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COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

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Report on Implementation of the Recommendations of the 24th Session of the Committee on Agriculture

Executive Summary

Over the past 40 years, the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) has contributed to the priority setting and the formulation of agriculture development strategies of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). As FAO's main technical advisory committee on agriculture, COAG provides technical advice on issues ranging from sustainable crop and livestock production intensification to how to manage land and water resources in a changing climate. COAG reviews major agricultural and nutritional problems and provides advice and recommendations to the FAO Conference on global agricultural policy and regulatory matters, and to the FAO Council on matters relating to the Organization's priorities, programmes and budgets.

The 24th Session of COAG reviewed a number of programmatic, policy and regulatory matters within its competence and for each of them, recommendations were made.

This report aims at showing how COAG recommendations and advice and in particular those of the 24th Session were being implemented by FAO. The idea is not to give a comprehensive report, but to provide a summary of what is being achieved by FAO and its partners.

Suggested action by the Committee

The Committee is invited to note the report and to provide any guidance it may find necessary for future reporting.

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I. Introduction

1. The Committee on Agriculture (COAG) has always played an important role in guiding the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). As FAO's main technical advisory committee on agriculture, COAG has provided strategic advice on many of the challenges FAO has faced including the safe use of pesticides, gender, food safety, nutrition, climate change and sustainability, the management of natural resources and many other issues.
2. In January 2012, FAO launched a new strategic framework. As part of this process, COAG is helping FAO better fulfil its mandate by providing technical advice on issues ranging from sustainable crop and livestock production intensification to how to manage land and water resources in a changing climate. The Committee also highlights the role of agriculture not only as a source of food, but in providing livelihoods for millions of smallholder farmers and their families around the world.
3. COAG provides advice and recommendations to the FAO Conference on global agricultural policy and regulatory matters, and to the FAO Council on matters relating to the Organization's priorities, programmes and budgets.
4. The 24th Session of COAG reviewed and made a set of recommendations shown below on a number of programmatic, policy and regulatory matters within its competence as programmed in the agenda. Topics ranged from *Family Farmers: Feeding the World, Caring for the Earth*, to *FAO's Strategy for Improving Food Safety Globally; Water Governance for Agriculture and Food Security; New Data for Monitoring Investment in Agriculture; FAO's work in the Food and Agriculture Sector under the Reviewed Strategic Framework; Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock; Report of the Second Meeting of the Plenary Assembly of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP)*, including the endorsement of *the World Soil Charter; The Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)*, and *The International Rice Commission (IRC)*.

II. Status of implementation of recommendations of the 24th session of COAG

Recommendation 1. *Development of common criteria for definition and typologies of family farming, as well as the further development of the key analyses and indicators to assess better the status and trends of different types of family farming, including issues related to access to markets.*

5. FAO has been providing support to the RNE Regional Initiative on Small Scale Agriculture, and a peer review involving the International Cooperation Centre of Agricultural Research for Development. (CIRAD) is being conducted with reference to six national studies and a regional synthesis on "Small-scale Agriculture in the Near East and North Africa region (NENA)" in order to realize national studies on family farming typologies in the region.
6. The World Agriculture Watch (WAW) initiative and partners have produced: (1) a synthesis report of the farm typology analysis including family farms in seven countries; (2) key variables required to define major family farms typologies integrated within the World programme for the census of agriculture; (3) international guidelines to support countries develop typology of agricultural holdings, including family farming types; (4) results of projects to develop capacities of 6 countries to assess better the status and trends of their different types of farms in order to inform policy and reinforce monitoring systems; (5) a special issue of 'Cahiers agriculture' scientific journal co-published with CIRAD on agricultural transformations and family farms. Priority activities for the current biennium include: completing international typology guidelines integrating family farm typology and finalizing the overall methodological framework and toolkit to support countries to assess better the status and trends of their different types of farms to inform policy and reinforce

monitoring systems accordingly; implementation of above mentioned projects to reinforce six countries capacities.

7. FAO has undertaken the development of a smallholder farmers' comprehensive, systematic and standardized information platform and analysed smallholder farmers' challenges and opportunities across the world within the context of income diversification, rural transformation and agricultural transition; smallholders' data-portrait for 18 countries has been published; analyses are on-going on the importance of rural transformation and smallholder diversification in rural areas as a strategy to increase incomes and agricultural productivity, mitigate the impacts of risks and shocks in agricultural income and generate jobs for the poor.

Recommendation 2. FAO to continue its work in the promotion of family farming and its integration in the FAO Strategic Framework and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

8. FAO's work on agroecology further promotes family farming and its integration into FAO's Strategic Framework. It integrates traditional knowledge, scientific knowledge, looks to local market and promotes the local economy, and offers an efficient use of natural resources. In 2015, FAO organized three regional meetings on agroecology. In the meetings, issues related to traditional knowledge were addressed and a set of recommendations made. This year FAO is defining how these recommendations can be addressed. FAO is also working on data collection and data analysis on agroecology. These activities are linked with achieving SDGs 2 and 15.¹

9. The 2014 FAO publication "Towards Stronger Family Farms", points out the main features, characteristics, challenges and lessons learned at regional level, with conclusive general recommendations for policy change generated by the consultative processes and policy dialogue throughout the year. The publication is available at:

<http://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/6dff479a-46d5-4a94-a58b-e35bae4c80f7/>.

10. The Global Dialogue on Family Farming (<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4403e.pdf>) was held at FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, on 27 and 28 October 2014, and presented the major advances of the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF) celebration, improving understanding on the enabling policy environment to support family farms. It gathered more than 200 participants representing smallholder and family farmer organizations, civil society, the private sector, academia, development agencies and government agencies. The Webcast of the event is available at <http://www.fao.org/webcast/home/en/item/3110/icode/> (first part) and <http://www.fao.org/webcast/home/en/item/3108/icode/> (second part).

11. In the context of the IYFF Closing Event on November 2014, *Deep roots*, a special book for the International Year of Family farming, was released by FAO. The book includes global contributions with concepts and realities about family farming around the world, examines family farming's policy development and actions at international, regional, national, municipal, and local levels.

12. The Legacy Document of the IYFF 2014, encompasses all the main results and legacies of the Year, and stresses the future actions to be undertaken in order to endorse the achieved results and implement the recommendations that arose from the broad policy consultations conducted during the Year. The final version of the document is available in all six official FAO languages at <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/dce93937-36b4-49d7-9f50-fcf73af08766/>.

13. **Production of family farming knowledge resources:** main activities include: FAO/IPC-IG² co-publication of six papers proposing regional overviews on family farming from an academic perspective; ongoing development of material about family farming in the context of SDGs; a new

¹ See document COAG/2016/INF/4

² International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-AG)

version of the **Family Farming Knowledge Platform** was released including international, regional and national information related to family farming issues, integrating and systematizing existing information to better inform and provide knowledge-based assistance to policy-makers, family farmer organizations and development experts.

14. **Organization of an interregional workshop in June 2016 to support family farming as a strategy to achieve rural poverty reduction.** The two day workshop focused on opportunities and priorities to strengthen FAO's SP3-related Regional initiatives. The workshop assessed the trends in family farming and debated the strategy and achievements of the three FAO Regional Initiatives related to family farming and smallholders. It also assessed the impacts and gaps in FAO's assistance to countries identifying areas of focus to scale up the work at the policy level and promote the collaboration across regions.

Recommendation 3. *FAO to continue its work on local adaptation of Sustainable Production Intensification practice, value chain and methodologies to assess and reduce food losses and waste in support of sustainable food systems.*

15. FAO is establishing a global post-harvest loss (PHL) database, with focus on increasing official data coverage and new methodology for the estimation of post-harvest losses in the absence of official data.

16. FAO manages four national climate change adaptation projects in Burkina Faso and Mali, Mozambique and Angola. These projects promote the local adaptation of sustainable production intensification through farmer field schools. FAO is also promoting development of good quality Farmer field school (FFS) programmes for sustainable food production by local communities, through supporting FFS Regional Networks, development of a FFS Guidance Document and coordination of a Global FFS Information Platform.

Recommendation 4. *FAO to integrate further its work on sustainable food systems to be integrated in the Ten-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP-SCP) and in accordance with the rules governing its Framework.*

17. The FAO work on sustainable food systems has been further developed and integrated, leading to the wider establishment of a multi-stakeholder action programme, the Sustainable Food Systems Program (SFSP), within the Ten-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP-SCP).

Recommendation 5. *FAO, its Members and its partners to explore new sources of funding to be allocated in order to meet the challenge of the growing demands on FAO's food safety scientific advice programme.*

18. FAO continued to strengthen its scientific advice programme by ring-fencing all related activity and staff budget related to its scientific advice program, enhancing the stability of the program. Detailed information is provided in the document COAG/2016/INF/6 - Progress Report on Sustainable Funding for FAO's Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme.

Recommendation 6. *FAO to play a greater role in contributing to global food chain intelligence and in assisting countries to contain the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and the potential negative impacts on food and agriculture in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the African Union and other partners, as appropriate.*

19. Concerning AMR, FAO, through the interdepartmental working group on AMR is supporting the development and implementation of FAO's action plan on AMR in an integrated manner. This actions plan focusses FAO's work on AMR in four main areas: 1) awareness raising, 2) governance, 3) evidence (monitoring and surveillance) and 4) good practices. Some specific FAO activities

contributing to areas 1 and 2 include the development of technical papers and informational material to raise the profile of AMR among the food safety community in member countries and support to the discussions on AMR within the Codex Alimentarius to improve standards and governance. Specific activities contributing to area 3 include recently developed materials promoting integrated surveillance as a means of enabling early detection of emerging food safety issues such as AMR.

Recommendation 7. FAO to continuously refine the proposed work on water governance , as well as ongoing work in water management, and its processes for integrating the interfaces between water, food security and sustainable agriculture in the Organization’s work with full respect to national sovereignty and in collaboration with existing regional initiatives and partnerships and to report to governing bodies.

20. FAO has published a paper titled “Exploring the concept of water tenure”, and has also developed a global shared vision 2030 and a framework for action for groundwater governance for which an outreach strategy has been developed, and is piloting implementation of the framework for action in three countries (Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia). It is also promoting the institutionalization of national strategies and plans on drought risk management (DRM), elaborating DRM guidelines that promote governance principles, regulations and reviews or establishment of institutional setups.

21. FAO is developing and promoting guidelines and regulations for the adoption and proper management of solar-powered irrigation, jointly with GIZ, in three regions: Sub-Saharan Africa (Gambia, Mali, Kenya, Uganda) and North East and North Africa (Jordan, Morocco, Palestine and Territories), at the approval stage and TCP in Asia (Bangladesh, Cambodia, India), under discussion). A Water-Food-Energy Nexus approach is used to engage stakeholders dialogue, negotiations and conflict management.

22. FAO developed global guidelines for Water Accounting and Auditing, including governance assessment as an integrated step including the governance of data and information for decision making: a global project advocating open access to data and tools under implementation with Water Accounting and Auditing activities performed in selected river basins.

23. FAO implemented a project covering six countries (Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Tanzania,) whose objectives included (i) the organization of national dialogues to improve sustainability of agricultural water management; (ii) livelihoods mapping process aimed at capturing, among other variables, information on (a) constraints to access to natural resources in the livelihood zones and (b) land/water rights that support or prevent adoption of sustainable agriculture water management.

Recommendation 8. Agreed with FAO’s approach to build a global agricultural investment database and harvest existing data to reduce cost, duplication and response burden on countries.

24. Global Investment Statistics databases have been compiled and published in FAOSTAT and in a website on the following:

- Government Expenditures in Agriculture (GEA). This data will also be used to compile one of the SDG indicators on the Agricultural Orientation Index of GEA.
- Development Flows to Agriculture, including FAO expenditures on development assistance.
- Credit to Agriculture, provided to agricultural producers by commercial financial institutions, and Foreign Direct Investment in Agriculture.
- Provisional data has also been compiled on Agricultural Capital Stock.
- A preliminary set of country investment statistics profiles were also compiled, and will be published in 2016. These include the agricultural shares of each of the investments above, as well as their trends and relative growth rates.

Recommendation 9. FAO, in strong coordination with Members, as well as regional and international organizations, to fine-tune the development and testing of new investment indicators and data products.

25. FAO presented its work above on agriculture investments statistics at the following forums:
- The meeting of the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics, held in Thimphu Bhutan in February 2016;
 - The meeting of the African Commission on Agricultural Statistics, held in Kigali Rwanda in December 2015;
 - To a group of OECD experts in a peer-review session in FAO HQ, in November 2015 to evaluate the approach to estimating agricultural capital stock; and to productivity researchers in an OECD workshop held in Paris, France in December 2015.
26. FAO is in the process of refining its methodology for estimating capital stock, and will liaise directly with interested countries in improving these data.

Recommendation 10. FAO to continue to support countries in enhancing their capacity to collect, compile, manage and disseminate official agricultural statistics.

27. FAO continues to implement targeted technical capacity development activities. This includes workshops and training in many areas, including Agricultural Production, Food Balance Sheets, the Census of Agriculture, Greenhouse Gas emissions, Agricultural Producer Prices, and the Food Insecurity Experience Scale. It has also offered workshops on data collection tools, and workshops and technical assistance in implementing the Country STAT data dissemination platform.
28. One of the largest components of statistical capacity development rests with the Global Strategy to Improve Agriculture and Rural Statistics, which has compiled and published numerous statistical guidelines to support countries in the collection, compilation, management, estimation, analysis and dissemination of official agricultural statistics.
29. AQUASTAT has worked together with FAO to include key variables related to water and irrigation in the World Census of Agriculture. It is also working with ESS to improve gender disaggregated statistics on water and irrigation through the World Census on Agriculture.
30. All these initiatives are also linked to FAO's monitoring role under the SDGs. FAO has been identified as the 'custodian' agency for some 20 SDG indicators across Goals 2, 5, 6, 12, 14 and 15, and will thus be responsible for collecting data from national sources, providing the storyline for the annual global SDG progress report, working on further methodological development and contributing to statistical capacity building, among other aspects.

Recommendation 11. FAO to continue giving high attention to addressing transboundary animal diseases (TADs).

31. FAO is currently implementing global programmes to control and eradicate two of the most contagious TADs in order to strengthen national systems and regional approaches based on the EMPRES principles. More recently, FAO has attracted substantial multi-year funding to address public health threats of animal origin that if not detected early could lead to epidemics or pandemics and food/nutrition insecurity. In the latter, the FAO tools to advocate and improve knowledge of Good Emergency Management Practice (response to disease events) requires further investment from extra-budgetary sources to ensure its capacity development efforts are not short-lived. FAO and OIE continue to work together under their (Global Framework for Transboundary Animal Diseases) (GF-TADs) platform to address these high-impact diseases.

Recommendation 12. FAO to provide a report on antimicrobial resistance and the role of FAO, OIE, WHO and other relevant partners, detailing action and budget, in line with FAO's Strategic Framework, to be submitted to the FAO Council and Conference, including a draft resolution.

32. The FAO has undertaken a number of activities towards the implementation of the programme of AMR. See document COAG/2016/16 - *Update on FAO's Work on Antimicrobial Resistance*, for a detailed report.

Recommendation 13. FAO to further consider issues raised by the Committee on the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock, including coordination with other initiatives, representation, membership and clarification of roles.

33. FAO has initiated and facilitated a multi-stakeholder consultation on the governance of the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock resulting into an agreed format, including a Guiding Group with seven stakeholder clusters. See document COAG/2016/9 - *The Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock*.

Recommendation 14. Establishment and implementation by FAO and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) of the Global Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) Control and Eradication Programme in line with the proposed governance structure, including acting as FAO-OIE Secretariat in collaboration with other international and regional partners.

34. Establishment of the Joint FAO-OIE PPR Global Secretariat: In line with the recommendations of the 39th Session of the FAO Conference, FAO and OIE have established a Joint PPR Global Secretariat to coordinate the overall management and implementation of the PPR Control and Eradication Programme (GCEP), under GF-TADs. The Secretariat is working closely with countries, relevant regional organizations, international reference laboratories/centres, technical and research institutions, and stakeholder's organizations, to support the development and implementation of national strategic plans and community engagement tailored to the disease situation.

35. Regional Roadmap meetings: the FAO and OIE PPR working group and then the PPR secretariat, in collaboration with an African technical organization (AU-IBAR³) and regional economic communities⁴ organized six Regional Roadmap Meetings in Africa. Other meetings have been organized in the Middle East and Arabian Peninsula, Central Asia and South Asia. The Roadmap meetings provided the opportunity to: (i) present the Global Control and Eradication Strategy (GCES) and its tools in a detailed manner; (ii) carry out a first self-assessment of each country's situation regarding PPR and the capacity of its Veterinary Services to control the disease; (iii) review the PPR projects and lessons drawn from their implementation; iv) identify countries' and regional vision toward PPR eradication; (v) preliminary prioritize at country and regional level other small ruminant diseases that might be controlled in tandem; and, (vi) set-up the governance structure to oversee the implementation of PPR control activities in the region. The Roadmap meetings for the three remaining regions (Southern Africa, Northern Africa and East Asia, including China and Mongolia) will be organized by the end of 2016.

36. Formulation of the PPR Global Control and Eradication Programme: The first five-year programme (2017-2021) of the PPR-GCEP has been developed through a consultative process involving key stakeholders. The programme aims to lay the foundations for and commences the PPR control and elimination effort in infected countries by developing capacity; understanding the epidemiological situation and defining appropriate implementation strategies to reduce the prevalence of PPR and eventually eradicate the disease. For non-infected countries, the programme will assist in developing capacity to demonstrate the absence of PPR virus and move towards OIE official PPR free

³ AU-IBAR (African Union's Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources).

⁴ ECCAS (Economic Community of Central African States); IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development); ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States); GCC (Gulf Council Countries); ECO (Economic Cooperation Organisation) and SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation).

status recognition. The programme will also support countries to reduce the prevalence of other prioritized small ruminant diseases and strengthen veterinary systems, in particular by improving selected Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS). Critical Competencies relevant to PPR stages that are not compliant with OIE standards on quality of Veterinary Services.

37. **Advocacy:** A Joint FAO/OIE resource mobilization strategy is being developed. Visits to main donors are planned to present the PPR-GCEP and its costing, before holding a pledging meeting by end of November 2016. Nine thousand copies of PPR diagnosis manual have been sent to all infected and at risk countries.

38. **Assistance to countries and regions:** Assistance is provided to Member countries to prepare their National strategic plans. This will remain a priority for the PPR Secretariat in the coming months.

39. **OIE Resolution and Country free of PPR:** A Resolution on Global Control and Eradication of PPR was adopted during the 84th General Session of the OIE, in May 2016. The list of countries recognized as PPR free or having a PPR free zone, according to the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, was updated. Fifty three countries and one zone are recognised as PPR free.

<http://www.fao.org/ppr/en/>

Recommendation 15. World Soil Charter to be considered by the FAO Council in December 2014 and the FAO Conference in June 2015.

40. The World Soil Charter was endorsed by the 150th session of the FAO Council and requested final endorsement by the FAO Conference. In June 2015 (coinciding with the International Year of Soils), the 39th session of the FAO Conference endorsed the Revised World Soil Charter.

Recommendation 16. Called for further work by the Secretariat on GIAHS, and review by, forthcoming FAO governing body meetings of the Draft Conference Resolution and Annex 1 contained in document COAG/2014/12, in particular with regard to programme and budget implications, as well as governance arrangements.

41. During the 2014/15 biennium, the GIAHS Concept was discussed by the relevant FAO Governing Bodies and the related recommendations and budgetary implications have been reviewed and supported by the 39th FAO Conference in June 2015. Subsequently, the GIAHS initiative has been vested with formal status within the FAO framework and an allocation of USD 0.6 million was made available within 2016-2017 biennium for the GIAHS Secretariat. This has enabled the smooth implementation of the functions of the GIAHS Secretariat, including oversight, management, coordination and implementation of the concept and its activities, with the understanding that the work on GIAHS will primarily rely on extra-budgetary funding.

42. The Governance structure of the GIAHS programme has been reviewed and simplified, including a new Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) that has started operations in early 2016. The first session of the SAG was held on 22-23 February 2016. See document COAG/2016/11.

III. Suggested action by the Committee

43. The Committee is invited to note the report and to provide any guidance it may find necessary for future reporting.