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منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
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COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Twenty-sixth Session

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

Executive Summary

This document provides an overview of FAO's achievements in food and agriculture in the 2016-2017 biennium and a perspective on FAO's work in the food and agriculture sector during 2018-19, in the context of the Strategic Framework. In addition, global developments and trends that are likely to influence FAO's work in food and agriculture are presented, and four overarching themes on priority areas that FAO should focus its work on, have been identified in the context of FAO's Strategic Framework and its Medium Term Plan 2018-21.

Suggested action by the Committee

The Committee is invited to:

- Take note and provide any comments on the achievements, and the developments and trends identified with respect to the food and agriculture sectors (sections II and III)
- 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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COAG 26

I. Introduction

1. FAO's reviewed Strategic Framework¹, its Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2018-21 and Programme Work and Budget (PWB) 2018-19 (MTP/PWB)² were approved by the FAO Conference in its 40th session in July 2017, Rome. The Conference appreciated the close alignment of FAO's Strategic Objectives with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
2. The reviewed Strategic Framework was developed through a consultative strategic thinking process during 2016, taking into account the strong and consistent support expressed by the FAO governing bodies for progress in the strategic direction of the Organization. This process involved identification of global trends expected to frame agricultural development over the medium term, and sectoral and regional trends arising from regional strategic reviews and deliberations of the FAO regional conferences and technical committees; derivation of main challenges expected to be faced by countries and development actors in food and agriculture in the coming years; analysis of main global developments setting the overall context in which FAO operates; and the implications of these challenges and developments for FAO's Strategic Objectives in the context of FAO's basic attributes and core functions³. The review took into account the major global developments that occurred in 2015-2016, most importantly, the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and entry into force of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.
3. The reviewed Strategic Framework provided the basis for fine-tuning the conceptual framework and theory of change of FAO's five Strategic Objectives (SOs) within the context of the Organization's vision, attributes and core functions. The MTP-PWB set out the programmatic framework and resources for planning, implementing and monitoring results through indicators and targets, including the contribution of FAO's work toward 40 SDG targets. Web-Annex 1: Results Framework 2018-19-Strategic and Functional Objectives⁴ provides an overview of FAO's Strategic Programmes including alignment with the SDGs.
4. In this context, the present document first provides a brief overview of FAO's achievements in the food and agriculture sector facilitated through the Strategic Programmes (SPs) in the 2016-17 biennium. It then outlines key global and sector specific developments and trends, which will influence FAO's future work in food and agriculture. The last section lays out the priority areas of FAO's work in food and agriculture during 2018-19 and beyond.

II. Achievements in FAO's work in Food and Agriculture in 2016-17

5. In the last biennium, FAO continued to keep hunger, food insecurity and addressing all forms of malnutrition at the forefront of the development agenda. The Programme Implementation Report 2016-17 (PIR)⁵ documents FAO's achievements during the biennium in relation to FAO's Strategic Objectives and related SDG indicators. Summaries of results and achievements for each Strategic Objective, including gender and statistics, are provided in Annex 2, and further detail (including regional results⁶) is available on the FAO web site at <http://www.fao.org/pir>
6. FAO has actively engaged in the global process leading up to and following the 2030 Agenda, including the Paris Agreement and the subsequent UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) meetings, as well as the Cancun Biodiversity Conference and CBD COP 13 in 2016. FAO has been instrumental in advocating and supporting efforts underlining the crucial role agriculture has in

¹ [C 2017/7 Rev. 1](#)

² [C 2017/3](#)

³ [C 2013/7](#)

⁴ [PC 124/2-WA1](#)

⁵ [C 2019/8](#)

⁶ [C 2019/8-WA7](#)

tackling both climate change and hunger, and on the interlinkages between agricultural production and biodiversity. In recent years, focus of FAO's work related to the 2030 Agenda shifted toward support to countries in capacity development for integrated policy advice and monitoring progress toward the achievement of the SDGs. Achievements in this area and in seven other selected areas corresponding to items on the COAG agenda are highlighted below.

7. FAO has been designated as the UN custodian agency of 21 SDG indicators and as contributing agency for further four indicators in view of its contributions to the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs). This represents over one tenth of the total number of indicators. During the last biennium the work carried out by FAO in support of SDG monitoring has produced some important results. First of all, the methodological work for the reclassification of the Tier III indicators has significantly advanced, with the upgrade of eight SDG indicators under FAO custodianship and the finalization and testing of the methodology for the remaining five, which should allow to upgrade them all by the end of 2018. This reclassification is vital for SDG monitoring, since it unlocks the potential for data reporting by countries and the effective delivery of capacity development support by custodian agencies. Moreover, countries' capacity to track SDG progress has been strengthened with the organization of 20 training workshops attended by official statisticians from about 120 countries and through South-South cooperation agreements. As a result, five Tier II indicators have been reclassified to Tier I because their country coverage is now over 50 percent. Finally, yet importantly, an SDG Data and Communication Portal has been established to provide users with access to national, regional, and global-level data through interactive visualization tools and to detailed information on the SDG indicators under FAO custodianship, including on methods, data collection tools and capacity development events.

8. In order to address the current huge data and capacity gaps, a concerted effort across the UN System is required to ensure that, within the next few years, most countries are able to compile and use the indicators for achieving the SDGs. For this purpose, FAO has developed a comprehensive programme for scaling up capacity development support on SDG monitoring, which aims to help countries align national and global indicators, invest in alternative data sources to reduce the cost of data collection, strengthen the institutional coordination among national data producers, and improve their capacity to use SDG indicators in decision-making processes.

9. Regarding FAO's role in policy support to member countries, during 2016-17, FAO's efforts have shifted to provide countries with integrated and comprehensive policy support. In addition, often in close coordination with RBAs and the UN Country Teams, FAO assisted countries in the development of their Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) providing comprehensive reports on national progress towards SDGs. In 2017 (and early 2018) FAO supported more than 70 countries in awareness raising on the role of food and agriculture in SDGs through national, regional and subregional workshops with multi-sectoral and cross-ministerial participation in RAF, RAP, REU, RLC and RNE. FAO also supported 25 countries on SDG implementation with a specific focus on data collection and related capacity development for the SDG indicators for which FAO acts as custodian.

10. *Food systems and nutrition:* In December 2016, FAO and WHO co-hosted in Rome, under the umbrella of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, the International Symposium on Sustainable Food Systems for Healthy Diets and Improved Nutrition.⁷ Its focus was on supply-side and demand-side policies and measures for increasing access to healthy diets, empowering consumers to choose healthy diets and measures to strengthen accountability, resilience and equity within the food system. Several sessions addressed the agriculture sector. This international symposium was followed by five Regional Symposia in 2017 that reviewed the regional dimensions and challenges of sustainable food systems for healthy diets and improved nutrition.⁸ Under the leadership of FAO, UNDESA and the OHRLLS,

⁷<http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/sustainable-food-systems-nutrition-symposium/en/>;
<http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/I9025EN>.

⁸See further COAG/2018/INF/6

the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States (GAP) was developed as a direct follow-up to the SAMOA pathway, and it was launched during FAO Conference in July 2017.

11. Particular progress was made on the development of a Global Food Loss Index (GFLI) in collaboration with UNEP with a proposal to split the SDG target 12.3 into two stages to measure: (i) “reduction of losses along the food production and supply chains”- supply oriented (GFLI), and (ii) “halving per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer level”- demand oriented – food waste index (FWI). In addition, FAO developed a Food Loss Analysis Case Study methodology, and supported its application in a wide range of developing countries and staple food supply chains, in an effort to identify the critical loss points in food supply chains and the underlying cause of the losses at these points.

12. *Fall Armyworm*: On emerging threats, the rapid spread of the Fall Armyworm (FAW) prompted the FAO Programme for Action for Sustainable Management of the Fall Armyworm in Africa⁹. Experts meetings were organized to share and update the state of knowledge on sustainable FAW management for smallholder family farmers, as well as reviewing key areas of management, including biological control, monitoring, economic thresholds, bio-insecticides use, and the impact of plant biodiversity on FAW ecology.

13. *Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)*: AMR was addressed through FAO’s Action Plan¹⁰, working with WHO and OIE in the context of the One Health Approach and the Inter-Agency Coordinating Group established by the Secretary-General in 2016. The Organization provided scientific advice on AMR in support of Codex standard setting and on the role of the environment in foodborne AMR, AMR via foods of plant origin, the impact of Anti-Microbial (AM) use in crops, the role of biocides, and potential risks for AMR and their role in minimizing transmission of foodborne AMR.

14. *Agroecology*: FAO organized the first International Symposium on Agroecology for Food Security and Nutrition, held in Rome in 2014, and seven subsequent regional multi-stakeholder seminars that took place from 2015 to 2017. The seminars captured a wide range of experiences, practices, initiatives and policies from all stakeholders and regions. Agroecology was recognised as an innovative approach, among others, to support countries in achieving SDGs and respond to Climate Change challenges.

15. *Biotechnology*: FAO organized the International symposium on “The role of agricultural biotechnologies in sustainable food systems and nutrition” in February 2016 and two regional meetings on agricultural biotechnologies in 2017 to explore the benefits, risks, challenges and opportunities of agricultural biotechnologies and their contribution to more sustainable food systems and improved nutrition in the face of an increasing human population and climate change.

16. *The Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)*: GIAHS programme broadened its geographical coverage to nine new sites in seven countries in 2016-17, resulting in a total of 46 sites by the end of 2017. The GIAHS programme continued to recognize the accumulated experiences and the range and depth of knowledge systems of human communities and their adaptations to the potentials and constraints of the environment.

17. *The Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL)*, after the endorsement of its governance and action plan 2016, has moved forward in its efforts to build consensus on the path towards sustainability in the livestock sector. The membership has almost doubled since December 2015. The GASL has demonstrated encouraging process towards a more consensual view on sustainable livestock as well as policy and practice change, where GASL added value through partnership-building and knowledge sharing effects. GASL has proven to be effective in enabling an exchange of

⁹ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bt417e.pdf>

¹⁰ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5996e.pdf>

knowledge, tools and best practices among members through its nine Action Networks, compiling evidence and applying policies and practices in local contexts.

18. In 2016-17, FAO reached 82 percent of the Output indicator targets, meaning that the Organization delivered the assistance it committed to in the Programme of Work and Budget for this biennium. This delivery helped members reach 82 percent of the Outcome targets, showing that FAO's work and efforts provided a significant and measurable contribution to the improvements in the enabling environment needed to foster the achievement of the Strategic Objectives. Where targets were not met, valuable lessons were learned about the constraints FAO faces and how to address them in the future.

19. 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 the food and agriculture sectors

20. The following developments and trends arise from the topics considered by the current 26th Session of COAG, and the ongoing international processes affecting agriculture- (including crop and livestock production); food safety; nutrition; natural resource management and biodiversity; 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 25th Session of COAG in 2016¹¹.

21. In the past few years, overall trends and global issues of concern have prompted the global community to act on these through a series of initiatives and agreements to reset the global development agendas. These developments constitute the global context in which FAO works and will continue to work in the near future, under the overall umbrella of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs, which include the policy commitments and goals of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Other important developments in the areas of FAO's mandate include the proclamation in April 2016 of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025)¹² as a follow-up to the 2014 Second International Conference on Nutrition; the Decade of Family Farming (2019-2028); the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030; the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants).

22. In terms of specific trends and challenges in the agriculture and food sectors, trends identified in the 25th session of COAG in 2016 are still valid, namely the need to enhance productivity, food security and nutrition for a growing population, environmental degradation and climate change, increased competition for natural resources, biodiversity, science and technology innovations, increased interdependency of food systems, and rapid urbanization with implications for rural areas. The FAO publication "*The future of food and agriculture -Trends and challenges*"¹³ presents an analysis of the medium- to long-term trends and challenges the world is facing and is expected to face in areas of key importance to FAO's vision and mandate. In addition, the FAO Regional Conferences and Technical Committees consider trends that are regional or sectoral in nature every two years. Based on these reviews, a synthesis of major global and regional trends were identified which provided the basis for the Reviewed Strategic Framework¹⁴ of FAO in 2017. An updated list of these interconnected trends is below:

¹¹ COAG/2016/2

¹² <https://www.un.org/nutrition/home>

¹³ The future of food and agriculture – Trends and challenges, FAO 2016, Rome

¹⁴ C 2017/7 Rev. 1

- 1) Global and regional growth in population, urbanization and income are driving changes in structure and level of demand for food.
- 2) Despite increase in per capita incomes, slower progress in poverty reduction is expected with persistent inequality and grim nutritional outlook.
- 3) Changing nature and intensity of competition for natural resources, and continued degradation of the natural resources base and ecosystem services on which agricultural production depends.
- 4) Increasing climate variability and enhanced exposure to extreme weather events.
- 5) Growing demand for food, feed and biofuel; the need for significant growth in production of crops, livestock and fish to sustainably increase the efficiency of food systems, and maximize the use of food produced, through strategic actions to reduce food losses and waste.
- 6) Continuing food price volatility and growing need for investment to defeat extreme poverty and hunger.
- 7) Slowdown of growth in agricultural trade and re-regionalization of trade.
- 8) Rising incidence of conflicts, protracted crises and impacts on hunger, food security, agricultural development and human displacement.
- 9) Rising trends in transboundary plant pests and diseases, emerging threats and increasing impacts of zoonotic diseases on human health.
- 10) Worsening prospects for stable and remunerative employment, particularly for youth.
- 11) Rapid structural transformation, rural transition and related changes in food systems.
- 12) Multiple burdens of malnutrition – while undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies remain a global health emergency, overweight, obesity and associated non-communicable disease rates are quickly reaching pandemic levels¹⁵.
- 13) Rising importance and need for effective and inclusive governance across sectors.

IV. Priority areas of FAO's work in food and agriculture in 2018-19 and beyond

23. The four overarching themes described below encompass the priority areas for FAO's work in food and agriculture. These 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.

24. In the near future, the transformative nature of the 2030 Agenda, its complexity, and the need for more integrated, multi-objective, and cross-sectoral approaches require new tools and new governance mechanisms that will have profound implications on the way countries plan, implement and monitor their agriculture programmes. Key questions are: How can decision-makers transform their food systems and how can they select and prioritize resources and investments to accelerate progress?

25. FAO's guidance document 'Transforming food and agriculture to achieve the SDGs'¹⁶ offers a pathway to do so. Aligned to FAO's principles of sustainable food and agriculture, this guide outlines

¹⁵ <http://www.fao.org/state-of-food-security-nutrition>

¹⁶ [Transforming Food and Agriculture](#), FAO Rome 2018

20 action areas that cut across all FAO Strategic Objectives. Each action describes approaches, practices, policies and tools that interlink multiple SDGs, contributes to the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection-, and involves participation and partnerships among different actors. The action areas are designed to support countries in selecting and prioritizing resources to accelerate progress towards the implementation of SDGs. The 20 action areas offer countries a thread that knits the many sectors of agriculture and rural development with a country's broader development programme encompassing poverty eradication, decent job creation, national growth, urban regeneration and natural resource wealth. These concepts are further developed in the COAG discussion document "Sustainable pathways to engage food and agriculture for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"¹⁷.

26. Cross-cutting issues identified in the MTP-PWB 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. The recent Multistakeholder Dialogue on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors has proposed to add biodiversity as another theme to be mainstreamed across FAO programmes.

27. Data, information and statistics are 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.

28. Under this overall framework, COAG discussion documents address various emerging issues and priorities. Based on these documents FAO priority areas of action under its five Strategic Objectives can be summarized under four overarching themes: (A) addressing environmental challenges through mainstreaming climate change and biodiversity in agriculture sectors and facilitate innovation; (B) achieving sustainable food systems; (C) addressing emerging threats to plant, animal and human health; (D) revitalizing rural areas for youth.

A. Addressing environmental challenges¹⁸

a) Mainstream climate change in agriculture¹⁹

29. The food and agricultural sectors are essential for human development and are at the centre of the global response to climate change. Agricultural and food systems are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. At the same time, they are significant sources of GHG emissions. By supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement and Koronivia Joint work on Agriculture which places emphasis on the key role of agriculture and food security on the international climate agenda, FAO can help countries deliver on both climate goals and the 2030 agenda for sustainable Development.

b) Mainstream biodiversity in agriculture²⁰

¹⁷ COAG/2018/3

¹⁸ Agenda items 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.5, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3

¹⁹ COAG/2018/8

²⁰ COAG/2018/10

30. Agriculture (crop and livestock production) covers about 38 percent of the terrestrial surface. Agricultural sectors are major users of biodiversity but also have the potential to contribute to the protection of biodiversity. Sustainable agriculture is the answer to reverse trends that lead to biodiversity loss, damaged ecosystems, deforestation and the overall deterioration of our natural resources. If terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems are managed sustainably, agricultural sectors can contribute to the provisioning of ecosystem services. These include maintenance of water quality and quantity, nutrient cycling, soil formation and rehabilitation, erosion control, carbon sequestration, improving resilience of ecosystems, habitat provision for wild species, biological pest control and pollination. By supporting the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the CBD's Programme of Work on Agricultural Biodiversity, with the international initiatives for the sustainable use of pollinators and of soils, and with emphasis on the key linkages between agriculture and food security, biodiversity and ecosystem services, FAO can help countries deliver on both biodiversity goals, resilient production systems and the 2030 agenda for sustainable Development.

B. Achieving sustainable food systems for food security and nutrition^{21 22}

31. Food systems encompass the entire range of actors and their interlinked activities involved in the production, aggregation, processing, distribution, consumption and disposal of food products that originate from agriculture (including livestock), forestry or fisheries; the institutions that initiate or inhibit change in these systems, and the broader economic, societal and natural environments in which they are embedded²³. A food system is sustainable if it can provide food security and nutrition in such a way that the economic, social and environmental bases required generating food security and nutrition for future generations are not compromised.

32. Interventions in food systems have tended to focus on single dimensions of sustainability such as environmental degradation or poor nutritional outcomes in vulnerable groups. However, in many cases there will be multiple binding constraints that need to be addressed simultaneously. This generally calls for adopting a systems approach to apply integrated interventions across multiple sectors including agriculture, forestry and fisheries, trade, health, finance and education, rather than a series of single interventions within one sector. By looking at the system as a whole, more effective and better coordinated cooperation between different sectors and disciplines can be fostered to create synergies and balance trade-offs. Embracing a food systems approach will require commitment and action from a wider range of involved parties, locally, nationally, and internationally.

33. Contributing to improving diets and nutrition through food systems actions is considered a key priority for FAO under this theme. FAO will continue collaborating with multiple organizations that complement FAO's resources and expertise to improve food systems and strengthen country and regional capacity. In particular, nutrition will be prioritized in agricultural and food systems policies and programmes in global and regional initiatives and priority countries in which FAO engages in order to maximize their impact on nutrition outcomes. In addition, FAO will develop a food systems framework that will define FAO's approach on food systems for nutrition. FAO will further perform country case studies to analyse emerging nutrition and food systems issues and support countries with planning, policy and investment advice on how food systems for nutrition can be drivers on sustainable development.

²¹ Agenda items 2.1, 2.2, 2.3

²² COAG/2018/4

²³ Adapted from FAO. 2013. The State of Food and Agriculture: Food Systems for Better Nutrition

C. Addressing emerging threats to plant, animal and human health^{24 25}

34. The emergence and spread of transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases and food safety threats has increased dramatically in recent years. Globalization, changing ecosystems, agricultural intensification and trade, as well as climate change, have all played a part. These threats have the ability to rapidly spread over large geographical areas and reach epidemic proportions with devastating impacts not only on livelihoods and food security and nutrition of populations but also on public health especially when such diseases and pests affect humans. Strengthening the capacities of countries and regions to address the challenges of these threats in a more effective manner is a top priority of the FAO and its Emergency Prevention System (EMPRES) Programmes. FAO works with country partners to develop appropriate legal and policy frameworks, support economic and environmentally sound and innovative coping technologies, strengthen national surveillance and diagnostic systems, support emergency response and develop practiced contingency plans and field exercises.

35. Only food that is safe nourishes people and only food that is safe can be traded successfully and contribute to the economic development of a country. Climate change can give rise to new threats to food safety and evolving food production systems can also change patterns of contamination. To mitigate the potential negative impact on public health and trade from those emerging food safety challenges, FAO supports and builds capacities in affected countries to help them prepare and manage these new threats as they emerge in order to maintain an appropriate level of food safety and food security in a changing environment. FAO's support aims at strengthening the capacities of countries to build food systems that provide safe food to its population and, at the same time, enable the participation in the global economy through adequate compliance with international food safety standards. In addition to direct technical support to beneficiary countries, FAO is hosting the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the pre-eminent food safety standard-setting organization protecting human health and ensuring fair practices in the trade of food globally. To strengthen the international coordination and commitment for safer food for all, FAO and WHO will be collaborating closer through organizing a set of food safety meetings in the first quarter of 2019.

D. Revitalizing rural areas for youth²⁶

36. There are currently 40 million new entrants to the labour market every year. In many low- and middle-income countries, population growth is outpacing job growth and rapid urbanization has not been accompanied by commensurate non-agricultural job growth. Consequently, agriculture and related sectors are oftentimes the only option for a large share of young workers in their search for work. Nevertheless, the rural youth is increasingly turning away from agriculture as it is largely viewed as a hazardous, underpaid sector with little opportunity for advancement. Rural areas must be revitalized in order to create attractive job opportunities for young people, while bringing prosperity to their communities as a whole. Investments for rural development, inclusive of agriculture and related value chains, should include, if not prioritize, investments in human capital, with emphasis on youth as the new entrants to the labour market of the local/national economy. Without a trained labour force, innovative and efficient technologies will not be used to their full potential for increased productivity and value-addition, agriculture will not be an attractive destination for inward investment and the rural world will remain a place young men and women want to leave.

²⁴ Agenda item 2.1, 2.2, 2.6

²⁵ COAG/2018/INF/5, COAG/2018/INF/4

²⁶ Agenda item 2.4

Annex 1: Main components of FAO's Strategic Framework

FAO's vision

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

The 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) Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable
- 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, statistics and cross-cutting themes (climate change, gender, governance, nutrition)

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 2016-17²⁷

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 coordinated manner to ensure that the food system provides equitable distribution of food as well as access to and availability of healthy diets for all. At the global and regional levels, FAO focuses on advocacy and fostering inclusive policy dialogue to anchor political commitment and develop a common understanding of the issues, while facilitating consensus on policy options and best practices. At a national level, FAO works directly with decision-makers to boost skills, encourage policy dialogue, support implementation and cross-sector coordination.

Examples of FAO policy support include the creation of evidence-based agricultural investment plans in support of food security and nutrition, building on the guidance and good practices that is provided in global products such as the voluntary guidelines on governance of tenure; the Right to adequate food; and the principles on responsible agricultural investment, among others.

By the end of 2017, FAO supported countries such as Uruguay, Paraguay, Malawi, Zambia, Cambodia, Philippines and Kenya in strengthening their food and nutrition policies, programmes and investments to include climate action activities. In 2016-17, more than 50 countries across the five regions developed sectoral policies and investment programmes that explicitly address food insecurity and malnutrition.

While the FAO biennial target for supporting policies, investment plans and programmes was largely met, this work will intensify considerably in the current period, as the 34 Policy Officers recently deployed to high-level positions in government ministries through the joint FAO-EU FIRST policy assistance facility make their mark on identifying opportunities to strengthen sectoral policy in order to explicitly address the root causes of hunger, while strengthening institutional capacity and capacities for policy dialogue and implementation.

FAO's results on supporting legal frameworks exceeded biennial targets for the second time, thanks in part to the continued emergence of country-level opportunities to work on healthy diets, land tenure, the right to food, social protection and other issues.

While some improvement was seen in supporting policy implementation, as reflected in the indicator for increased human and financial resources and investments, with 10 percent of countries seeing progress since 2013, this is an area that requires much more support if the SDG2 hunger target is to be met. The global economic downturn was one of the main culprits here, as decision-makers in developing countries were faced with tough choices, often at the expense of turning political commitment into action and channelling resources to food security and nutrition.

More than 15 countries, including Cabo Verde, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Nepal, Paraguay, and Sao Tome and Principe are developing and implementing legal frameworks that support the right-to-food for all, along with fair access to resources and assets.

Tangible results are visible in several countries: Chad revised its National Rural Sector Investment Plan, while Guatemala launched its Family Farming Programme to Strengthen the Peasant Economy and created a national strategy to prevent chronic undernourishment. Several African and Asian countries have made excellent progress in ensuring that nutrition-sensitive investments are imbedded into agricultural investment plans.

Overall, 44 percent of countries made very good progress on governance, coordination mechanisms and partnerships for food security and nutrition, improving their overall coordination mechanisms.

²⁷ The overview of achievements in this annex are taken from FAO Programme Implementation Report 2016-17: Overview

Some 83 percent of countries scored high to medium-high on this Outcome indicator in 2017 – a significant improvement on 2015's figure of 38 percent.

At the end of 2017, while 26 percent of countries demonstrated an improvement in evidence-based decision-making, 72 percent of countries did not show any progress. Insufficient capacity for the monitoring progress and evaluation of impact of policies and programmes for food security and nutrition is still a major obstacle and progress will require more investment and greater effort at the national level.

In 2017, the Latin American Commission for Livestock Development (CODEGALAC) has recommended the establishment of a Livestock-SDGs Policy Lab (LPL). This recommendation has been endorsed by the 2018 regional conference for Latin America. The LPL is a platform that serve as interface between policy makers, researchers, financial institution, farmers unions, international organizations and other stakeholders to analyse, discuss policy instruments and program interventions with potential to increase the impact of livestock sector development towards the achievement of the SDGs in particular Goal 2. In this regards FAO through the LPL is supporting member states and stakeholders identify windows of opportunity for policy reforms and investments to shape the transformative change needed in the sector to enhance its contribute on to the SDGS.

Strategic Objective 2: Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable

The world must transition to sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries if it is to boost production and productivity, address climate change and combat environmental degradation. FAO has been spearheading strategies, policies and investment programmes to help governments, rural communities and agricultural producers adopt more productive and sustainable practices and improve governance, while conserving and protecting the natural resource base and tackling challenges posed by climate change.

Overall, FAO supported 138 countries to make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable in 2016-17. Furthermore, FAO helped 98 countries to adopt a broad range of sustainable agricultural practices – from agroecology, agroforestry and aquaculture to pastureland and soil management, cooperative fisheries management and nuclear techniques to improve animal feed.

As engaging in innovation or building on traditional knowledge can allow for sustainable increases in production, three inter-related approaches to sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition received increased greater attention and efforts. The first approach saw FAO delve into agroecology through regional symposia in Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, Europe, Central Asia and Asia and the Pacific, and the Near East while also providing technical support to countries and working with an array of partners. Secondly, the Globally Important Agricultural Heritages Systems (GIAHS) programme, which combines agricultural biodiversity, resilient ecosystems and cultural heritage, broadened its geographical coverage in 2016-17, reaching a total of 46 sites by the end of 2017. Thirdly, agricultural biotechnologies were the subject of an FAO-led international symposium in 2016 as well as two regional meetings in Africa and Asia in 2017 to examine the new solutions that technology offers.

FAO championed more efficient water use in 17 countries, where freshwater resources are among the lowest in the world, including the African Sahel, the Near East, the dry corridor of Latin America and areas of South-East Asia. The initiatives focused on better irrigation systems and cross-sectoral water-sharing practices to maximize production while protecting water resources.

There was marked progress in developing governance frameworks to ease the transition to sustainable agriculture. A quarter of countries augmented existing policies to foster sustainable agriculture production and natural resource management, while more than half reinforced national implementation mechanisms. The number of FAO-supported policy processes with cross-sectoral dialogue increased, in particular, in countries that address sustainable food and agriculture more broadly or deal with landscape management or climate change adaptation and mitigation.

In response to climate change, FAO supported countries to carry out their agriculture-related Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) towards the Paris Climate Agreement. FAO held three regional workshops that addressed climate finance and the transparency framework for monitoring and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions as well as supporting the integration of agriculture in National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). The second edition of the Climate-Smart Agriculture Sourcebook was launched at the 23rd Conference of Parties (COP23) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The sourcebook will support countries in adapting climate-smart approaches to the existing socio-economic context, addressing the specific needs of men and women, and making agricultural systems productive, sustainable and adapted to climate change.

Advances were made, too, in encouraging countries to adopt international and regional instruments for sustainable agriculture. Fifty-one percent showed greater commitment to and support for selected FAO international instruments, with the provisions of binding and non-binding FAO instruments incorporated into the national legislation of 39 percent.

The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and its Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources reviewed the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources (adopted in 2007) and confirmed that it continues to be the key international instrument to guide the management of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture at national, regional and international levels. They drafted the statement *Reaffirming the World's Commitment to the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*, which was endorsed as Resolution 3/2017 Fortieth FAO Conference

The Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) entered into force in 2016 as a binding international treaty designed to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, prompting FAO and partners to set up a global programme, provide technical assistance and build capacities for its implementation. Gap analyses were conducted alongside awareness-raising and capacity-building activities involving 130 countries.

FAO scaled up its operational support for countries to implement the SDGs through sustainable food and agriculture, helping to position food, agriculture and sustainability as an integral part of national development. It now needs to help bolster public bodies' capacities to implement appropriate policies, strengthen stakeholder partnerships, and mobilize financing and investments. Actions on these points are key to promoting sustainable food and agriculture and achieve the SDGs.

The Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS) was established in 1996 as the tool for the recording of information on the world's livestock breeds and is used as the primary source of data for monitoring the status of the global diversity of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture. FAO continued during the reporting period to further develop DAD-IS. A new prototype of DAD-IS was launched on 21 November 2017²⁸ and has been accessible online²⁹ since that time. The new version of DAD-IS provides features enabling countries to insert easily calculate Indicators 2.5.1³⁰ and 2.5.2³¹ of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) related to the maintenance of genetic diversity of farmed and domesticated animals.

In the context of the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock, the Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance (LEAP) Partnership has developed reference, voluntary guidelines to understand, assess, and improve the environmental performance of livestock supply chains. The aim is to move the debate from the soundness of environmental assessment methods to actual improvement allowing decoupling production from resource use and negative environmental impacts while maximizing positive externalities enabling to adapt to climate change. Empowering the private sector

²⁸ <http://www.fao.org/dad-is/infocus/detail/en/c/1062936/>

²⁹ <http://www.fao.org/dad-is/en/>

³⁰ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-02-05-01.pdf>

³¹ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-02-05-02.pdf>

and livestock keepers with reference assessment tools allows identifying context-specific best practices for feed and livestock production. Over the biennium 2016-2017, FAO succeeded to release with its partners the reference technical guidance documents and a database on GHG emissions.

FAO has developed and released GLEAM-i, the interactive and open version of the Global Livestock Environmental Assessment Model. GLEAM-i is available as an Excel calculator and is being released as a web application. It can support governments, project planners, producers, industry and civil society organizations to calculate emissions using IPCC Tier 2 methods. The tool can be used in the preparation of national inventories and in ex-ante project evaluation for the assessment of intervention scenarios in animal husbandry, feed and manure management to improve livestock productivity and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To better support the transformation needed in the livestock sector and enhance its contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals, FAO drafted the World Livestock (WoLi) flagship publication “Transforming the livestock sector through the sustainable development goals”. WoLi examines the sector’s interaction with each of the Goals, as well as the potential synergies, trade-offs, and complex interlinkages involved. In this regard, this global report is intended to serve as a reference framework that Member States and stakeholders can consult as they move forward to realize livestock’s potentially major contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Strategic Objective 3: Reduce rural poverty

The world faces a huge challenge in trying to meet the first Sustainable Development Goal of ending poverty in all its forms. More than 2 billion people still live in poverty, according to the World Bank, some 767 million of them in extreme poverty. Inequalities persist between economic classes, rural and urban areas, regions, ethnic groups, and men and women.

In many low and middle-income countries, population growth is outpacing jobs growth, leading to unemployment, a dearth of economic opportunities and a lack of access to productive resources and skills. Distress migration is intensifying and about half of the world’s extreme poor live in fragile states.

FAO’s work in 2016-17 focused on the close linkages between poverty, food security and agriculture, using agriculture and rural development as entry points to address issues of access, empowerment, employment, social protection and migration. By the end of 2017, the rural poor in 43 percent of countries had better access to productive resources, services, organizations and markets than in 2013, 50 percent had improved their social protection systems, and 58 percent had strengthened their policies, institutions and interventions to generate decent rural employment, including for women and youth.

During the biennium, FAO helped over 25 countries and 10 institutions to develop, implement and monitor gender-equitable and sustainable rural development and poverty-reduction strategies. It supported five countries in applying international labour standards. In Lebanon, for example, together with the International Labour Organization (ILO), it launched the first ever guide for practitioners in Arabic on child labour in agriculture. The influx of Syrian refugees has greatly increased the incidence of child labour in Lebanon, particularly in agriculture. Beyond Lebanon, the guide will respond to the shortage of practical information in the Arab region on how to attend to child labourers in agriculture.

FAO’s efforts with regard to rural women’s economic empowerment have been yielding results. Thirty-one countries availed of its Legislation Assessment Tool to identify legislative areas for improvement to ensure that women and girls have equal tenure rights and access to land. The Organization further liaised with Paraguay and Ecuador to work with the government of Bolivia on women’s access to credit.

With the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Food Programme (WFP) and UN Women, FAO implemented the Rural Women’s Economic Empowerment Programme,

benefitting almost 40 000 rural women in seven countries, giving them access to financial services, business-development services, technological training and nutrition advice, and improving their capacity to influence policy processes at the national and regional levels.

FAO provided support at the Latin American and Caribbean Meeting of Rural Youth in Panama, where a Regional Agenda for Rural Youth was approved. Subsequently, the IV Ministerial Meeting on Family Farming and Rural Development issued a dedicated Agreement.

In Lesotho, the El Nino-induced drought led to the expansion of social protection as a cost effective means to respond to a crisis. FAO supported these efforts through the provision of a complementary productive and nutrition package to help save livelihoods.

Through South-South Cooperation, FAO worked with China to share best practices on ending extreme poverty with developing countries. It promoted South-South Cooperation between India, Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, The Gambia and Ethiopia.

FAO served as a key actor in social protection and productive inclusion in the SPIAC-B³² in 2016 which called for a renewed prioritization of shock responsive social protection. In addition, FAO contributed to the Inter-agency Social Protection Assessment (ISPA) Initiative, to develop a set of tools that will assist countries to improve their social protection systems in particular a tool to assess how social protection programmes contribute to food security and nutrition outcomes (FSN-ISPA tool).

FAO is stepping up its efforts to support countries' capacity to implement multi-sectoral and gender equitable policies, strategies and programmes for poverty reduction. Addressing the political economy of rural poverty reduction through policy work, advocacy, stakeholder participation, multi-sectoral coordination, South-South Cooperation and partnerships will be essential. During the past years, 2 capacity development events on gender and livestock have already taken place (Sri Lanka and Kenya), targeting a total number of 40 livestock officer from FAO as well as national line ministries coming from 14 countries. The methodology developed for the training is currently being documented and will be published in 2018 in the form of a step-by-step training guide on gender and livestock, in order to equip gender experts to deliver effective training on gender integration in livestock management and production. In the biennium 2018/19, the Animal Production and Health Division (AGA) will carry out its second stocktaking exercise to assess the extent to which gender has been considered and integrated in livestock programmes during the last 4 years. AGA, in close collaboration with the FAO Gender team, will also continue to provide technical support in order to enhance national institutional capacities to formulate gender sensitive livestock programmes and policy through capacity development at country level.

Strategic Objective 4: Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems

The effective participation of countries in shaping rapidly evolving agricultural and food systems is critical to food security and nutrition. Improving the efficiency and inclusiveness of these systems will help to ensure the responsible use of resources and facilitate the production of healthy and safe products.

In 2016-17, FAO lent substantial support to 50 countries to cut food loss and waste. It helped to craft guidelines for the prevention and reduction of food loss and waste in Colombia and the Dominican Republic, and assisted with capacity building in Egypt, Iran, Laos PDR, Morocco and Myanmar. At the regional level, it worked with the African Union Commission on a strategy to reduce post-harvest losses and helped write a code of conduct for reducing food loss and waste in Latin America.

At the municipal level, the NADHALI project (named after its pilot cities, Nairobi, Dhaka and Lima) was designed to support the New Urban Agenda and help local authorities achieve sustainable food

³² Social Protection Inter-agency Cooperation Board

systems. FAO has been aiding Lima and Nairobi to move from a sectorial approach to food-systems planning, focused on urban agriculture, to a systemic approach involving multiple stakeholders. In Dhaka, the initial focus has been on data collection and analysis.

The NADHALI project has been a key attraction for seed funding and collaboration with other FAO initiatives, such as food safety, food security and nutrition. In Nairobi, the project has generated synergies with the EU-FAO FIRST programme, facilitating the integration of the Nairobi food-systems strategy into national policy. Lima's Metropolitan Municipality is allocating funds to food-systems planning.

To support countries in formulating and implementing trade agreements, FAO provided information and analysis, fostering capacity development and facilitating dialogue on aspects of agricultural trade. Through training programmes and interaction with governments and the private sector, it provided policy advice and guidance, for example, on the consistency of new agricultural policies with World Trade Organization (WTO) obligations.

Based on lessons learned in the field, FAO produced a framework to support practitioners and decision-makers in planning and implementing value-chain interventions from which women and men benefit equally. The plan was introduced in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Tunisia, Rwanda, Kenya, Ethiopia and Morocco through a SIDA-funded programme to combat barriers limiting rural women's participation in agrifood value chains and access to markets. It took an integrated approach to enhance women's participation, build institutional capacity to promote gender-sensitive value chains and enterprises, and develop tools and knowledge products for policy formulation and advocacy.

With the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS), FAO led a multi-level process that spawned the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States (GAP). The GAP aims to create enabling environments for food security and nutrition, promote sustainable nutrition-sensitive food systems and empower communities to improve food security and nutrition.

The Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA), meanwhile, provided scientific advice on a myriad of issues, from the use of microbiologically safe water in food production to histamine levels in fish and fishery products.

FAO in collaboration with the Pan-American Dairy Federation (FEPALE) is providing policy advice and building capacity among stakeholders from the dairy sector in Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Colombia, and Mexico through training and policy dialogue to assess the determinants of the level of efficiency of dairy food systems in Latin America, supporting in the identification of windows of opportunity to increase the level of efficiency of livestock food systems.

Strategic Objective 5: Increasing the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

Building on decades of experience in sudden and slow-onset natural disasters, animal and plant pests and disease, and protracted crises and conflict, FAO provides technical and operational expertise to member countries to help reduce multi-hazard risks and crises. This is an essential ingredient in fighting hunger, alleviating poverty, fostering sustainable development and increasing the resilience of livelihoods.

In 2016-17, the world witnessed an unprecedented number of forcibly displaced people. The threat of famine in four African countries and the Near East conflict weakened the ability of millions of others to cope with disaster. There was an increase in animal disease, crop pests and food-safety issues. Last year was the warmest non-El Niño year on record, with heavy rains, floods, droughts, heat waves and wild fires. Together, these elements risked undermining efforts to eradicate poverty and end hunger.

FAO helped to counter these threats by establishing global leadership in generating data, information and knowledge on disaster risk reduction (DRR), food security and resilience, and by developing and supporting global and local programmes to reduce risk, increase preparedness and respond to crises. By streamlining global, regional and national interventions, FAO helped countries to tackle the impacts of disasters and crises and to bolster the resilience of the vulnerable, reducing their exposure to climate extremes and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.

FAO helped to implement 122 threat-monitoring systems in 2016-17 and assisted 45 countries and three regions in carrying out resilience and vulnerability analysis. Fifty-two countries and four regional institutions formulated strategies/plans for risk reduction and crisis management thanks to FAO support. The information provided by these systems and analysis fed the 2017 Global Report on Food Crises, which will form the basis for talks with donors on strategic response.

Further to the detection and quick spread of the Fall Armyworm (FAW) in Africa in 2016-17, FAO prepared a global Framework for Partnership for Sustainable Management of the FAW to ensure a coherent response by all partners based on sound principles benefiting smallholder farmers.

FAO also took a leadership role in the fight against antimicrobial resistance (AMR), along with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), in a One-Health approach. The three Organizations developed national questionnaires, a stewardship framework and monitoring and evaluation framework to address antimicrobial use and antimicrobial resistance across human, animal, plant and environmental health.

The Organization completed a study on the status of the development and implementation of agricultural disaster risk reduction and management plans in 14 high-risk, exposed countries. It implemented a disease-reporting mobile app to support early warnings and disease surveillance in three countries and finalized a rapid risk-assessment framework and methodology for Rift valley fever, HPAI H5N8 and African swine fever.

FAO collaborated with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) to launch in October 2016 the Global programme to eradicate Peste des petits ruminants (PPR), a highly contagious disease present in more than 70 countries throughout Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East. PPR causes annual losses of up to USD 2.1 billion. Looking beyond this figure, 300 million families are at risk of losing their livelihoods, food security, and employment opportunities.

The Framework to support sustainable peace in the context of Agenda 2030 will guide FAO's work in the context of the UN Secretary-General's reforms to make conflict prevention and sustaining peace more central, and to bridge the humanitarian-development-peace divide. A series of seminars on Conflict and Hunger – a joint initiative of Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland, FAO and WFP – were held in New York, Rome and Geneva.

The protracted droughts in the Horn of Africa resulted in severe food crisis and wrecked livelihoods of farmer and pastoral communities. One of the most pressing problems has been feed and water shortages, which led to high losses of livestock assets of these communities. To bring a lasting solution for feed shortages, FAO prepared the Regional Animal Feeding Action Plan (AFAP). The AFAP is validated by the IGAD member countries and proposed for voluntary adoption by other Eastern African countries.