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COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Twenty-sixth Session

Rome, 1 - 5 October 2018

Implementation of the recommendations of the 25th Session of the Committee, including the outcome of the informal open-ended working group on food safety scientific advice programme

Executive Summary

The Committee on Agriculture (COAG) is the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)'s main technical advisory body providing overall policy and regulatory guidance on issues relating to agriculture, livestock, food safety, nutrition, rural development and natural resource management. COAG has always played an important role in guiding FAO, and has provided strategic advice on the challenges FAO has faced in assisting its Member Countries achieve the 2030 agenda. The 25th session of COAG reviewed several matters requiring the attention of FAO Council and Conference and Member Countries.

This report aims at showing how COAG recommendations and advice and in particular those of the 25th Session were being implemented by FAO.

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). The 25th Session of COAG reviewed and made a set of recommendations shown below on programmatic, policy and regulatory matters within its competence. Topics discussed included: (i) the Strategy for FAO's Work on Climate Change; (ii) the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) Follow-up: Nutrition-related Implications for Agriculture and Livestock Development; (iii) Update on FAO's Work on Antimicrobial Resistance; (iv) FAO's Work in the Food and Agriculture Sector under the Strategic Framework; (v) The Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock; (vi) Reports of the third and fourth Session of the Plenary Assembly of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP), including "Draft Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management"; (vii) The Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems; (viii) The International Year of Pulses: Nutritious Seeds for a Sustainable Future; (ix) Achieving Sustainable Rural Development through Agricultural Innovation; (x) The World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020; (xi) Agriculture and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; (xii) Report on Implementation of the Recommendations of the 24th Session of the Committee on Agriculture; (xiii) Multi-year Programme of Work of the Committee; (xiv) Observance of the World Bee Day, International Year of Plant Health; and the International Year of Camelids.
2. This report provides a summary and some indications of the main achievements of FAO as a result of the implementation of COAG 25 recommendations.

II. Status of implementation of recommendations of the Twenty-fifth session of COAG

3. **Recommendation 1.** Normative and Science and Evidence base work (C 2017/21 para 25)
The Committee called on FAO to continue to strengthen its normative and science and evidence-based work with particular attention to agroecology, biotechnology, sustainable production, climate change, biodiversity, mechanization, statistics, food safety, nutrition, youth and gender. This work will be delivered through multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral partnerships with particular attention to South-South cooperation and the engagement with the private sector and civil society organizations.
4. Building on the outcomes of the First International Symposium on Agroecology for Food Security and Nutrition, held in Rome in 2014, and subsequent regional seminars organized in 2015 and 2016, FAO hosted the Second International Symposium on Agroecology: Scaling Up agroecology to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in April 2018. Discussions showed that in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, there is an urgent need to promote transformative changes. The symposium launched a UN partners "Scaling-up Agroecology Initiative" - an action plan to promote sound agricultural practices towards achieving the 2030 Agenda and to support countries and regions to engage more effectively in transition processes towards sustainable food systems.
5. In December 2016, FAO together with strategic partners¹ organized in Nairobi a consultative meeting on a Mechanization Strategy for Sub-Saharan Africa. In May 2017, FAO and the African Union Commission (AUC) convened in Addis Ababa a workshop to validate the draft framework for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Africa (SAMA)². New major publications³⁴ were discussed during both meetings. The framework is designed to contribute towards the achievement of targets and

¹ World Bank, European Agricultural Machinery Industries Association (CEMA), African Union, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), African Conservation Tillage Network (ACT), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and AfricaRice.

² FAO/AUC: Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization - A Framework for Africa; (available in September 2018)

³ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6044e.pdf>

⁴ <http://africamechanize.act-africa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Nairobi-Meeting-Report-FINAL.pdf>

commitments as agreed upon in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the Malabo Declaration. FAO and CIMMYT launched in July 2018 the publication “Hire services as a business enterprise: A training manual for small-scale mechanization service providers”⁵⁶.

6. The 40th FAO Conference welcomed FAO’s initiative to act as Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform, and requested FAO to facilitate, in collaboration with its partners, the integration of actions for the conservation, sustainable use, management and restoration of biological diversity across agricultural sectors at national, regional and international levels.

7. In May 2018, FAO and the UN Convention on Biological Diversity jointly organized the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors (Dialogue). (see COAG/2018/10). The Dialogue confirmed the timeliness and need of mainstreaming biodiversity across the agricultural sectors. It took stock of the current state of biodiversity mainstreaming efforts and experiences at different levels and identified areas of joint action in developing integrated approaches for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in support of the Sustainable Development Goals, while increasing production to meet the growing demand for food.

8. The 83rd and 84th Meetings of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) were held in Rome, Italy, in November 2016 and June 2017, respectively. The results of the 85th meeting of the JECFA (Geneva, October 2017) were reported to the session of the Codex Committee on residues of veterinary drugs in foods (CCRVDF).

9. Furthermore, FAO and WHO convened an expert group, which met in June 2017 to begin the process of developing more targeted science-based guidance on water quality for different uses in the food production/processing continuum. A Joint FAO/WHO JEMRA Expert Meeting was held in Rome, Italy from 25 to 29 September 2017 to inform Codex on the nature and focus of standards that are needed to facilitate global management of Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC). The Russian Federation and FAO jointly organized an International Conference on “Food Safety and Risk Analysis” in Sochi, Russia from 18-19 May 2017 bringing together more than 350 delegates from a wide range of sectors.

10. FAO is continuing to work closely with member countries to strengthen their national food control systems through capacity development and the design and application of a series of tools. Other initiatives include the application of foresight for identification of emerging issues in food safety; facilitating an informal network of developing countries to share information, knowledge and experience in using genome-sequencing technology for food safety management; and hosting the FAO GM Foods Platform to share information on safety assessment of foods derived from recombinant-DNA plants.

11. FAO promotes integrated pest management (IPM) as the preferred approach to growing healthy crops. Every year, more than 300 maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) recommended by the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) are adopted as Codex standards. Through national and regional technical projects, FAO enhances the capacity of developing countries to increase their participation in the process of setting international pesticide standards and in implementing the Codex MRLs of pesticides.

12. In order to promote food safety and consumer protection, FAO provides technical assistance to developing countries in establishing national pesticide residue monitoring programmes. Several projects on Pesticide Life Cycle Management have addressed pesticide policy and legislation to avoid the accumulation of obsolete stocks of pesticides and to reduce health risks to nearby communities due to soil and water pollution.

⁵ <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/I9207EN/>

⁶ <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/I9207FR/>

13. FAO has produced a zero-draft ‘Code of Conduct for the Use and Management of Fertilizers’ under the technical guidance of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS) of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP). The Code will be presented to COAG.

14. **Recommendation 2:** WHO/FAO’s Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme (C 2017/21 para 45 b)

The Committee agreed to mandate its Bureau to create an informal open-ended Working Group to consider options for adequate and sustainable funding for WHO/FAO’s Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme, building on the recommendations of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and to present its recommendations for consideration to an appropriate FAO Governing Body during 2017-18.

15. The COAG Bureau established an Informal Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) on sustainable funding for FAO/WHO food safety scientific advice programme, met twice in Rome, on 28 February 2017 and 20 September 2017. It discussed various funding options and identified three potential tracks (enhanced member contributions; contributions from non-state actors; setting up a blind multi-donor trust fund open to state and non-state actors). The outcomes of the OEWG were further discussed at the Joint Meeting of the 122nd Session of the Programme Committee and 169th Session of the Finance Committee (6 and 9 November 2017)⁷. The 158th Session of the FAO Council, held in Rome on 4-8 December 2017 subsequently endorsed⁸ the Report of the Joint Meeting and approved: (i) *The allocation, with agreement from resource partners, of 10 percent of the unspent balances of the MAFAP/FMM Trust Funds, up to a maximum of USD 0.5 million, for the blind Trust Fund aimed at supporting a sustainable funding solution to the FAO’s work and activities relating to scientific advice for food safety and the Codex Alimentarius;*” and (ii) *“The allocation of fifty percent of unspent balance of the 2016-17 appropriations above a threshold of USD 5 million, up to a maximum of USD 1 million, towards the blind Trust Fund”.*

16. Concurrently, FAO developed and launched an umbrella program seeking voluntary donations in the order of U\$ 7.2 million over the next 5 years to support the needs of the scientific advice programme. In addition, FAO is considering to establish a new multi donor Trust Fund (MUL Trust Fund) to support the functioning of the FAO Scientific Advice Programme which could receive funding from both state and non-state actors (NSAs). For more information see document COAG/2018/INF/4.

17. **Recommendation 3:** Family Farming (C 2017/21 para 45 f)

The Committee requested FAO to continue reporting on the progress of its Family Farming activities.

18. FAO continues to support its members in shaping pro-poor rural development policies, strategies, programmes and investment plans that target smallholders and family farmers, promote their empowerment, increase their access to resources, services, social protection policies, pro-poor technologies and markets as well as increase their yields and incomes while helping them adopt sustainable agricultural practices and reduce production costs and adapt to climate change.

19. The 2017 UNGA Resolution declaring the Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028 called upon FAO and IFAD to lead the implementation of the Decade. After a first informal meeting with governments and other actors, active in campaigning for the adoption of the Decade, FAO and IFAD collaborate to submit to the governments a first draft of the Plan of Action as well as a proposal for the governing structure of the Decade. The Guiding Document is expected to be adopted by end of 2018 by a newly established International Steering Committee for the International Decade of Family Farming.

⁷ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mv224e.pdf>

⁸ http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/bodies/CL_158/CL158_Rep_EN.pdf

20. The Family Farming Knowledge Platform, hosted by FAO in collaboration with governments, UN agencies, family farmers' networks and producers' organizations as well as research institutions, now gathers more than 17,000 content items. At the regional and country level, FAO is supporting the development and implementation of policies, strategies, regulatory, legal and socio-economic frameworks, as well as inter-sectoral, multi-level and multi stakeholder policy dialogue and South-South cooperation.

21. FAO continues to support countries in the development of common criteria for definition and typologies of family farming, as well as in the further development of the key analyses and indicators to better assess the status and trends of different types of family farming, including issues related to access to markets.

22. **Recommendation 4:** Peste des Petits Ruminants -PPR (C 2017/21 para 45 d)

The Committee requested the Secretariat to report on the implementation of the Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) Global Eradication Programme (GEP) to the Programme Committee.

23. FAO completed a first round of PPR Regional Roadmap meetings in nine regions, as identified in the PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy (April 2015). The second round was launched in Dushanbe, Tajikistan in February 2017. Furthermore, three meetings were organised for the Middle East (Amman, 15 - 19 October 2017), Central Africa (Douala, 13 - 15 November 2017) and South Asia (Dhaka, 20 - 22 March 2018).

24. The Governance setup of the PPR-Global Eradication Programme (GEP) has been finalized with the inaugural meeting of the PPR Global Research and Expertise Network (GREN) held in April 2018, Vienna, Austria. The PPR GREN is established as a forum for scientific and technical consultations to foster a science-based and innovative debate on PPR. The PPR Advisory Committee was established in June 2017.

25. A Joint FAO/OIE PPR Resource Mobilization and Marketing Strategy (RMMS) has been developed by the PPR Secretariat. A market analysis identified potential resource partners at global, regional and national levels as well as strategic alliances.

26. In collaboration with partners including AU-IBAR, SAARC, CEBEVIRHA and IGAD, 56 out of the 76 target countries received support to develop their PPR National Strategic Plans (NSP) that detailed the steps for assessing, controlling, and eradicating PPR virus, and maintaining PPR virus freedom. The effort included identification of the resources required and committed by national authorities to implement their plan. PPR control activities are being implemented in more than 20 countries using local resources and funding from European Union, World Bank, IFAD and some bilateral partners. Eight out of the nine regions have already their PPR Regional Strategic Plans drafted.

27. In September 2018, FAO and OIE, in collaboration with the European Union organized the PPR Global Conference on "Partnering and investing for a PPR-free world" in Brussels. The Conference aimed to: (i) reaffirm international political will to globally eradicate PPR; (ii) provide a forum for governments to confirm their political commitment to the PPR eradication and national investments; (iii) obtain support from resource partners for the implementation of the PPR eradication programme. The Conference addressed most critical financial gaps of the PPR Global Eradication programme and built momentum to reach the goal of a PPR-free world by 2030.

28. **Recommendation 5:** Pulses (C 2017/21 para 35 c)

The Committee requested FAO, Members and all relevant stakeholders to continue their work on pulses, including their promotion beyond 2016.

29. Considerable outreach efforts during the International Year of Pulses organized worldwide by FAO and partners prompted an important momentum resulting in increased awareness and perception on the importance of pulses and remodelling production and consumption patterns of pulses. FAO is working towards strengthening the programme on pulses. As part of IYP legacy, FAO produced the publication Pulse crop for sustainable farms in sub-Saharan Africa and is facilitating a publication on

Legume-based agricultural systems in Africa: challenges and opportunities. FAO also developed a proposal to improve the international Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICOP) by disaggregating classes and differentiating between up to nine products with different environmental and market niches. The improvement of international statistical classifications will enhance statistics of pulses production and consumption at country and international level. Moreover, FAO sponsored the 7th International Food Legumes Research Conference in 2018. In response to recommendations of the 155th FAO Council and based on the results of the consultations held during the IYP, FAO has developed the following proposals:

- Creation of a country-led Action Network on Pulses under the umbrella of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (see: COAG/2018/INF/6)
- Publication on under-utilized pulse species: for promoting, at the international level, a number of pulse species of minor use having a potential for specific niches given their adaptation to marginal environmental conditions.

30. **Recommendation 6:** Antimicrobial Resistance -AMR (C 2017/21 para 20)

The Committee encouraged FAO to continue its active collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and other relevant stakeholders in implementing the UN Declaration on antimicrobial resistance (AMR), including strengthening the capacity of countries and regions following a One Health multi-sectorial approach.

31. FAO, WHO and OIE strengthened tripartite collaboration on AMR following a holistic One Health approach with efforts made to reach a plethora of stakeholders, including UNEP. FAO has been fully engaged in the high-level work of the UNGA on AMR. On 30 May 2018, the Directors-General of FAO, OIE and WHO signed a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding that includes collaborative and cooperative work on AMR.

32. FAO's Deputy Director General for Climate and Natural Resources (DDN) represents the organization at the Interagency Coordinating Group on AMR, as established by UNGA71. Numerous technical FAO staff serve as resource specialists to the weekly deliberations and work of the Interagency Coordinating Group on AMR that address communications and behaviour change, development and implementation of AMR National Action Plans, surveillance systems, reduction of antimicrobial use and best practices, research and development, and governance. A report is to be submitted to the Secretary General before the closure of UNGA73.

33. Following the adoption of the AMR Global Action Plan and the subsequent FAO Resolution on AMR and the concerns of Member Countries on the increasing threat being posed by Antimicrobial Resistance, Codex re-established its ad hoc AMR Task Force. The Task Force is revising its existing Code of Practice to minimize and contain antimicrobial resistance as well as developing new guidance for countries on surveillance of foodborne antimicrobial resistance. An expert meeting⁹ was held in FAO Headquarters on 11-15 June 2018 to provide advice to Codex on the role of the food production environment (including crops) on foodborne AMR.

34. With the support of extra-budgetary resources from UK, USA, Russian Federation, FAO is currently working in more than 25 countries to support the development and implementation of One Health National Action Plans on AMR, including activities to improve antimicrobial regulation, enhance AMR surveillance and laboratory capacity, and to improve antimicrobial use practices. FAO is also supporting regional activities to engage additional countries and developing specific tools that can improve information capture and analysis and progressive management of the threat.

35. **Recommendation 7:** Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock - GASL (C 2017/21 para 27)

The Committee called on FAO to play a greater role as an intergovernmental stakeholder, and as a programmatic collaborator in providing technical expertise, as well as to strengthen its role as the Secretariat, promote stronger cooperation among countries, as well as better regional balance.

⁹ This meeting is made up of 20 subject matter experts from around the world.

36. FAO has continued its active role in the Seventh Cluster of Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL), advocating for transparency and openness in the operation of the cluster. However, budget constraints still constitute a challenge for FAO to optimize technical and administrative support and expertise to GASL. The Secretariat has been strengthened with two APOs from Switzerland (since 1 February 2018) and Germany (under recruitment) (in process) to support GASL Action Networks in 2018. FAO is playing an important role to strengthen cooperation among countries through its national and regional offices in Panama, Santiago, Addis Ababa, Mongolia, Ankara and Budapest. FAO keeps continued vigilance of regional balance in the representation of the Global Agenda's Guiding Group Members (especially from the Public Sector) and stakeholders in general.

37. **Recommendation 8:** Subcommittee on livestock (C 2017/21 para 58)

The proposal on the creation of a subcommittee on livestock was noted by the Committee, which requested that a background document be developed and presented to the next COAG session.

38. Document COAG/2018/11 "FAO's work on livestock and proposal for a COAG Sub-Committee on Livestock" summarizes challenges and opportunities of the livestock sector (section II) and provides an overview of FAO's activities on livestock (section III). The document reviews the Committee's current working arrangements for issues related to livestock (section IV) and discusses the need for a sub-committee on livestock in the light of the criteria established by the FAO Conference (section V). Draft Statutes defining the sub-committee's terms of reference and composition are contained in the Appendix to the document, for consideration by the Committee. Before establishing a sub-committee, the Committee would have to examine the administrative and financial implications of such a decision, in the light of a report of the Director-General.

39. **Recommendation 9:** Nutrition (C 2017/21 para 17)

The Committee encouraged countries to mainstream nutrition into national and regional agricultural policies and programmes, including through South-South Cooperation, and also asked *FAO to produce regular progress reports through the Programme Implementation Report (PIR).*

40. Following the 2014 Second International Conference on Nutrition, nutrition was established as a cross-cutting theme in FAO's Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2016-2017. Adjustments to the PWB 2016-17 further aligned FAO's work in a way that has given increased attention to nutrition by addressing the long-term economic, social and environmental bases of food security and nutrition, in particular those related directly to the concept of sustainable food systems in which the agriculture sector plays an important role. The second PIR covering the years 2016-17 integrated reporting on nutrition and gave examples of the progress made in ensuring that nutrition-sensitive investments are imbedded into agricultural investments in several African and Asian countries (para 69).

41. **Recommendation 10:** Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - (C 2017/21 para 44 a)

The Committee recognized the key role agriculture plays in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and stressed the need to promote actions that balance the three dimensions of sustainability – economic, social and environmental – and that are more integrated across agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

42. FAO continues its efforts towards action at global, regional and national levels to promote approaches that balance the three dimensions of sustainability and engage agriculture, together with fisheries and forestry, in the 2030 Agenda. The five principles of the Common Vision for Sustainable Food and Agriculture are used to engage dialogue at policy level on more integrated, cross-sectoral and multi-objective approaches to these sectors.

43. By aligning its result framework with the Goals of the 2030 Agenda, FAO has clarified to which Goal its work will contribute and to what extent. In so doing, FAO ensures that all its efforts in support to countries contribute to the broader development goals of the 2030 Agenda.

44. At country level, FAO has been working closely with its counterparts to support the engagement of their sectors and actors in the SDG process. This includes active participation in the national dialogue on SDGs but also raising awareness within the agriculture sectors on the role that

they can play in implementing the 2030 Agenda. To support these efforts, FAO has developed a set of practical guidelines¹⁰ describing how to engage the agriculture sectors in the SDG process and identifying 20 actions that help unify many sectors of agricultural and rural development within a country's broader development programme. In terms of SDG monitoring, FAO is the United Nations custodian agency for 21 SDG indicators, of which several related to sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and contributing agency for six other indicators. FAO has strengthened its coordination capacity in this field by creating the Office of the Chief Statistician, in charge of SDG monitoring for the indicators for which FAO is custodian agency. It has allocated specific resources to develop monitoring methodologies and provide capacity development to countries through training workshops and the development of e-learning modules on SDG monitoring.

45. **Recommendation 11:** Climate Change - (C 2017/21 para 8 -11)

The Committee welcomed the strategy for Climate Change, noted that the Plan of Action related to the Climate Change Strategy would be incorporated within the reviewed Strategic Framework, and stressed the importance for FAO to assist countries, upon their request, to strengthen institutional frameworks and processes and technical capacity to ensure sound agriculture and integrated cross-sectoral approaches to climate.

46. The Programme Committee officially adopted the FAO Strategy on Climate Change at its 121st session in March 2017. The Strategy includes an Action Plan. The future budget and staff allocated to climate change is detailed in the Programme of Work and Budget 2018-19. It is aligned with the Strategy, with USD 3.7 million and seven new technical posts allocated for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation (CCAM), including to support countries to access climate finance and support to Small Island Developing States. The Programme Committee also approved two tranches of funding, each of USD 3.8 million, from biennium residuals allocated to the Special Fund for Development Finance Activities - to support countries in the start-up of project proposal formulation under the Green Climate Fund.

47. FAO's support to countries in strengthening their institutional frameworks and capacities including in meeting their NDCs commitments, is a core component of the Strategy. FAO is closely engaged with the Marrakech Action Plan and is working closely with the UNFCCC and the Climate Champions of Poland and Fiji and to ensure maintenance of the high profile for food and agriculture sectors at COP24. The adoption of the Koronivia joint work on agriculture (KJWA) decision at COP23 marked a new milestone for climate action in agricultural sectors.

48. COAG agreed to consider the possibility of a future ad hoc sub-committee relating to climate change. However, with the adoption by the 40th session of the FAO Conference of the biennial theme "Climate change and its impact on the work and activities of FAO" for the biennium 2018-19, the need for an ad-hoc sub-committee on climate change could be reviewed in consideration of the outcomes of discussions around the Biennial Theme and track record of implementation of the Climate Change Strategy. Further discussion on the possible creation of a sub-committee should consider whether it should be under the sole remit of COAG or also engage other Technical Committees, in particular COFI and COFO.

49. **Recommendation 12:** Soils - (C 2017/21 para 32, 45 c)

The Committee supported the establishment of the Global Soil Information System and the preparation of the Global Soil Organic Carbon Map by 2017, and called on GSP to pursue its resource mobilization efforts. It also requested FAO to intensify its food safety work and technical support to smallholders at local level concerning the safe use of fertilizers and pesticides.

50. Since the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management (VGSSM) by the 155th FAO Council in December 2016, the FAO Global Soil Partnership (GSP) Secretariat has been actively supporting their dissemination and application at country level. For

¹⁰ <http://www.fao.org/3/I9900EN/i9900en.pdf>

example, countries like Australia and Costa Rica already took action to implement them, while Iran and Thailand are in the process of organizing VGSSM specific activities.

51. Another important action taken by the Secretariat was the organization of two global symposia: the Global Symposium on Soil Organic Carbon (GSOC17) on 23-25 March 2017, and the Global Symposium on Soil Pollution (GSOP18), held on 2-4 May 2018 (both at FAO headquarters).

52. GSOC17 resulted in a set of recommendations including supporting the development of policies and actions to encourage the implementation of soil and land management strategies that foster the protection, sequestration, measurement, mapping, monitoring and reporting of soil organic carbon (SOC). The recommendations are structured around three main themes focusing on the assessment of SOC, the maintenance and increase of SOC stocks, and SOC management in specific types of soil. As a sequel of the Symposium, GSP produced a Global SOC map released in December 2017.

53. The Global Symposium on Soil Pollution (GSOP18)¹¹ aimed to gather available information and scientific knowledge on soil pollution with regards to: the sources; risks posed to food production and safety, human health and the environment; risk assessment approaches; and state-of-the-art techniques to remediate polluted sites. The major conclusions and recommendations as well as the way forward are available in the outcome document “be the solution to soil pollution”¹². The recommendations aim to support the development of policies and actions to encourage the implementation of soil management and land use planning strategies that enhance the prevention, minimization and remediation of soil pollution when feasible, through the promotion of sustainable soil management (SSM).

54. The GSP Secretariat and the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soil (ITPS) produced the Global Soil Organic Carbon map. A capacity development programme was implemented for national experts. The Global Soil Information System is under establishment. The Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN) was established with regional chapters in Asia (SealNET) and Latin America (LATSOLAN).

55. The ITPS with the support of the concerned FAO units, considered that there was a need for a proactive role in implementing the VGSSM chapter on nutrient imbalance, thereby also addressing the COAG request in relation to food safety.

56. **Recommendation 13:** Innovation - (C 2017/21 para 38)

The Committee recommended that FAO play a greater role in assisting countries and local communities in the development of their Agricultural Innovation System (AIS) strategies through comprehensive diagnosis and needs assessments in partnership with farmers, academia, private sector, research, extension institutions and other relevant stakeholders, and to provide regular progress reports to the Committee.

57. FAO has organized two regional meetings on agricultural biotechnologies in sustainable food systems and nutrition; namely for the Asia-Pacific Region in September 2017 and for Sub-Saharan Africa, in November 2017 in Ethiopia. The recommendations were discussed at FAO Regional Conferences. In addition, FAO will be organizing an International Symposium on Agricultural Innovation for Family Farmers from 21-23 November 2018 at FAO Headquarters. SOFA 2014 refined FAO's working definition of agricultural innovation for the symposium as: “Agricultural innovation is the process whereby individuals or organisations bring new or existing products, processes or ways of organisation into use for the first time in a specific context in order to increase effectiveness, competitiveness, resilience to shocks or environmental sustainability and thereby contribute to food security and nutrition, economic development or sustainable natural resource management”.

58. FAO continues to facilitate the Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP), and to implement the capacity development for agricultural innovation systems (CDAIS) project at a global level. A project

¹¹ More information on GSOP18 <http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/global-symposium-on-soil-pollution/en/>

¹² <http://www.fao.org/3/ca0362en/CA0362EN.pdf>

is under development for Peru and Zambia with support from IFAD. Another project is being operationalized in El Salvador with support from the Italian Government.

59. FAO is finalizing the development of a methodology for national agricultural innovation systems diagnostic. The following activities will take place from May to December 2018: a) an expert consultation meeting to review and consolidate the methodology for AIS diagnostic (Paris, 13-15 June 2018); b) a feasibility test of the diagnostic methodology will be conducted in Burkina Faso and Tanzania.

60. **Recommendation 14:** World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020 - (C 2017/21 para 40)

The Committee appreciated the content of Volume I of the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020 (WCA 2020), published in all FAO official languages, and welcomed the inclusion of new themes such as Environment/Greenhouse Gases emissions (GHG) and Intra-household distribution of managerial decisions on the holding. It further invited FAO to publish soon Volume II of the WCA 2020 in order to provide countries with harmonized guidelines on the operational aspects of census taking.

61. The revised draft of Volume II of WCA 2020 underwent a peer-review by Statistics Canada and then a Global Consultation under the umbrella of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC). The Global Consultation involved national statistical offices of all FAO member countries and several relevant international organizations (e.g. Eurostat, ILO, UNECE, UNFPA, UNSD and World Bank). A final draft was submitted to the 49th session of the UNSC in New York, in March 2018.

62. The UNSC urged member countries to conduct at least one census of agriculture in the period 2016–2025 and requested countries, resource partners and other donors to mobilize resources for the implementation of the 2020 round of censuses of agriculture.

63. The final draft is currently under edition and layout for subsequent printing and dissemination. It is also being translated into French, Spanish, Chinese, Russian and Arabic.

64. FAO is currently trying to mobilize resources in order to organize a series of regional roundtables to present and disseminate the use of Volume II of the WCA 2020 in member countries. FAO continues to assist member countries in the planning and implementation of their agricultural censuses in line with the current WCA 2020 guidelines.

65. **Recommendation 16:** UN Ten-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production - (C 2017/21 para 45 e)

The Committee requested FAO to strengthen its work on sustainable food systems in relation to the UN Ten-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP-SCP).

66. In February 2017, the Multi-stakeholder Advisory Committee (MAC) of the 10YFP Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) Programme endorsed eight core initiatives with the following four led by FAO with UN Environment: 1) “Sustainable diets in the context of sustainable food systems”; 2) “Delivering SDG Target 12.3 on food loss and waste reduction”; 3) “Sustainability along all value chains: Identifying and promoting local initiatives linking small-scale producers and consumers”; and 4) “Sustainable Food Systems – what’s in it for farmers?”. Initial activities implemented in 2017 under the core initiatives include: a technical workshop on “Development of Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainability of the Mediterranean Diet in the Mediterranean Region”; an international workshop on “Sustainable diets in the context of sustainable food systems”; and an international workshop on “Opportunities and challenges of sustainable agro-food systems in Latin America and the Caribbean”.

67. In June 2017, FAO contributed to supporting the organization of the First Global Conference of the 10YFP SFS Programme which took place in Pretoria, South Africa.

68. FAO is now contributing actively to various work streams of the SFS Programme. FAO has developed a new interagency Umbrella Programme, in collaboration with UN Environment and with

the financial assistance of Switzerland, to provide support to the work of the SFS Programme. The Interagency Programme will reinforce FAO's work on agricultural and food systems, with synergies across the five Strategic Programs.

69. **Recommendation 17:** Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems -GIAHS (C 2017/21para 34)

The Committee encouraged FAO to further align the GIAHS programme and activities within its Strategic Objectives through country and regional level delivery mechanisms.

70. GIAHS Secretariat has supported member countries to broaden the funding base using FAO programme delivery mechanisms such as the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) or the TCP facility (TCPf). It has also facilitated the incorporation of GIAHS concepts such as the "promotion of sustainable agriculture or sustainable natural resource management", the "improvement of resource management" and the "proportion of family farming" in existing and newly designed Country Programming Frameworks.

71. Communication and information exchange has been strengthened with regional GIAHS focal points to support member countries in preparation of GIAHS proposals and engagement in follow up activities.

III. Suggested action by the Committee

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