into effect on 1 January 2016, represents a paradigm shift in the world's vision, approach, and ambition for development. Three inter-governmentally agreed documents make up the 2030 Agenda: "Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"; the Addis Ababa Action Agenda; and the Paris Agreement on climate change. Member States have declared that this agenda is both universal and indivisible. They call for holistic, laterally integrated approaches to achieve all three outcomes together.

15. The 2030 Agenda is a historic commitment to tackle poverty and hunger, promote sustainable use of natural resources and address climate change through an interconnected set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), recognizing that issues concerning food, livelihoods, and the management of natural resources cannot be addressed separately. At the heart of the 2030 Agenda is an overarching normative commitment to "leave no one behind." This principle encapsulates the United Nations' distinctive commitment to social inclusion, including gender equality and women's empowerment, protection of the vulnerable, and measurement of success through the lens of impact on the least advantaged. It demands active efforts to address inequality, and imposes a demanding test for all policy prescriptions.

16. In the areas of FAO's mandates, the policy aspirations of the new agenda are large and transformative: eradication of poverty, hunger, and malnutrition; global transition to more sustainable production, transformation and consumption of food and agriculture products, including an extensive commitment to protect biodiversity, ensure sustainable use of land, soils, fisheries, forests, mountains,

³ COAG/2014/2

oceans and water, and reduce food loss and waste; and a treaty commitment, backed by substantial resources, to take actions to hold global warming well below 2°C, while ensuring timely action to promote adaptation and improve disaster risk reduction for climate resilience.

17. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda, builds on the two previous Financing for Development conferences and addresses all sources of finance, and covers cooperation on a range of issues including technology, science, innovation, trade and capacity building. While domestic resource mobilization is central to the agenda, commitments to official development assistance were reaffirmed, particularly for the least developed countries, including pledges to increase South-South cooperation. The outcome document also underscores the importance of aligning private investment with sustainable development, along with public policies and regulatory frameworks to set the right incentives. A new mechanism that will facilitate financing for new technologies for developing countries was also agreed upon.

b) The Paris Agreement on Climate Change

18. The Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will be implemented through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs⁴) towards climate change mitigation and adaptation put forward by each Party to the Convention and will come into force in 2020. Climate action will also be taken forward in the period before 2020. Countries will continue to engage in a process on mitigation opportunities and will put added focus on adaptation opportunities and climate resilience. Additionally, they will work to define a clear roadmap on ratcheting up climate finance to USD 100 billion by 2020.

19. Food and agricultural systems feature prominently in adaptation and mitigation efforts and will play an important role in the implementation of these national climate action plans, particularly in developing countries where the share of agriculture in total value added is significant. Food value chain actors, therefore, need to be supported in order to overcome adoption barriers to implementing improved practices within these systems. The 22nd session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 22) to the UNFCCC is scheduled to take place in November 2016 and will focus on Africa, where agriculture and related activities represent a large share of the economies in most countries.

20. FAO has prepared a corporate climate change strategy and action plan, presented in the current session of COAG⁵, which lays out what FAO aims to achieve and how it will do so in order to best support member countries in confronting the climate change adaptation and resilience needs of their food and agricultural systems and dependent livelihoods, particularly of that of the poorest, while also realizing the mitigation potential of these systems.

c) ICN2 and Framework for Action on Nutrition

21. At the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) world leaders adopted the Rome Declaration on Nutrition⁶ and the Framework for Action⁷, renewing their commitment to establish and implement policies aimed at eradicating malnutrition and transforming food systems to make nutritious diets available to all.

⁴ Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) = when a country has ratified the Paris Agreement, their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) becomes the NDC unless they explicitly submit a new NDC to replace the INDC.

INDC = intended, i.e. refers to future plans. Countries submitted INDCs toward the Paris agreement.

[I]NDC = when reference as is made to both INDCs and NDCs in the document.

⁵ COAG/2016/7

⁶ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-ml542e.pdf>

⁷ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mm215e.pdf>

22. The Rome Declaration on Nutrition acknowledges the multiple challenges of malnutrition to inclusive and sustainable development and to health. It sets out a common vision for global action to end all forms of malnutrition. The Framework for Action provides a set of voluntary policy options and strategies, in the form of 60 recommended actions, to guide the implementation of the wide-ranging commitments stated in the Rome Declaration on Nutrition.

23. On 1 April 2016, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed a UN Decade of Action on Nutrition that will run from 2016 to 2025. The resolution for the decade of Action on Nutrition recognizes the need to eradicate hunger and prevent all forms of malnutrition worldwide, providing an umbrella for a wide group of actors to work together to address these and other pressing nutrition issues. FAO and WHO will lead the implementation of the Decade of Action on Nutrition in collaboration with UN Agencies and other stakeholders.

d) The World Humanitarian Summit (WHS)

24. At the first World Humanitarian Summit, held in Istanbul in May 2016, a Commitment to Action was signed by several UN agencies and programmes, endorsed by the World Bank (WB) and International Organization for Migration (IOM), to transcend the humanitarian-development divide, reducing the human cost of disasters and protracted crises by supporting people, communities and countries at risk, or caught up in crises, to build resilience. This recognizes that we must go beyond meeting humanitarian needs, which can no longer be viewed in isolation from broader sustainable development efforts that tackle the root causes of prolonged and recurrent need.

e) The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

25. The 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Sendai in March 2015, adopted the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030. It builds on the experiences of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015) and recognizes disaster risk reduction as an important component of sustainable development. The framework addresses the risks of all disasters in scale and temporal dimensions caused by natural and human-induced hazards as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards and associated risks.

26. Notable innovations of the Sendai Framework include: the shift to a wider multi hazard risk management approach, which includes transboundary, technological and biological hazards and disasters and emphasizes multi-sectoral engagement in planning and delivery of DRR actions and recognizes the importance of well-functioning health systems. The framework calls for strengthening the use of science and technology in policy-making and clearly articulates the role of disaster risk governance with a strong emphasis on “Build Back Better” during recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction. Specific innovative elements of the SFDRR include the call for more coherent risk sensitive development policies for most vulnerable sectors, including agriculture and food security, and the role of social safety-net mechanisms in the realm of food security and nutrition. The need to protect agriculture and productive assets including livestock, working animals, tools and seeds are specifically referred.

27. By adopting the SFDRR, countries pledged to enhance efforts to strengthen disaster risk reduction and reduce the losses of lives, assets and livelihoods caused by disasters. The endorsement of this new framework was a milestone in shaping the global resilience agenda. The structure of FAO’s current resilience programme relates closely to the four priority areas of the Sendai Framework.

f) UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants and other global developments on migration

28. Several global initiatives have been recently launched to address current migration patterns. The resolution 69/229 “International Migration and Development”, adopted by the General Assembly

on 19 December 2014⁸, underlines the important role that migrants play as contributors in the development of countries of origin, transit and destination. Migration and human mobility are explicitly recognized in the 2030 Agenda, which establishes a number of migration-related targets across the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

29. The UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants will take place in September 2016. The Summit will address, *inter alia*, the root causes of large movements of refugees, drivers of migration, international action and cooperation on refugees and migrants, and issues related to displacement. Human rights of migrants and addressing vulnerabilities of refugees will also be on the agenda.

30. FAO can contribute to the definition of a comprehensive approach towards migration and displacement, building on its extensive technical expertise in: (i) exploring and enhancing the positive linkages between migration, food security, climate change, agricultural and rural transformation, and peace, stability and security; (ii) enhancing countries' capacities and policy coherence to address migration in specific policy areas (e.g. ending hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition; promoting rural employment opportunities for youth; better managing natural resources; improving access to social protection; promoting gender equality; strengthening rural organizations; disaster risk management); (iii) building community resilience in natural hazard, disaster- and crisis-prone contexts by supporting sustainable livelihoods and reducing distress rural out-migration.

g) Habitat III - United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development

31. The urbanization process and associated demographic changes are posing unprecedented challenges for hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in all forms (including under nutrition, micronutrients deficiency and obesity) that are being manifested increasingly in urban areas. Food security, malnutrition and hunger in urban areas are receiving growing attention world-wide and need to be recognized at international, national, sub-national and local levels as key components of the urban and territorial sustainable development.

32. In line with the bi-decennial cycle (1976, 1996 and 2016), the United Nations General Assembly decided to convene the Habitat III conference in October 2016 to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable urbanization, to focus on the implementation of a New Urban Agenda, building on the Habitat Agenda of Istanbul in 1996.

33. FAO can contribute The Habitat III conference and the New Urban Agenda through (i) raising awareness on access to appropriate food and nutrition as a fundamental right (ii) integrating food in the new global strategy around urbanization; (iii) strengthening partnership and multi-stakeholder involvement, and developing approaches for the post Habitat III process in collaboration with UN Agencies.

B. Specific trends and challenges in the agriculture and food sectors

34. Trends identified in the 24th session of COAG in 2014 are still valid, namely climate change, increased competition for natural resources, science and technology innovations, increased interdependency of food systems, and rapid urbanization with implications for rural areas. The additional trends identified below, grouped under three broad categories will affect the food and agriculture sectors in the mid and long-term and will therefore influence, to varying degrees, the work of the Organization.

⁸ [A/RES/69/229](#)

a) *The expanding scope of agriculture (see agenda items 3, 4, 7, 11, 13)*

35. In the last few years, and particularly with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the central role of agriculture (crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture) in economic, social and environmental well-being has been reconfirmed and the cross-sectoral nature of agriculture and food has been explicitly recognized. The scope of agriculture has expanded beyond the provision of food and income generation. Agriculture is a major user of natural resources, it has an important role in nutrition and health and overall wellbeing, and contributes to stability and peace. The SDGs explicitly recognize these and provide an important step toward effectively tackling challenges to food security and hunger and introduce a new vision of development based on programmes and policies that are integrative and holistic, thus enabling more innovative development strategies.

36. Achieving sustainable development will require coherent actions across the various sectors of food and agriculture as well as the whole food system. In this regard, a common understanding and better dialogue across sectors, improved governance mechanisms, effective agricultural innovation systems, mainstreaming of nutrition and health in food systems and reliable data and information for evidence-based decision making is crucial.

37. In this context, cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approaches are also being promoted, to foster collaboration across various sectors related to agriculture and food sectors and to develop public policies that are more effective in addressing challenges. These include, *inter alia*, *Global Health and One Health* approaches, bringing health and nutrition focus to food systems as well as collaborative mechanisms to address animal health and diseases and the increasing frequency and intensity of disasters as mentioned below.

b) *Emerging threats and crises and their impacts (see agenda items 3, 5, 7, 11, 13)*

38. Climate change impacts – which include slow onset environmental change processes, increasing climate variability and enhanced exposure to extreme weather events – pose multiple challenges: damages and losses, productivity growth rates driven downward, and pressure added to already fragile food and ecological systems.

39. While there is clear evidence that climate change is altering the distribution of animal and plant pests and diseases, the full effects are difficult to predict. Changes in temperature, moisture and atmospheric gases can fuel growth and generation rates of plants, fungi and insects, altering the interactions between pests, their natural enemies and their hosts. Changes in land cover, such as deforestation or desertification, can make the remaining plants and animals increasingly vulnerable to pests and diseases. Some of the most dramatic effects of climate change on transboundary animal diseases are likely to be seen among insect vectors, like mosquitoes, midges, ticks, fleas and sandflies, and the viruses they carry. With changes in temperatures and humidity levels, the populations of these insects may expand their geographic range, and expose animals and humans to diseases to which they have no natural immunity.

40. Transboundary plant and animal diseases and pests account for a large percentage of post-harvest losses and pose serious threats to animal and human health across the world. Global health threats have increased over the past decades with over 75 percent of emerging diseases affecting humans having their origin in animals (livestock and wildlife), as a result of globalization, demographic growth, agricultural environmental encroachment, as well as climate and changes in land use policies. *One health* thinking and action helps finding ways to limit these risks and encourage resilient livelihoods.

41. The development of antimicrobial resistance and the subsequent emergence of multidrug resistant bacteria are increasingly becoming issues of global and local concern. There is need for strategies and policies to promote responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in the livestock/aquaculture production systems and improve farming practices to minimize the likelihood of AMR development and spread.

42. In addition, persistent poverty, climatic threats and increasing competition for natural resources will fuel more distress migration. The past two years has been marked by an upsurge of conflicts, with devastating impacts on livelihoods and agriculture and food sectors. Forced displacement, due to conflicts and persecutions, has increased starkly in recent years. Situations of displaced people in protracted crises contexts are of particular concern. Adapting to this changing reality requires capacities and investments for better disaster risk governance, disaster risk monitoring and early warning, vulnerability reductions measure at scale as well as preparedness and emergency response when crisis occur are inevitable.

c) Rural transformation, agricultural and food system transition (see agenda items 4, 7, 11, 13)

43. Development is a dynamic process that entails change across different layers of a society and the economy, and is generally associated with progress on an extended range of livelihood aspects. Typically, it is associated with economic growth and increasing productivity, higher incomes and social progress, which can bring reductions in food insecurity and poverty, changes in dietary patterns and livelihood improvements including the state of health and education of the population. The process is influenced by institutions and policies, investments and technology, the capacity for innovation, and human capital.

44. The process of development and its impacts varies greatly across the various groups, particularly the most vulnerable. The poor in vulnerable and risk situations face greater challenges for escaping poverty and obtaining food security, including limited citizenship, physical and economic insecurity, spatial disadvantage (e.g. living in marginal areas or refugee camps), social discrimination and poor work opportunities. In this regard, FAO recognizes that scaling-up cash-based programming and risk-informed and shock-responsive social protection systems is a strategic priority in particular to improve food security and nutrition and protect households' assets as well as increase income of the most vulnerable population.

45. Agricultural transformation and increasing incomes affect small farmers that are the backbone of agriculture in early stages of development. Members of family farmers diversify their income and employment sources and eventually leave the sector. Remaining farmers change the crop mix shifting from multi to single cropping as risks become smaller and markets substitute for commodities previously produced on their farms. Gradually, farms become profitable business and farmers are empowered to integrate into the modern food system, receive higher incomes and work with better technologies

46. To catalyse dynamic structural transformation, agriculture needs to be transformed. The agricultural transformation typically entails moving from traditional subsistence to commercial farming, modernization of production technologies, and pulling farm businesses into the formal sector. Improved access to local and international markets are essential in facilitating a dynamic transition. The transformation of the sector requires better access to improved inputs and technologies, particularly by the poor and the extreme poor, as well as higher levels of human capital, improved risk management and shock coping strategies, access to finance and better access to information.

47. The paths of agricultural transformation are heterogeneous, specific to the local context and depend strongly on initial conditions, policies followed and the quality of governance. Dynamic agricultural transitions also tend to involve consolidation of land holdings. Within this typical path of development, four relatively distinct transition processes can be recognized which are interactive and interdependent:

- a) The overall economic transformation process, which includes the transition of an economy to modern and inclusive economic structures and its diversification and specialization towards new economic activities based on the sustainable use of natural resources.
- b) The agricultural sector transformation process which includes:

- Sustainable intensification in agriculture production, considering increase in yields aligned with efficient use of resources (inputs, land, water, energy, etc), natural resources protection and enhancement, including biodiversity, improvement in livelihoods in rural areas, and adaptation to climate change.
 - Diversification of production to facilitate access to nutritious diets
 - The introduction and development of value chains that integrate the different stages of the agriculture and food system under a range of standards for quality, quantity and safety, while ensuring that the poor and the extreme-poor have access to these new employment opportunities.
- c) The dietary transformation or nutrition transition, which takes place in all income groups and during which demand for and consumption of meats, fats, oils and sugar as well as processed and convenience products increase.
- d) The social transformation, which describes a transition of different fragments of a society and includes demographic changes and urbanization.

IV. PRIORITIES FOR FAO'S FUTURE WORK IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

48. The following priorities for FAO's work in food and agriculture (agriculture, livestock, food safety, nutrition, natural resource management and the social, technical, economic, institutional and structural aspects relating to agricultural and rural development in general) are derived from the trends and developments described in Section III and contribute to the achievement of FAO's Strategic Objectives. FAO employs its core functions – norms and standard-setting, data and information, policy dialogue, capacity development, knowledge and technologies, partnerships, and advocacy and communication – to address these priorities.

49. Cross-cutting issues such as climate change, gender, nutrition and governance are well reflected through FAO's work and the Organization continues to strengthen mainstreaming these areas across its programmes. FAO supports countries in closing the gender gaps that persist in access to productive resources, services and economic opportunities, for achieving a world free from hunger and malnutrition. Approaches and activities aimed at achieving gender equality through mainstreaming gender are well reflected in all the SOs, and the 2030 Agenda provides further opportunities to strengthen gender issues in all of FAO's work. Nutrition is currently mainstreamed through nutrition sensitive agriculture and is well reflected across the SOs. Work is ongoing to better reflect links to SO3 (through the nutrition-sensitive social protection aspects addressed with SO1), SO2 (diversification of agriculture production systems), SO4 (through value chains with improved nutritional outcomes for example urban food systems and through food fortification) and SO5 (with regards to the resilience agenda within nutrition). In the future, work on governance will focus more on processes rather than mechanisms, and on further integration of programmes across sectors. Global and national governance processes occur in different fora and need to be monitored separately, although closely related.

50. Data, information and statistics is integrated in FAO's programmes, particularly to improve countries' capacities to formulate evidence-based policies and monitoring their impact. Monitoring and reporting on food insecurity and malnutrition, climate change, as well as on agriculture and rural development requires reliable and timely data. Improved data at country level are also useful in comparing progress across countries with shared indicators and statistical frameworks to help countries see their improvements in comparison to others.

51. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development brings an additional challenge to tracking progress on the 17 SDGs, which will increase demands on national statistical systems to collect and analyse data in new areas. This will create a need for increased resources for data and information systems to monitor and evaluate progress toward achievement of relevant SDGs, through the

development of appropriate indicators and robust data collection systems and multidisciplinary analytical capacities. In this regard, it will be crucial to strengthen the capacity of governments to: (a) develop data protocols and establish systems to collect and share data; (b) produce disaggregated information by different geographical areas and population groups, including marginalized communities; and (c) make reliable projections and undertake evidence-based policy analyses and report on progress made towards the achievement of the SDG targets.

52. FAO's future priority areas of work contributing to its five Strategic Objectives (SOs) can be presented under three overarching themes: (i) promoting coherent policies and actions (iii) effectively addressing climate change, threats and crises (iii) supporting sustainable agriculture and food systems transition, including cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approaches.

A. Promote coherent policies and actions to ensure improved food security and nutrition, poverty alleviation and sustainability (SO1, SO2, SO3, SO4, SO5)

53. The SDGs introduce a new vision of development based on programmes and policies that are integrative and holistic, thus enabling more innovative development strategies. The SDGs integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, environment and social), with closely interwoven goals and targets, and demand comprehensive, evidence-based and participatory approaches to problem-solving and policy-making. Most SDGs also include the disaster or crises risk dimension which is an essential element for sustainability. In a significant shift from the MDGs, the SDGs also recognize peace as a vital threshold condition for development, as well as a development outcome in its own right, and that conflict inhibits sustainable development. In this context, selected FAO priority areas of work are as follows:

- a) Promote actions that balance the different dimensions of sustainability (including resilience) and that are more integrated across crops, livestock forestry and fisheries (see agenda item 4) (all SOs).
- b) Transform FAO's engagement in conflict-affected situations into deliberately focused, strategic, and evidence-based approaches to conflict-prevention and peacebuilding (SO5).
- c) Support in development of sectoral and cross-sectoral policy frameworks to be consistent with "One Health" approaches at global, regional, and national level. One example is FAO's collaboration with WHO and OIE, to raise awareness on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)⁹ (SO2, SO4, SO5).
- d) Scale up cash-based programming and risk-informed social protection systems as a strategic priority to strengthen resilience and sustainable development (SO3, SO5).
- e) Redirect focus on governance processes rather than on coordination mechanisms in addressing issues related to food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture (SO1, SO2 and SO5).
- f) Strengthen coherent intersectoral coordination in the development of food systems (SO4).
- g) Use of a "territorial rural development approach" to help bring together sectors that usually do not work together for poverty reduction, for example social protection and agriculture (SO3 and SO5).
- h) Support to work related to the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock which builds consensus on the path towards sustainability and catalyzes coherent and collective practice change through dialogue, consultation and joint analysis (see COAG/2016/9) (SO2).
- i) Improve data and information availability, and supporting countries in improving their capacity for evidence-based decision making (all SOs).

⁹ See COAG/2016/16

B. Effectively address climate change, threats and crises to improve resilience (SO2, SO3, SO4 and SO5)

54. Specific focus will be given to climate change and extreme events, within the scope of FAO Climate Change Strategy, One Health approaches, and peace-building, stability and displacements. Special attention will be paid to integrating commitments made under the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) and its focus on climate related disasters.
55. Climate change links with the full spectrum of FAO's work on hunger and malnutrition, sustainable production, poverty, agricultural and food systems, and resilience across all agricultural sectors and natural resources. FAOs approach and expected outcomes are elaborated in COAG/2016/7. The two expected outcomes of FAO's work on climate change are:
- a) Enhanced capacities of countries on climate change through FAO leadership as a provider of technical knowledge and expertise across humanitarian and development arenas; and
 - b) Improved integration of food security, agriculture, forestry and fisheries considerations in international governance on climate change through reinforced FAO engagement.
56. A number of priority areas for strategic interventions have been identified to integrate impacts of climate change under risk reduction and management
- a) Disaster risk reduction-climate change adaptation-Climate-Smart Agriculture and overall climate resilience integration in policy design and implementation.
 - b) Development and implementation of tools and methods for characterization of natural hazards, climate information services, and establishment of relevant information systems.
 - c) Monitoring information system for damage and loss from extreme events and slow low-setting of climate change impacts on agriculture and food security and nutrition).
 - d) Monitoring and evaluation of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation good practices and analysis of returns on investment and avoided damages and losses.
 - e) Food chain crises and risks, including shifting patterns of pests and diseases.
 - f) Risk transfer, insurance and social protection for climate resilience.
 - g) Migration due to climate change.
57. The priority areas for intervention under risk governance are:
- a) Rollout of the CFS Framework for Action on Protracted Crises within countries.
 - b) Improved integration of disaster risk management, climate change adaptation, climate smart agriculture and climate resilience within the agriculture and food security and nutrition sectors.
 - c) Role of global and national food security clusters within the emergency preparedness and response landscape, as well as their contributions to longer-term rehabilitation and disaster risk management (DRM) processes on climate extreme events.
58. Other possible areas of focus are:
- a) Embedding Early Warning for Early Action in the climate resilience and DRM agendas.
 - b) Global governance of One Health, in the context of the FAO/OIE/WHO tripartite partnership to promote One Health in addressing disease threats; in particular, supporting National One Health Platforms (many countries have committed to establishing these to address emerging health risks of animal origin).
 - c) Governance of veterinary services, which is critical for building resilient and sustainable systems for detection, prevention and response to high impact diseases.

C. Support agricultural and food system transition (SO2, SO3, SO4, SO5)

59. FAO's work in supporting agricultural and food system transition (Section III B.c) includes:
- a) Support a more inclusive process of rural transformation (migration) (SO2, SO3 and SO5), one that generates decent rural employment (SO3), and making agriculture production and value-adding activities more attractive to displaced populations and youth (to address migration) (SO2, SO4 and SO5).
 - b) Support agricultural sustainability, resilience and transformation, including, Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS), agroecology and agro-biotechnology and being disaster risk informed¹⁰ (SO2 and SO5) while ensuring access to these technologies to small-scale family farmers (SO3).
 - c) Work on sustainable production and value adding activities with increased attention to issues related to gender inequalities and nutrition, including governance of natural resources, agro-biodiversity, and cross-sectoral approaches and mechanisms (SO1, SO2, and SO3).
 - d) Support to countries in using data for policy and decision-making, climate change adaptation, resilience and mitigation, innovation and technology and the extent to which policy approaches taken are helping to reduce rural poverty (SO2, SO3 and SO5).
 - e) Support development and implementation of strategies to strengthen value chains and improve trade (SO4).
 - f) Develop capacities to implement systems supportive of improved food safety, plant health and animal health (SO2, SO4 and SO5).
 - g) Nutrition-sensitive agriculture, including policies and practices (SO1, SO2 and SO5).
 - h) Urban and peri-urban food systems including nutrition and rural-urban linkages (SO1, SO2, SO4 and SO5).

¹⁰ COAG/2016/INF/4 and COAG/2016/INF/5

Annex 1 - Main components of FAO's Strategic Framework

FAO's vision

A world free of hunger and malnutrition where food and agriculture contribute to improving the living standards of all, especially the poorest, in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner.

Three Global Goals of Members:

- eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, progressively ensuring a world in which people at all times have sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life;
- elimination of poverty and the driving forward of economic and social progress for all, with increased food production, enhanced rural development and sustainable livelihoods; and
- sustainable management and utilization of natural resources, including land, water, air, climate and genetic resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

Strategic Objectives

1. Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition
2. Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner
3. Reduce rural poverty
4. Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems
5. Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

Additional Objective

6. Technical quality, knowledge and services

Cross-cutting themes

Gender
Governance
Nutrition
Climate Change

Core Functions

1. Facilitate and support countries in the development and implementation of normative and standard-setting instruments, such as international agreements, codes of conduct, technical standards and others
2. Assemble, analyse, monitor and improve access to data and information, in areas related to FAO's mandate
3. Facilitate, promote and support policy dialogue at global, regional and country levels
4. Advise and support capacity development at country and regional level to prepare, implement, monitor and evaluate evidence-based policies, investments and programmes
5. Advise and support activities that assemble, disseminate and improve the uptake of knowledge, technologies and good practices in the areas of FAO's mandate
6. Facilitate partnerships for food security and nutrition, agriculture and rural development, between governments, development partners, civil society and the private sector
7. Advocate and communicate at national, regional and global levels, in areas of FAO's mandate

Functional Objectives

Outreach
Information Technology
FAO Governance, oversight and direction
Efficient and effective administration

Annex 2 - Overview of Results Achieved in 2014-15

Strategic Objective 1: Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition

The sustainable eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition requires governments and others involved in development to act in a more coordinated way. The focus of FAO's work at global and regional level is on advocacy and fostering inclusive policy dialogue to increase political commitment and a common understanding on issues and to facilitate consensus on policy and good practices. At national level FAO works directly with decision-makers to raise awareness, develop skills and encourage policy dialogue and cross sector coordination.

By the end of the biennium, and with FAO's active support, qualitative data indicate that countries such as Bangladesh, Bolivia, Cape Verde, El Salvador, Nepal, Niger and Sierra Leone were assisted to adopt or revise policies, programmes and legislation on food security and nutrition. Forty-four percent of countries have adopted or improved *the design of policies, strategies and investment programmes supported by legal frameworks*. Results delivered by FAO exceeded the biennial target due in part to the emergence of new opportunities at country level for work on land tenure, small-scale fisheries and the right to food.

On the other hand, while the policy and legal frameworks for food security are adequate in many countries, implementation on-the-ground, as seen in the indicator for *increased human and financial resources and investments* remain weak and a priority for the future. More support is needed, for example, to track public expenditures for food security and nutrition and to analyse the effectiveness of resource allocation options. This is a new area for FAO and will require stronger strategic partnerships to be truly effective.

Altogether, 38 percent of countries have made good progress in the critical areas of *improved governance and coordination mechanisms and partnerships for food security and nutrition* –scoring high to medium high in this Outcome indicator - compared to just 19 percent in 2014. Capacity development support was provided to 70 countries across five regions during the biennium to advance mainstreaming of food security and nutrition in sectoral policies and investment programmes. For example, in DR Congo, Rwanda and Namibia, government capacities were strengthened to develop national nutrition strategies. At the same time, the excellent progress made at the global and regional level during the biennium is gradually translating into progress at country level, especially in the recognition of the role of civil society and the private sectors in the national food security and nutrition governance mechanisms.

In terms of evidenced-based decision-making, many countries are challenged by weak capacities for monitoring and analysis of policies for food security and nutrition. The contribution of FAO in this domain is mostly a result of extrabudgetary support to develop capacity to apply FAO's key tools like the Integrated Phase Classification at the country level. While progress was made in mapping and analysis of policies, programmes and legislation relevant on food security and nutrition, more support could come from the country level, for example to ensure that the results of food security and nutrition analysis are, in effect, being used by decision-makers.

Strategic Objective 2: Make agriculture more productive and sustainable

Intensifying agricultural production whilst preserving and even enhancing the natural resources, as well helping to make farming communities more resilient requires coordinated action across different sectors to encompass the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability. FAO supports member countries in increasing agricultural production, from resource-use efficiency and equity of access, through to conserving and enhancing natural resources, and assisting in achieving responsible governance.

Overall, the Outcome assessment indicates that countries are making progress by *adopting innovative practices* while showing encouraging results in terms of higher agricultural productivity. FAO

supported 245 initiatives in 89 countries in sustainable agricultural production practices using participatory approaches with results well exceeding the target, including more than 80 initiatives in Africa alone. This covers a vital area in terms of FAO's technical assistance in countries to adopt technologies and approaches to improve sustainable production. In Burundi, a new approach was adopted for sustainable and integrated locally adapted production systems. Another approach that has been widely and successfully used by FAO are farmers' field schools (FFS). In Mali, 400 FFS were established, benefitting an estimated 10 000 producers, nearly a third of whom are women.

Forty-one percent of countries were able to have a high or medium-high reduction in the crop yield gap and over half of countries had reduced the area of natural vegetation and protected ecosystems lost to agriculture. In applying sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, 74 percent of countries improved their production practices. Twenty-six percent of countries scored high and medium-high in bringing forest areas under Forest Management Plans. By contrast, sustainable forest management worsened for those countries in the low and medium-low range.

FAO supported 215 initiatives in 74 countries to adopt integrated and multisectoral approaches at ecosystem level with prominent results seen in natural resources management, ecosystem-based approaches in fisheries and aquaculture, sustainable land and water management, biodiversity conservation, and promotion of land and watershed management plans. The results show such facilitated approaches are crucial for ecosystem level management. In Ecuador, Guatemala and Peru, FAO supported the adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices and development of participatory watershed management plans. Nevertheless, continuous efforts are still needed to strengthen ecosystem level projects for management, restoration, and dissemination of sustainable practices.

Encouragingly, an increasing number of countries indicate *improved governance frameworks* with 68 percent scoring high or medium-high in terms of national programmes and 43 percent for *sound public institutions or mechanisms for the formulation, coordination and monitoring of national programmes and strategies that foster sustainable and integrated agricultural sector production systems*. The assessment and qualitative data indicate that various countries improved their governance systems allowing them to move towards sustainable agriculture with the active support of FAO. For example, in Egypt, FAO provided cross-sectoral technical support to several ministries through the preparation of needs' assessments and water management strategies, thereby contributing to the country's "Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy Towards 2030".

FAO supported policy processes in 17 countries to improve climate change in governance frameworks with national processes for integrating agriculture in National Adaptation Plans implemented in Malawi, Uganda and expanded to Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam, Uruguay, Kenya and Zambia in partnership with UNDP.

Good results were seen in the area of *international and regional instruments* and related governance mechanisms. Just under half of all countries met their financial contributions to international mechanisms and in so doing, demonstrated their strong support, although only 26% have integrated at least one provision into their national legal frameworks.

While the majority of countries use statistics extensively in policy-making, with 69 percent at a medium-high to high degree of implementation according to the Outcome indicator, there are still significant weaknesses in progress towards *evidence-based decision-making in planning and managing agricultural sectors and natural resources for sustainable agricultural production systems*

Strategic Objective 3: Reduce rural poverty

Poverty is a major cause of food insecurity and malnutrition and continues to be a key global challenge. FAO is helping fight rural poverty by improving rural livelihoods through work to stimulate and diversify the rural economy.

The end-2015 assessment confirmed that countries face challenges in improving equitable access by the rural poor to productive resources, services, organizations or markets. By the end of the biennium, the majority of countries still had a long way to go in implementing *an improved set of strategies, policies, regulations and tools aimed at improving access by rural men and women to the productive resources and services* they need to improve their livelihoods. With FAO's support, rural poor producers and households in 18 countries enjoyed better access to technologies, knowledge, inputs and markets. Special attention was given to commodities as main sources of income, including basic grains, cassava, quinoa, palm oil, milk and other animal source food.

Similarly, in terms of the role of rural organizations to improve their capacity to assist the rural poor in achieving more equitable access to resources and services, over 80 percent of countries indicated low to medium scores on this Outcome indicator. Country case studies indicate however that FAO has contributed to improve the enabling environment, for example in Albania, for work on empowering smallholders and family farms in Europe and Central Asia as part of one of FAO's Regional Initiatives.

Reducing rural poverty requires efforts by countries to have an improved set of policies, institutions and interventions aiming to generate decent rural employment, including for women and the youth. While only about 3 percent of countries scored medium-high on this Outcome indicator, qualitative data indicate that in several countries where FAO has worked to build support, there has been strong country-level uptake. In Guatemala, Senegal and Uganda, FAO successfully used the Integrated Country Approach to promote decent employment for rural youth.

Through improved partnerships with regions, countries, and resource partners, FAO supported 18 countries in defining, implementing and monitoring gender-equitable and sustainable rural development and poverty reduction strategies.

FAO provided policy advice and technical support to countries to promote decent rural employment, especially among youth. Improving rural employment opportunities and conditions is central to any poverty reduction strategy. By using FAO guidance tools, case studies and good practices such as Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools, 10 countries formulated and implemented policies, strategies and programmes generating decent employment in rural areas, while only 5 received support in extending the application of International Labour Standards.

There is also considerable potential for countries to *strengthen social protection systems*, an area where FAO can work closely with countries to improve their institutional capacities to implement effective social protection programmes in rural areas, as well as to monitor, analyze, and design social protection policies and programmes. FAO contributed to strengthening social protection systems and making them accessible to rural populations in 17 countries, with particular attention to pro-poor, age and gender targeting improvements in 12 countries. FAO began by developing its social protection framework, strengthening its capacity and establishing strategic partnerships with the ILO, WFP, UNICEF and the World Bank to respond to country needs.

In Guatemala, the Forest and Farm Facility Programme supported formulation of a new law to ensure that, for the next 30 years, 1 percent of revenues in the national budget will be distributed to forest producers. It is estimated that 7.5 million people in 1.5 million families will benefit from the law, 30 percent of whom are women. FAO also helped improved the capacity of rural organizations in Angola, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Niger, Senegal, Somalia, Zambia, Nepal Philippines, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Bolivia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Lebanon, Sudan and Tunisia to participate in policy dialogue processes.

Strategic Objective 4: Food systems

Improving the inclusiveness and efficiency of food and agriculture systems is critical to food security and nutrition, the responsible use of natural resources and towards ensuring the production and delivery of products that are healthy and safe.

Assessing the progress of countries in implementing international agreements, mechanisms and standards promoting more efficient trade and markets has proven challenging, given that in general, trade measures continue to grow and related information is not readily available. However, where FAO has been actively engaged as in the case of the Regional Initiative on Agrifood Trade and Market Integration in Europe and Central Asia, countries like Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan and Ukraine were able to show progress in aligning their policies and regulations with international agreements. In Honduras, for example, the establishment of an agreement to address illegal logging for timber trade with FAO assistance illustrates FAO's role at the country level.

The effectiveness of FAO's efforts to support capacity development in and inclusiveness of the agrifood sector is reflected in the higher than projected level of the percentage of low and medium-low income countries that participated in the Codex Alimentarius and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) at the end of 2015. Altogether, 30 new issues were debated; 69 draft standards were progressed and 35 new standards were adopted in food safety, quality and plant health. By sharing personnel, expertise and experience, Codex and IPPC continued to work closely in developing online systems to help their members participate more effectively in intergovernmental negotiations.

Preliminary results from FAO's new Food Loss Index model, although not expected to be in full use until 2016, show that the Index decreased between 2011 and 2013 in 56 countries, indicating progress in developing and implementing agribusinesses and agrifood chains in which food losses along the way are reduced. Within the Save Food Initiative, a partnership network was built with over 500 members including civil society, the private sector, the UN institutions and academia, and FAO supported 45 countries in reducing food waste and loss. Also FAO helped small-scale value chain actors in 56 countries improve inclusiveness, efficiency and sustainability at local level.

Resource allocation to the agricultural sector remains a challenge. The agricultural investment ratio calculated over the period 2012-13 revealed a very marginal increase in 51 countries out of 57 (90 percent). In addition, an increase in agricultural investment does not guarantee increased resource allocations to address food security and nutrition, sustainable management of natural resources or poverty eradication outcomes. The endorsement in 2014 by the Committee on World Food Security of the Principles for Responsible Investments in Agriculture and Food Systems is an important step to promote responsible investment in agriculture and food systems that contribute to food security and nutrition, thus supporting the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.

FAO's work on supportive policies, financial instruments and investments was fully realized in terms of the number of targets achieved. The number of countries receiving support in responsible investment and in policy monitoring, analysis and reform was higher than expected, reflecting in part successful long-lasting partnerships with International Financial Institutions (IFIs). Thirty-eight countries received FAO's support to increase responsible investment in efficient and inclusive agrifood systems, FAO formulated innovative operations in support of efficient and inclusive agrifood systems worth USD 1.8 billion with the World Bank and other IFIs.

Strategic Objective 5: Increase resilience

Increasing the resilience of farmers, fishers and foresters is critical to ensuring food security, reducing poverty and protecting the natural resources for present and future generations, as climate change and natural and manmade disasters dramatically affect populations by damaging or destroying resources and livelihoods, especially in rural areas.

Overall progress in terms of the proportion of countries that have in place and implement *policy and institutional systems for capacities in risk reduction and crisis management* is disappointing, with a decrease to 27 percent in 2015. This appears mainly due to a lower level of investments in this area. However, FAO's contribution to progress at the Outcome level was assessed as positive, being rated as moderate to significant by 50 to 70 percent of stakeholders in countries surveyed with positive

examples seen in FAO support to Burkina Faso, Chad and Niger through the Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative. Also, 38 countries created plans for disaster risk reduction (DDR) and crisis management in the agriculture sector, and 18 countries developed investment programmes and resource mobilization strategies in DDR with FAO assistance. DDR was also included in the new Voluntary Guidelines for Small-Scale Fisheries with support for their implementation seen in South Asia, Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh and the Maldives. National investment programming for Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding to improve fisheries or forestry were formulated with FAO guidance in 14 countries.

The proportion of countries that have high and medium-high *capacity to provide regular information, deliver early warnings* and effect timely actions is relatively high at 44 percent although it decreased for this Outcome indicator compared with 2014, due to persisting weaknesses in collecting and analysing information on community resilience and hazards. FAO helped 39 countries and two regions undertake resilience and vulnerability analyses, through the scaling up of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification. FAO's support in Burkina Faso, Niger, Somalia and Yemen through Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis led to a more effective vulnerability analysis performance.

Countries made good progress to improve *capacities to apply mitigation and prevention measures* although the overall proportion remains low at 17 percent. Technical measures for risk prevention and mitigation have been implemented in 46 countries, thanks to the level of voluntary contributions mobilized.

Over half the countries where FAO works have high to medium high capacities to prepare and respond to crises. Some 76 countries benefited from FAO's support to put in place standards, guidelines and practices for hazard and emergency preparedness, though falling short of the target of over 100 countries. FAO's activities focused on support to training at national, sub-regional or regional level on the FAO Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards and Good Emergency Management Practices. FAO assisted countries in Africa and Asia with enhanced Avian Influenza crisis preparedness strategies.

The Organization played a leading role during emergencies that widely affected the agriculture sector. All countries that were in Level 3 emergencies (South Sudan, Central African Republic, Yemen, the Philippines) and 88 percent in Levels 1 and 2 benefited from FAO's emergency response coordination support. FAO was able to achieve its resource mobilization target of USD 795 million for the biennium to support its work on strengthening resilience and emergency response.

Gender mainstreaming in FAO's work

Gender equality is central to FAO's mandate to achieve food security by raising levels of nutrition, increasing agricultural productivity and natural resource management, and improving the lives of rural populations. FAO supports countries in closing the gender gaps that persist in access to productive resources, services and economic opportunities, for achieving a world free from hunger and malnutrition. Approaches and activities aimed at achieving gender equality through mainstreaming gender were incorporated into FAO's work in all the Strategic Objectives.

Contributing to hunger eradication (Strategic Objective 1), noteworthy results were achieved in addressing gender concerns in cross-sectoral and sectoral policy and legal frameworks for food security and nutrition through FAO support for example in addressing gender equality in the preparation of legal frameworks related to tenure security in Sierra Leone; and in Guatemala, in the development of a policy for gender equality and framework for its implementation.

Gender considerations and the inclusion of indigenous peoples have been essential to work carried out in Latin America and the Caribbean, where FAO supported the Special Women's Group of the CELAC Adelanto Mujeres led by El Salvador; and the Brasilia Declaration in 2014, between governments and civil society organizations, recognized for the first time the social and political inequalities faced by rural women and the need for actions to address them.

FAO supported the development and adoption of appropriate gender indicators related to food security and nutrition for producing sex-disaggregated data in countries such as the introduction of the Women's Dietary Diversity Score in the Philippines and Tajikistan. Other examples are the inclusion of gender-disaggregated reporting in the software for land registration in Nigeria, and the introduction of the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) in Angola, Ethiopia, Malawi, Niger, Kenya, South Africa and Cambodia.

As part of the work to make agriculture more productive and sustainable (Strategic Objective 2), Farmer Field Schools working with the Community Listeners Clubs were specifically tailored to rural women in Burundi, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal. The aim is to promote, through farmer experimentation and rural radio transmissions, local adaptation and adoption of sustainable agricultural methods through season-long, small-group non-formal training. In Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Cuba, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay, focus was given to integrating women into technology transfer for family farming, to support the extension services and assist in agro-environmental public policies and experience sharing.

With the aim of reducing women's work burden, over 100 labour-saving technologies and practices for improving food security and nutrition, productive family farming and conserving soils and water and adapting to climate change were analyzed and disseminated in East Africa and Latin America. Findings were disseminated at the Nairobi "Share fair", through FAO social media, partner networks and specialized events. In the Near East and North Africa Water Scarcity Regional Initiative, a multidisciplinary assessment, looking at hydrogeology, governance and gender, through an in-depth gender analysis, helped identify the contribution of both women and men, highlighting challenges and opportunities for a more equitable, inclusive and participatory approach to groundwater governance.

Within the From Protection to Production (PtoP) programme contributing to reducing rural poverty (Strategic Objective 3), gender analysis was incorporated into studies on the impact of cash transfers. In collaboration with UN Women, a qualitative case study on the extent to which Malawi's social cash transfer can empower women economically was undertaken. The results were presented to the Commission of the Status of Women.

The Gender and Land Rights Database (GLRD) covers 83 countries, providing sex-disaggregated data and indicators for agriculture, among others, asset management and ownership. The GLRD developed the Legislation Assessment Tool (LAT) to provide prompt, targeted and effective policy advice and capacity development to FAO's member countries working towards gender equitable land tenure. The LAT was successfully applied in 10 countries, where FAO advised on changes needed to render legal frameworks more conducive to gender-equitable land tenure.

In partnership with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, FAO adapted and validated a measure of women's empowerment to diagnose key areas where men and women have been disempowered in agricultural development projects, so as to design appropriate strategies to address deficiencies and monitor project outcomes related to women's empowerment.

Through the South-South Cooperation programme, FAO promoted exchange and learning among governments and civil society representatives from 10 countries at the Knowledge Share Fair on Rural Women's Economic Empowerment, including, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Iraq, Kyrgyz Republic, Liberia, Nepal, Malawi, Niger, Rwanda and Uganda.

In India, FAO provided technical support to the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty to empower 500 000 poor rural women's self-help groups in engaging in economic activities, strengthening their access to health and nutrition services. FAO supported Cambodia in developing its first Child Development Strategy and a National Action Plan for Gender Mainstreaming and Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in the Fisheries Sector.

Gender was explicitly addressed as a critical dimension of inclusiveness in food systems (Strategic Objective 4) through a number of technical reports and publications. Substantial support was provided to enhance women's participation in agrifood value chains related to roots and tubers, horticulture, fisheries, and dairy production and access to markets and agricultural services in Latin America, Africa and Asia, by providing inputs and technologies for value addition, technical training and business development.

Gender equality and the empowerment of women is an important part of FAO's work on resilience (Strategic Objective 5). Good practices that contribute to resilience and gender equality were compiled and disseminated. Guidelines on Improving Gender Equality in Territorial Issues were prepared to promote women's access to land and natural resources in the context of disasters and protracted crises, and similar country support was provided to Somalia and Kenya.

During the biennium, FAO supported efforts to reduce gender inequalities to increase community resilience, including savings and loans schemes for women in Liberia, Uganda, Guatemala and Honduras; support to women's cooperatives and producer associations in Pakistan, West Bank and Gaza Strip, Yemen and Vanuatu to improve access to financial services; the promotion of fuel-efficient stoves and practices to reduce women's work burden and risk of gender-based violence associated with fuel collection in Sudan and South Sudan; and the continuation and expansion of the Dimitra Clubs to facilitate equitable and participatory community resilience building in Niger, Burundi and Democratic Republic of the Congo, among others.

Significant results were also achieved in the biennium in strengthening FAOs' institutional mechanisms for effective gender mainstreaming, with a strong Gender team, a Technical Network comprising over 200 Gender Focal Points and experts working in all FAO offices.

FAO is showing steady progress in the creation of a conducive institutional environment for gender mainstreaming and women-specific targeted interventions through the FAO Gender Equality Policy, with 11 of 15 minimum standards achieved, and the UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP), with 13 out of 15 standards met or exceeded.

FAO's is now recognized at global level as the lead agency working for the empowerment of rural women and the reduction of gender inequalities in the agriculture sector, as demonstrated by the increasing interest of international and national partners in collaborating with the Organization. For example, in close collaboration with the World Bank and IFAD, FAO developed a training module on gender in climate smart agriculture, building on the lessons learnt and experiences of the Organization.

Statistics for more accurate decision-making, planning and monitoring

High-quality statistics are essential for designing and targeting policies to reduce hunger, malnutrition and rural poverty, and to promote the sustainable use of natural resources and increase resilience to threats and crises. They provide the foundation for decision-making by governments and the international community and play a critical role in measuring and monitoring progress towards national and international development goals and targets. FAO contributes by helping to create the enabling environment for the delivery and use of high-quality statistical products as global public goods.

New norms and standards have been developed to improve the quality of statistics produced by countries and to increase the comparability of data across countries and regions. For example, a first draft of the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020 was completed, and 20 guidelines and technical reports were disseminated by the Global Strategy. Statistical data collected and disseminated by FAO have been widely used, from FAOSTAT, which received about 2.5 million user visits - an increasing number from developing nations.

Technical support was provided to improve national statistical capacities. Key elements of success are due to partnerships and the strategic use of voluntary contributions, which support the implementation

of the Global Strategy and CountrySTAT. Particular efforts were made to strengthen the coordination of statistical capacity building with the African Union's CAADP initiative and the United States Agency for International Development's capacity-building initiative, that support the harmonization, validation and dissemination of national data in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.

Critically, 24 global indicators proposed by FAO for the monitoring framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development were accepted by the Interagency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators. FAO was influential in coordinating and facilitating agreement among UN system statistical organizations.