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FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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Results and Priorities for FAO Activities in the Region

Executive Summary

FAO's Strategic Framework, reviewed in 2016-17, provides direction for FAO's technical work and its Strategic Programmes (SPs) to effectively address the priorities and ensure effective delivery of results at country level. The FAO Medium Term Plan 2018-21 (reviewed) and Programme of Work and Budget 2020-21 were approved by the FAO Conference at its 41st Session in June 2019. The Conference appreciated the close alignment of FAO's Strategic Objectives (SOs) with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Following the 34th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC) in 2018, during 2018-19 FAO in Asia and the Pacific region focused its work on five regional initiatives (RIs): the Zero Hunger Challenge; Blue Growth; Climate Change; One Health; and the Interregional Initiative on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) – Pacific Component. Other programmes and priority areas of work included: strengthening food and nutritional security; supporting the development of agricultural data and statistics; fostering sustainable agricultural production and rural development; improving resilience to food and agricultural threats and emergencies; and enhancing sustainable, efficient and equitable natural resource management and utilization.

FAO has made efforts to respond to the challenges and address the priorities in Asia and the Pacific region in a coherent, consistent and coordinated manner to achieve significant results at country level. These efforts have helped to enhance the relevance and coherence of the global commitments to regional priorities and have facilitated an integrated, multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral approach in terms of delivery at country level. While the RIs were endorsed by the 41st Session of the FAO Conference in June 2019, and as noted by the recent Evaluation of FAO's Strategic Results Framework, the current RIs as a mechanism for ensuring effective delivery and impact of FAO's contributions to SOs in the region have their limitations. Hence, FAO now proposes an improved approach to their implementation in Asia and the Pacific region during the 2020-21 biennium. The overall number of RIs will be consolidated into four RIs, while at the same time ensuring that their

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scope is broadened to address important areas such as the sustainable management of natural resources and addressing deforestation and sustainable water management and utilization in the region. These enhanced RIs will be anchored in FAO's work through the introduction of 14 programmatic areas of focus that will ensure the delivery of tangible and measurable results for greater impact, which responds as well to recommendations of the Evaluation of FAO's Strategic Results Framework. Taking into consideration the development of a new strategic results framework for the Organization at corporate level, the enhanced approach to the delivery of RIs through the implementation of programmatic areas of focus can pave the way for consideration of reformulated priorities at the regional level under the overall framework of the organizational strategic results beyond 2021.

Suggested actions by the Regional Conference

- Recognize the work completed through the SPs, and the results achieved by FAO in 2018-19 under the RIs and other key areas of work in response to the main priorities identified in the 34th Session of the APRC;
- Recognize the importance of the Strategic Framework in providing direction for FAO's technical work to address priorities in the region and ensuring effective delivery of results at country level;
- Take note of the alignment of FAO's SOs with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs;
- Note the importance of continued delivery of normative and knowledge products and services, such as regulations, voluntary guidelines, legal instruments, and studies at national and regional levels, and policy dialogue based on evidence;
- Note the new Hand-in-Hand Initiative through which FAO will support evidence-based, country-led and country-owned actions in the region to accelerate agricultural transformation and sustainable rural development for the eradication of poverty (SDG 1), hunger and all forms of malnutrition (SDG2). In doing so, these efforts will contribute to the attainment of all the other SDGs in the region;
- Endorse the reformulation of the RIs for the 2020-21 biennium into four expanded RIs supported by 14 programmatic areas, based on major trends and challenges in the region, including the SDGs and climate change, and experience with the RIs in 2018-19;
- Provide guidance to the development of the new strategic results framework at regional level for shaping areas of regional priority for FAO's work beyond 2020-21.

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Introduction

1. The FAO Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2018-21 (reviewed) and Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2020-21 were approved by the FAO Conference at its 41st session in June 2019. The MTP sets out the Strategic Objectives and Outcomes for achievement by Members and the international community with support from FAO, in accordance with the reviewed Strategic Framework approved by the FAO Conference in June 2017¹. The Conference appreciated the close alignment of FAO's SOs with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs, and highlighted the importance of the full implementation of the repositioning of the United Nations Development System².
2. *Web-Annex 1* provides an overview of FAO's SPs, including their alignment with the SDGs.
3. As described in the Adjustments to the PWB 2020-21³, FAO seeks to attain zero hunger and improve the livelihoods of people through *better production, better nutrition, better environment and a better life*.
4. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development defines the context in which FAO and its member countries will be working toward reaching the Sustainable Development Goals and achieving country specific targets. As food and agriculture hold the key to realizing the 2030 Agenda, FAO is well-positioned to act as a facilitator to assist all countries in realizing the goals of the 2030 Agenda, in particular SDG 1 (eradicate poverty) and SDG 2 (end hunger and all forms of malnutrition).
5. In order to accelerate achievement of SDGs 1 and 2 while contributing to the other SDGs, FAO has launched the "Hand-in-Hand initiative", an evidence-based, country-led and country-owned initiative to accelerate agricultural transformation and sustainable rural development. The initiative contributes to closing the food gap, support economic development, end malnutrition and reduce environmental impact, through a "matchmaking" mechanism that brings together countries with the highest poverty and hunger rates with developed countries and builds partnerships at all levels.⁴
6. The Strategic Framework is reviewed every four years⁵, and as such, the review for the next Strategic Framework will start in 2020 with the final document to be presented to the 42nd session of the FAO Conference in 2021⁶. Considering that Regional Conferences represent the first step of the schedule of Governing Body input and oversight, this Regional Conference is requested to provide guidance on areas of regional priority in 2020-21 and beyond, both with the view of guiding ongoing regional work and in the context of the development of the new Strategic Framework.
7. Areas of focus in reviewing the Strategic Framework will include the alignment of the results framework with the Agenda 2030, the strengthening of strategic synergies and partnerships through mechanisms such as the Hand-in-Hand initiative, and the elaboration of regional and global priority areas.
8. In addition to the alignment of the new results framework with Agenda 2030, the results framework will need to better incorporate FAO country level results, balancing Member specific priorities and FAO's corporate priorities which are also set by Members through the Strategic Framework. In this

¹ C 2017/7

² CL 163/4, Information Note 2, November 2019 provides further information on FAO's engagement with the UN Development System repositioning.

³ CL 163/3

⁴ CL 163/6, Information Note 1, November 2019 provides further detail on the Hand-in-Hand initiative

⁵ Basic Texts Volume II, Section F. "Implementation of the IPA regarding the reform of the Programming, budgeting and results-based monitoring system" para. 1.a)

⁶ CL 163/4, Information Note 1, November 2019 provides detail on the process for consultation on the development of the new Strategic Framework.

context, it should be noted that, following the repositioning of the United Nations Development System, FAO's work at the country level needs to fully align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), the most important instrument for planning and implementation of UN development activities in each country (*Web-Annex 3* presents details on UNSDCF and its relationship with FAO Country Programming Frameworks [CPFs]).

9. The RIs served as a mechanism for delivery at country level, aiming for a greater impact of FAO's work on the key priorities of each region. The 34th Session of the APRC considered FAO's achievements in the region and identified priority areas to be considered for the five RIs in 2018-19: Zero Hunger; Blue Growth; Climate Change, One Health; and Interregional Initiative on SIDS - Pacific Component. All of these RIs were endorsed by the 41st Session of the FAO Conference in June 2019.

10. This paper proposes an improved approach to implementing RIs in the region during the 2020-21 biennium, in response to recent feedback from the Evaluation of FAO's Strategic Results Framework and member countries that highlighted the limited extent to which RIs were in practice able to ensure effective delivery of FAO's contributions to SOs in Asia and the Pacific region. The overall number of RIs will be consolidated into four, while at the same time ensuring that their scope is broadened to address important areas such as the sustainable management of natural resources, including addressing deforestation and sustainable water management and utilization in the region. The expanded RIs will provide sharpened support to the Organization's Strategic Framework and countries for achieving the SDGs. They will benefit from tangible linkages to FAO's work through a complementary set of 14 programmatic areas of focus, enabling more measurable results and impacts that address regional concerns and respond to country needs and priorities in an integrated and multidisciplinary manner. Looking beyond 2020-21 and taking into consideration the development of a new strategic results framework for the Organization, the enhanced approach to delivery of RIs can pave the way for consideration of reformulated priorities at the regional level under the overall framework of the organizational strategic results.

11. The document is divided into two main sections:

- a. Section I describes achievements of the region during 2018-19, focusing on RIs in the context of agreed priorities for FAO's work in the region.
- b. Section II gives an overview of trends and developments in the region going forward, the regional priorities for FAO's work, and the enhanced RIs supported by new programmatic areas of focus.

I. Achievements in the region

12. FAO's work in the Asia and the Pacific region contributes to Members' achieving SDG 2 and other SDGs through its field activities and normative work at national, regional and global levels, guided by the five organizational SOs and five RIs in the region.

13. FAO is continually enhancing its response to country needs by providing interdisciplinary and high-quality technical expertise and policy advice through the CPF and in full alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. FAO has further emphasized support to its Members to foresee and develop actions in relation to challenges at country level, such as the effects of climate change, improving resilience to human-made and natural shocks and disasters, food and dietary diversification, and transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases. The Organization is also proactively addressing emerging issues in the region, including greater urbanization, changing food systems, increased international trade, and biodiversity loss.

14. Increasingly the Organization is utilizing programmatic and coordinated approaches to framing and delivering its work at regional and country levels within the RIs, leading to improved coherence and impact. Over the past two years, this has been demonstrated by FAO's ongoing efforts in the Pacific to

support and participate in subregional processes, such as the development and implementation of the Joint Action Framework for Food Security and Nutrition in the Pacific to enhance Pacific SIDS food security. FAO is also making incremental and consistent shifts to support upstream policy work and strategic planning for investment in food and nutrition security and agriculture, while fostering expanded partnerships for inclusive dialogue and ownership of development outcomes.

15. FAO developed high quality analytical products and organized high-level events bringing together diverse actors from the global community to showcase evidence and lessons learned, explore innovations, and build momentum. These included the 2018 and 2019 “Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition in Asia and the Pacific”, “Dynamic Development, Shifting Demographics, Changing Diets”, “Forest Futures: Sustainable Pathway for forests, landscape and people in the Asia-Pacific Region”, the International Food Policy Research Institute–FAO global event on “Accelerating the End of Hunger and Malnutrition” held in 2018 in Thailand, the “Regional Consultative Meeting on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors for Asia and the Pacific” in 2019 in Thailand, “Asia-Pacific Forestry Week” in 2019 in the Republic of Korea, and “Pacific Week of Agriculture” in both 2018 in Vanuatu and 2019 in Samoa. Several of these events, knowledge products and work streams have provided the foundation for country-level-related knowledge products and events.

16. Overview and assessment of results in the region at the level of Outputs is provided in Web Annex 2 Contribution of Results in the Asia and Pacific Region to FAO Strategic Objectives in the 2018-19 Biennium.

17. Key results of the Corporate Outcome Assessment (COA) 2019 for the Asia and the Pacific Region are presented in Web Annex 4 – Corporate Outcome Assessment 2019 Asia Pacific Regional Results.

Achievements in Regional Initiatives

Regional Initiative on Zero Hunger (RI-ZH)

18. While much progress has been achieved in hunger reduction in Asia and the Pacific region, the eradication of hunger and malnutrition remains a challenge and is reflected in the SDGs. The Zero Hunger goal implies leaving no one behind regarding hunger and all forms of malnutrition. In 2018-19 biennium, RI-ZH realized achievements in three major areas of work, outlined below.

19. *Strengthening the enabling environment for food security and nutrition, and sustainable food systems:* Since the 34th session of the Regional Conference, Timor-Leste officially declared its determination to eradicate hunger and malnutrition,⁷ and the RI-ZH provided technical support to the formulation of the Timor-Leste National Agriculture Development Strategy and National Mechanization Strategy. Fiji, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam either launched or endorsed the National Zero Hunger Challenge (ZHC), the National ZHC Strategy, and/or the National Action Plan on Food Security and Nutrition. Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia and Myanmar are mainstreaming nutrition through agriculture and food chain actions. RI-ZH also provided technical support to the formulation of the National Agriculture Research and Development Strategy for Zero Hunger in Afghanistan. The Food and Nutrition Security Impact, Resilience, Sustainability, and Transformation programme (FIRST), in partnership with the European Union, continues to provide support in ten countries in the region.

20. *Improving data monitoring and analysis for policy-makers on food security and nutrition:* FAO supported the mainstreaming of food, nutrition security and agriculture into the National SDGs Debate in Afghanistan, as well as the operationalization of a National Information and Early Warning System on Food Security in Timor-Leste and of a Food Security and Nutrition Information System in Pakistan. In Indonesia, Pakistan and the Philippines, FAO supported key government agencies and other stakeholders to strengthen their capacities in the collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated data for improved SDG

⁷ Other countries that have officially declared their determination to eradicate hunger and malnutrition are Cambodia, Fiji, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand and Viet Nam.

monitoring. In Bangladesh and Pakistan, FAO provided technical support in updating the national Integrated Food Security Phase Classification for chronic and acute food insecurity analyses and provided support to Pakistan in implementing comprehensive food security policies at national and provincial levels.

21. *Supporting agriculture diversification and sustainable intensification for nutrition-sensitive and climate-resilient food systems:* In partnership with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) system, academia and development partners, RI-ZH supported the mainstreaming of agriculture diversification and support to disadvantaged areas in Asia and the Pacific region through the Future Smart Food Initiative (FSF Initiative), promoting underutilized crop species in Cambodia, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Nepal.

22. FAO, jointly with the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Secretariat, organized a Regional Consultation on Voluntary Guidelines for Food Systems and Nutrition in Thailand 2019. The consultation deliberated on a draft document focused on transforming food systems to end all forms of malnutrition, which will lead to the finalization of the Voluntary Guidelines and their presentation for adoption during the CFS plenary session in 2020.⁸

Regional Initiative on Climate Change (RI-CC)

23. The RI-CC aligns to the outcomes of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change. It supports member countries to plan, implement and report on climate change actions, and access climate finance to build resilient and low-emission agriculture systems while promoting the sector's contribution to the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

24. *Enhancing climate actions, monitoring and reporting:* FAO facilitated access of countries to global climate finance to implement national priorities identified in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and national climate change and DRR policies and strategies. Climate change constitutes an important part of FAO's Global Environment Facility (GEF) portfolio of USD 285 million in the region. The GEF Least Developed Country Fund projects in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar promote resilient fisheries, climate-smart agriculture and the use of improved climate services for resilient agriculture and livelihoods.

25. FAO has been developing a pipeline of Green Climate Fund (GCF) projects in the Asia and the Pacific region in partnership with member countries. This includes full projects approved in 2019 (Nepal and Pakistan) and a number of Readiness and Preparatory Support projects. The United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in the region not only provides essential data and information to make the case for investment in reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation but also supports Member States in accessing global climate finance, including through the GCF and GEF.

26. FAO published a regional analysis of the NDCs from Asia and the Pacific region that highlights opportunities to strengthen sector-specific contributions under the NDCs and provides guidance for accelerating progress on and scaling up NDCs in the agriculture sector. In 2019, FAO launched the Sustainable Rice Landscapes Initiative in partnership with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, UN Environment, German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation, the International Rice Research Institute and the Sustainable Rice Platform.

27. *Raising the profile of agriculture in climate change and DRR agendas:* With FAO's support, the

⁸FAO. 2019. CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, Zero Draft. Rome. (Available at http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cfs/Docs1819/Nutrition/CFS_Zero_Draft_Voluntary_Guidelines_Food_Systems_and_Nutrition.pdf)

Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) made a submission to the Koroniva Work Planning in agriculture. FAO is working in Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Pakistan and Timor-Leste to strengthen the agriculture disaster damage and loss information system and the sector's contribution to the monitoring and reporting of the Sendai Framework for DRR and related SDGs. FAO also supports member countries to develop agriculture sector climate change adaptation and DRR strategies and action plans.

28. *Strengthening innovative approaches and technologies*: FAO focused support to Members and partners to utilize and further develop advanced assessment and planning technologies, such as agro-ecological zoning and modelling to project climate suitability of crops and land uses, Modelling System of Agriculture Impacts of Climate Change, strengthening agro-met services and early warnings to support climate-resilient agriculture including pests and disease risk management. FAO is increasingly supporting countries in the use of information and communication technologies to improve the quality and timeliness of data collection and dissemination.

29. *Sustainably managing and utilizing natural resources*: FAO supported governments (Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand, Viet Nam and others) to develop resource-innovative, landscape-scale approaches for more sustainable land and water management for food production. FAO expanded forest landscape restoration in Asia and supported ASEAN in launching Guidelines for Agroforestry Development. With FAO's support, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia published the first ever "State of Indonesia's Forest", globally launched at the FAO COFO in 2018. In Afghanistan, Iran, Myanmar and Pakistan, FAO built the capacity of practitioners to conduct comprehensive water-accounting in the face of water scarcity. In South Asia, FAO supported high-level policy dialogues and policy tool development for solar-powered irrigation and groundwater risks.

30. *Biodiversity mainstreaming across agriculture sectors*: FAO co-organized the "Regional Consultation on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors". This multistakeholder dialogue discussed ways forward, supporting the ongoing process to develop the Convention on Biological Diversity's post-2020 global biodiversity framework. As an effective means to mainstream biodiversity, Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems is now well recognized by countries in the region, complemented by FAO's continuous support to countries for capacity-building.

Regional Initiative on Blue Growth (RI-BG)

31. RI-BG supported member countries to address the full spectrum of aquaculture, capture fisheries and protection and sustainable use of aquatic ecosystems and biodiversity. FAO supported ten regional and national institutions to develop capacity in applying aquaculture planning management tools and a further 20 regional and national institutions to address antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and associated risks in aquaculture. FAO supported the demonstration and scaling-up of integrated agro-aquaculture farming practices, including in Indonesia and Viet Nam.

32. FAO organized a regional consultation on climate-resilient fisheries and aquaculture in Asia and the Pacific region and produced a publication on climate-resilient fisheries and aquaculture for the broad dissemination of knowledge, successes and lessons learned. FAO supported the conservation and sustainable use of inland aquatic systems and biodiversity in member countries, including China and Indonesia.

33. FAO supported countries on sustainable fisheries and other actions to prevent illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing through advocacy and technical assistance with global, regional and country GEF and Technical Cooperation Programme projects.

Regional Initiative on One Health (RI-OH)

34. One Health strategies are being employed to reduce food-borne illnesses, zoonoses, transboundary

animal and plant pests and diseases, AMR and chemical residues, and to foster an enabling environment for voluntary standards and codes of practice in Asia and the Pacific region. In 2018-19, the Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission finalized proposals for two Regional Standards on Phytosanitary Measures. Under the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases and with its partners, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Health Organization (WHO), FAO supported Members on critical issues related to zoonoses, emerging infectious diseases and other health threats, including AMR under the One Health approach.

35. FAO strengthened tripartite collaboration between OIE, WHO and FAO, and reinforced capacities of countries to implement arrangements consistent with Codex Alimentarius and International Plant Protection Convention standards. FAO food safety projects supporting the modernization of legal and regulatory frameworks are active in five countries – Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Mongolia, and Nepal. One Health measures have been incorporated into a risk-based national import control framework in Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines and Sri Lanka.⁹ FAO country offices facilitate and enhance food-safety coordination and collaboration with government and development partners through local platforms such as the Viet Nam Food-Safety Working Group. FAO, OIE and WHO are strategically addressing AMR in the region to reduce the threat of AMR and ensure the availability and continued effective use of antimicrobials in agriculture and in the promotion of sustainable and safe food systems.

36. FAO's support to address transboundary animal diseases (TADs) has enhanced regional coordination mechanisms related to One Health and mobilized resources to support technical collaboration relevant to highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) risk management. FAO's TADs programme implemented the Regional Animal Health Laboratory and Veterinary Epidemiology Frameworks for TADs and zoonoses in close cooperation with ASEAN and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries. The early detection of African Swine Fever (ASF) and the deployment of portable Polymerase Chain Reaction technology for avian influenza detection are examples demonstrating successes of FAO's TADs programme. FAO continued supporting countries in the control and eradication of TADs, such as foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and *peste des petits ruminants* (sheep and goat plague). FAO worked with member countries and at the regional level on specific preparedness and emergency response actions to reduce the spread of the diseases, helping to mitigate the economic impacts to the animal production economy, associated livelihoods and related food security of the affected populations.

37. With regard to transboundary plant pests, emergency response actions and capacity-building projects were developed and operationalized to address Fall Armyworm (FAW) infestation on maize in 10 of the 12 countries in the region where it is present. A Regional Consultative Meeting on FAW in Asia was held in early 2019, and FAO facilitated South-South Cooperation with technical experts from countries such as Thailand to assist other countries with the response to FAW and agro-ecological measures. Desert Locust emergency response action with support from FAO at country level helped contain the recent locust invasion in India, Iran and Pakistan.

Interregional Initiative (IRI) on SIDS – Pacific Component

38. FAO's work in Pacific SIDS continued to place emphasis on priority areas recommended by the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, including: nutrition and food safety; inclusive value chain development; transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases; sustainable production and resilience in the context of climate change; and data and analysis for decision-making, monitoring and evaluation. These priorities are key driving themes under the Multi-Country Programming Framework for the Pacific Islands (Pacific CPF), with the aim to improve food systems for better nutritional outcomes.

39. The Pacific component of the IRI on SIDS focused on implementing the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in SIDS (GAP). Under the initiative, the GAP was operationalized through the development of a Joint Action Framework for Food Security and Nutrition in

⁹ FAO. 2018. Ensuring the safety of imported food. (Available at <http://www.fao.org/3/ca0286en/CA0286EN.pdf>)

the Pacific Islands (Pacific Food and Nutrition Framework) engaging countries and development partners, and the provision of related technical assistance under the Pacific CPF. A Nutrition-sensitive Pacific Food Systems Forum was convened as part of the 2nd Biennial Pacific Week of Agriculture in September/October 2019 to promote a food-systems approach and encourage coordinated multisectoral actions in the implementation of the Pacific Food and Nutrition Framework.

40. To strengthen the evidence base in support of safe and healthy food production and consumption, multisectoral food and nutrition fora and policies were supported in three countries under the FIRST Programme. In addition, a number of national case studies on taxation and policy modelling as well as studies to support the development of school food and nutrition education programmes are now available to inform policy decisions targeting the non-communicable disease-related crisis in the Pacific. A partners' dialogue and preliminary work were also initiated to update the Pacific Island Food Composition Tables.

41. FAO provided support to Pacific Islands for the collection and analysis of agriculture and nutrition data, and monitoring of the SDGs. Technical assistance focused on the provision of tools, methodologies and training for the estimation of the prevalence of undernourishment (SDG 2.1.1), moderate or severe food insecurity (SDG 2.1.2), and awareness-raising on SDG 14 indicators under FAO's custodianship (SDG 14.4.1, 14.6.1, 14.7.1 and 14.b.1). National agriculture censuses are also ongoing in three countries, with technical assistance from FAO.

42. In support of resilient and nutrition-sensitive agriculture systems, climate change adaptation pilot sites, and agro-forestry and agro-ecology model farms that include climate-resilient species as well as multifunctional plant species have been established in a number of countries, and technical assistance has been provided for land, forest and agro-ecosystem management. In line with the global Small-scale Fisheries Guidelines and regional New Song for Coastal Fisheries, a number of national governments received technical assistance to strengthen their services to communities that are managing their own resources, such as through drafting and improving manuals for community-based fisheries management, and through training extension officers. Fora were facilitated for communities to discuss challenges and opportunities in their existing systems. In addition, work is ongoing with small-scale fishers in the Pacific to improve safety.

43. In support of further work for food and nutrition action in the Pacific, FAO provided assistance to develop proposals for funding under the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program in five Pacific Islands.

44. With a view to strengthening business and food control practices that promote nutrition and food safety, small-scale farmers, fishers and processors in a number of countries have received technical assistance on contract farming and post-harvest loss management, value addition, food safety and marketing techniques. In support of the Micronesian Association for Sustainable Aquaculture, guidance was developed for business planning and sustainable aquaculture production in five countries.

Achievements in cross-cutting themes

Innovation and digital agriculture

45. FAO has been supporting the development of e-agriculture strategies in countries including Afghanistan, Bhutan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines and Sri Lanka. In Papua New Guinea, FAO helped to initiate an app-based livestock traceability system for smallholder family farmers using blockchain technology. In 2019, FAO published "E-Agriculture in Action: Blockchain for Agriculture", which demystifies the technology, provides some thoughts on the opportunities and challenges in implementing blockchain-based systems, and documents case studies on the use of blockchain for agriculture.

Data, agricultural statistics and monitoring the SDGs

46. FAO has been a leading agency in providing countries with training and technical assistance in statistics, with a focus on food and agriculture statistics. For the 21 SDG indicators under FAO custodianship, accepted international methodologies are in place, free on-line training materials are available in English, and there is expanding coverage to other UN official languages.

47. FAO contributed to the development of the Pacific Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics with the Pacific Community (SPC) and is providing technical support to advance its implementation. Technical assistance was also provided to support the development and implementation of agriculture censuses and surveys in Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Niue, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Timor-Leste.

Gender equality and women's empowerment

48. FAO generated substantial knowledge to support the formulation of gender-responsive policy and programme formulation and raise awareness on the status of rural women and gender inequalities in the areas of its mandate. Country-gender assessments of agriculture and other rural sectors were conducted in Bangladesh, Fiji, Indonesia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tonga, Vanuatu and Viet Nam, and have been initiated in Timor-Leste. In addition, FAO contributed to the UN joint report "Pathways to Influence: Promoting the Role of Women's Transformative Leadership to Achieve the SDGs in Asia and the Pacific", launched on the occasion of the Beijing +25 review.

49. FAO focused its efforts on strengthening gender capacities of member countries and partners. FAO conducted capacity development on gender mainstreaming and different aspects of women's empowerment, including gender mainstreaming in policy formulation, gender and livestock, and gender-sensitive value chains, for government counterparts in Cambodia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines and Sri Lanka, and organized two regional trainings for civil society actors in Nepal. FAO supported the formulation and implementation of projects focusing on gender equality and rural women's empowerment in Cambodia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea and Sri Lanka.

50. To foster cross-sectoral dialogue and cooperation and strengthen commitment to addressing gender inequalities that especially affect rural women and girls, regional high-level preparatory meetings for the Commission on the Status of Women 62 and 63, and other events related to gender equality in the rural sector, were held jointly with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), UN Women, the World Food Programme (WFP) and other agencies. Working with the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community and civil society organizations, FAO advocated for stronger attention to rural women's and girls' empowerment in ASEAN's response to Rural Development and Poverty Eradication and development of the ASEAN Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Master Plan 2020-2025.

Partnerships

51. FAO stepped up its partnerships in the region, working in collaboration with subregional, regional and international entities. In 2018, FAO signed a new Memorandum of Understanding with ASEAN to strengthen cooperation in agriculture and forestry and to combat IUU fishing. FAO enhanced its collaboration with SAARC, SPC, the Asian Development Bank, and the World Bank, for example with the latter on analysis of urban food systems in Asia. FAO collaborated with specialized national research institutions such as the CGIAR Centres, providing policy advice and capacity development.

52. FAO is also committed to expanding its regional collaboration with the RBAs: the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and WFP. Collaboration in the area of nutrition and food systems with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), WFP and WHO has continued to be strengthened. The Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition was released as a joint report for

the first time in 2018 and then in 2019. Cooperation with UNICEF focused on the development of a food-systems framework for children and with WHO in the area of healthy food vending in the informal sector.

53. In 2018, FAO established a unique partnership with parliamentarians through the creation of an FAO Legislative Advisory Group-Philippines, a working platform for lawmakers and FAO together with other stakeholders to discuss, deliberate and consult each other on bills relevant to food and nutrition security. FAO strengthened its partnerships with other international and civil society organizations to build statistical capacity and support the implementation of agriculture censuses and surveys and the compilation of SDG indicators, including with the Asian Institute of Technology, ILO, SAARC, SPC, UNESCAP, UNFPA, UNOHCHR, UNSIAP and UN Women¹⁰. Enhanced collaboration with the Asian Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Asia was formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding to promote improved coherent actions for achieving the SDGs in the Asia and the Pacific region.

54. FAO has been enhancing its collaboration with the private sector in the region. Discussions are ongoing regarding a framework for collaboration with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

55. In support of the sustainable management of tuna fisheries and biodiversity conservation, FAO provided technical assistance for the completion of baseline inventories of sharks, tagging of sharks to assess post-release mortality, safe release guidelines for encircled animals, analysis of sea turtle mitigation effectiveness and species-specific shark status assessments. The assistance was provided in partnership with the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation, SPC and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission. In addition, FAO partnered with SPC to provide technical and secretariat support to the second Pacific Week of Agriculture, in conjunction with the second joint FAO and SPC Pacific Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry Meeting in Apia, Samoa.

56. In support of the regional efforts to control TADs, which threaten livelihoods and food security in the region, especially the emergence of ASF in many countries, FAO expanded its partnerships beyond international partners such as OIE and WHO to include the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance to improve the livestock production chain and strengthen country and regional capacity to respond to and manage emerging TADs.

II. Priority areas of work for 2020-2021 and beyond

Trends and developments in the region

57. Although covering less than one-quarter of the global land area, Asia and the Pacific region accounted for more than half (56 percent) of the world's population in 2020.¹¹ Pressure is likely to increase on resources, with the region's population projected to grow by 12 percent by 2050. At the same time, the region is urbanizing rapidly, with the proportion of people living in cities growing from 31 percent in 1990 to 50 percent in 2020. However, the highest incidence of poverty and food insecurity is still found in rural and mountainous areas.

58. The migration of young people to urban areas is leading to ageing of the agricultural labour force, increasing labour shortages in farm households, and the feminization of farming (primarily in South Asia), all of which have an impact on the uptake of new technologies.¹² Migration triggered by

¹⁰ UN Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (UN SIAP), UN Population Fund (UNFPA), International Labour Organization (ILO), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR)

¹¹ FAO. 2019. Forest Futures - Sustainable pathways for forests, landscapes and people in the Asia-Pacific region: Asia-Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Study III. Bangkok. (Available at <http://www.fao.org/3/ca4627en/ca4627en.pdf>)

¹² FAO. 2018. Dynamic development, shifting demographics, changing diets. Bangkok, FAO.

human-induced disasters as well as climate change-related factors, such as water stress, declining land productivity and increased disaster severity and frequency, will increasingly affect land use and agriculture.

59. Asia and the Pacific region, led by China and India, is the fastest-growing of the world regions, and it now commands more than 40 percent of global gross domestic product (GDP).¹³ Continued economic growth coupled with a rapidly expanding middle class will increase demand for agricultural products. The structure of economies in the region is undergoing rapid change. The share of agriculture (including forestry, fisheries and aquaculture) in value-added has dropped sharply in recent decades, although the sector remains a major employer in many countries. Globalization has brought significant changes in the production, processing, trade and consumption of agricultural products. A recent backlash against globalization could slow investment, trade and technology transfers in the agriculture sector.

60. The region faces multiple environmental challenges, including climate change, biodiversity loss, deforestation, watershed degradation and more intense competition for natural resources. Natural resource endowments in the Asia and the Pacific region differ from elsewhere in the world, particularly regarding land. Population densities are very high, and as a result, agricultural area per capita is lower in Asia than on any other continent, with that on the Pacific Islands being even lower. The low agricultural area per capita translates into small farm sizes and a preponderance of smallholder farmers.¹⁴

61. Countries in the region face acute water deficits, which will be exacerbated by climate change. Twenty-one countries have designated, on average, 35 percent of their forests for soil and water conservation, but little information is available on how these forests are actually managed for stable water supply. The number of people living in degraded agricultural lands is increasing in the region. Arresting and reversing land degradation through forest and landscape restoration is emerging as a key priority in most countries.

62. Countries in the region are facing the threat of emerging TADs, such as ASF, which have already demonstrated impacts on food supply, changing trade patterns, livelihoods of farmers and animal health services capacity in the affected countries. Considering the nature of ASF, there is a significant risk that it will spread to more countries in the region and may result in significant socio-economic impacts. Other endemic TADs such as FMD and HPAI continue to cause economic losses and pose public health risks in the region.

63. Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific region is also a significant contributor to climate change (through greenhouse gas emissions from livestock and rice cultivation, application of synthetic fertilizers, energy use on farms, and land-use change). Higher temperatures in the region will not only affect the quality of the environment, but also the ability to produce food sustainably for the future.

64. Although the region has experienced high economic growth over the past few decades (an average annual GDP per capita growth rate of 5 percent from 2000 to 2016), this has been accompanied by rising income inequality, thus slowing progress in poverty reduction.¹⁵ Progress in hunger reduction is also slowing down and even being reversed in some countries, and most countries in the region are off course to achieving a number of targets under SDG 2.¹⁶

65. Reflecting the diversity of the region, the persistence of hunger and poverty is contrasted with growing incomes, changing food prices and urbanization, which are driving changes in diets. Increasingly there is a move away from an excessive reliance on staple foods and towards more diversified foods (for

¹³ FAO. 2019. Forest Futures - Sustainable pathways for forests, landscapes and people in the Asia-Pacific region: Asia-Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Study III. Bangkok. (Available at <http://www.fao.org/3/ca4627en/ca4627en.pdf>)

¹⁴ FAO. 2018. Dynamic development, shifting demographics, changing diets. Bangkok, FAO.

¹⁵ FAO. 2018. Dynamic development, shifting demographics, changing diets. Bangkok, FAO.

¹⁶ FAO. 2018. Asia and the Pacific Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2018 – Accelerating progress towards the SDGs. Bangkok, FAO.

example, greater consumption of animal-source food, fruits and vegetables) as well as higher intake of fats, sugar and salt and increased demand for more convenient food preparation in urban areas. This has increasingly significant implications for nutritional outcomes such as obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases, as well as the development of value chains and mitigating food loss and waste in the region.

66. The increasing sophistication of agrifood markets is partially due to consumers seeking higher-quality safe products in the wake of various food safety crises. Consumers are switching to products with specific quality attributes, and produced and certified according to certain principles such as organic agriculture, geographical indications and eco-safe production systems. Organic agriculture is growing quickly in Asia; nevertheless, organic food remains a niche market in many countries. However, several institutional innovations have the potential to create more demand by linking producers and consumers. Examples of such innovations include the formation of organic marketing clubs, community-supported agriculture and participatory guarantee systems.

67. New technologies are spreading rapidly, such as blockchain, 4G and 5G, the Internet of Things and others, although there are digital divides between the poor and the non-poor, and between men and women. These technologies, together with more traditional technologies such as mechanization, will affect how food is grown and moved from one location to another, and also how natural resources and the environment are managed in the region. The emergence of a fourth Industrial Revolution that combines physical and biological systems with the digital world may also affect where and how we grow our food, as urban and laboratory agriculture are becoming increasingly popular.

Priority areas for FAO's work in the region

68. FAO's work in the Asia and the Pacific region in 2020-21 and beyond will be shaped by and must proactively address the trends and developments outlined above. FAO will also need to deliver results in an increasingly integrated, multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral manner in support of member countries' efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to leverage those results in collaboration with development partners for more sustained impact. The five RIs, Zero Hunger, Blue Growth, Climate Change, One Health, and the Pacific component of the IRI on SIDS, have to some extent enabled FAO to address key themes of the SOs and provided opportunities for field-testing interdisciplinary offerings. Nevertheless, and as noted by the recent Evaluation of FAO's Strategic Results Framework, the RIs in their current form, intended as a mechanism for ensuring the effective delivery and impact of FAO's work on priority contributions to SOs in the region, have in practice only enabled limited contributions. Reasons for this included the lack of a clear programmatic structure leading to tangible results, or institutionalized mechanisms to mobilize resources and support scaling up of successful approaches. In the case of the RI on Zero Hunger, for instance, its broad scope did not support the delivery of specific and concrete results and impact, while the five RIs as a whole did not sufficiently address all the key issues relating to the management and use of natural resources and to the environmental challenges that are increasingly being faced in the region. Future regional priority areas for FAO's work would benefit from stronger links to tangible programmatic objectives that demonstrate FAO's main contributions to the achievement of the SDGs.

69. For the 2020-21 biennium, FAO proposes to consolidate the RIs into four, while at the same time ensuring that their scope adequately addresses increasingly important areas such as the sustainable management of natural resources and environmental challenges (e.g. loss of biodiversity and deforestation in the region). The RI on Blue Growth will be incorporated in the expanded RI on Climate Change, outlined below. The four adjusted RIs will provide sharpened support to the Organization's Strategic Framework and countries for achieving the SDGs and are adjusted as follows:

- a. RI-ZH through the promotion of sustainable transformation of food and agriculture systems to end poverty and malnutrition.
- b. RI-CC and enhancement of sustainable management and use of natural resources.
- c. RI-OH and control of transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases.
- d. IRI on SIDS – Pacific component on food security, nutrition and climate resilience.

70. These four RIs will be implemented through a complementary set of 14 new programmatic areas of focus in the region that build on country needs and priorities and that will be underpinned by normative work at regional and global levels. The programmatic areas of focus are established to enable more measurable results and impacts that address regional concerns and respond to country needs and priorities in an integrated and multidisciplinary manner. The enhanced RIs, together with the programmatic areas of focus, will be further supported by a results-oriented structure and related approaches for improved mobilization of resources. This will enable FAO to develop and promote more coherent and multidisciplinary approaches in support of relevant SDGs and targets, as detailed in the paragraphs below and Figure 2.

71. Looking beyond 2020-21 and taking into consideration the development of a new strategic results framework for the Organization to be presented to the Conference in June 2021, the enhanced approach to the delivery of RIs in the region can lead to consideration of a new way of delivering FAO's work at the regional level, through further fine-tuned programmatic areas linking to the Organizations' new Strategic Framework.

RI (1) Regional Initiative on Zero Hunger through promotion of sustainable transformation of food and agriculture systems to end poverty and malnutrition

72. Food insecurity and extreme poverty are on the rise in parts of the Asia and the Pacific region, while overweight and obesity figures are increasing. FAO's work to ensure that all people have access to adequate and high-quality food every day requires stronger political commitment and concerted actions from a wide range of actors, including governments, parliamentarians, academia, civil society, the private sector, farmers and consumers. Building on research evidence and normative studies, FAO will support national capacities to develop and implement policy and legal frameworks and investment plans for poverty reduction and food and nutrition security, with a strong focus on the poorest and most vulnerable populations, working hand-in-hand with all relevant partners and stakeholders. It will contribute to the countries in achieving SDGs 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13 and 14.

Related programmatic areas of focus

73. Inclusive and sustainable transformation of agricultural and food systems: FAO will support countries in mainstreaming food and agriculture into SDG-related strategies and action plans, engaging a wide range of partners, communities and other stakeholders. By enhancing capacity, mobilizing investment and accelerating momentum for integration and implementation of the SDGs across sectors, FAO will support the broad transformation of food and agriculture systems that are sustainable and promote inclusive societies. FAO will produce a regional knowledge product on policy lessons from agricultural transformation experiences in the region, with a view to supporting improved food and nutrition policies at country level. Sustainable agriculture and food systems management will be strengthened, including by promoting agriculture diversification through enhanced implementation of the FSF Initiative, digital agriculture, tropical farming, and the promotion of innovation.

74. Diversification of food production and consumption for healthy diets and improved nutrition: Sustainable agriculture and food systems management will be strengthened, including by promoting agricultural diversification through enhanced implementation of the FSF Initiative, digital

agriculture, tropical farming, and the promotion of innovation. FAO will promote sustainable and intensified production of climate-smart and nutrient-dense crops for enhancing crop biodiversity. It will also support the establishment of human energy requirements in Asia for guiding nutrition-labelling, food and beverage reformation, and regulations on marketing unhealthy foods to children. FAO has already initiated a new collaboration with the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics–CGIAR for a joint programme to promote underutilized crops and enhance crop diversification for improved dietary practices in selected countries of Asia and the Pacific.

75. Socio-economic inclusion for rural poverty reduction and sustainable agricultural development: With the launch of the UN Decade of Family Farming, FAO will support family farmers through activities with a strong focus on women and youth. FAO will also support ASEAN regarding gender mainstreaming in its work programme on rural development and poverty eradication. To respond to rapid urbanization, in collaboration with ASEAN, FAO will support policy formulation to reduce climate risks through social protection policies that increase resilience and adaptability to climate change impacts. For inclusive development across the urban–rural continuum in ASEAN, FAO will support Members and ASEAN to develop migration strategies for maximizing the benefits of domestic and interregional seasonal migration.

76. Inclusive value chains and food loss and waste: FAO will assist member countries and regional bodies to: build their capacities to develop inclusive and sustainable value chains, with an emphasis on smallholders and their organizations, as well as small- and medium-scale agro-enterprises; and foster value chain governance, including through enhanced policy and regulatory frameworks for contract farming, public–private partnerships, and the empowerment of women and youth. FAO will also support the mainstreaming of nutrition in food systems through the value chain in rural and urban areas. ASEAN, other regional bodies, member countries and key stakeholders including the private sector will be consulted to develop actions promoting the food loss and waste regional strategy, including mainstreaming food loss and waste in climate investment programmes.

77. Sustainable urban food systems: FAO is expanding its urban food agenda, an increasingly critical component of achieving zero hunger and reducing malnutrition under SDG 2 in the region, especially for the poor and vulnerable communities. FAO, in partnership with the World Bank, UNICEF and others, is undertaking regional studies on urban food systems in Asia and will produce regional normative products that will open the way for more robust technical assistance at country and local (municipal) levels in 2020-21 in the areas of urban food governance, policies, regulations and investments to support urban–rural linkages, shorter value chains, and more diverse and healthy diets for urban populations, especially the poor and vulnerable.

RI (2) Regional Initiative on Climate Change and enhancement of sustainable management and use of natural resources

78. In the face of population growth and increasing pressure on land, water, fisheries and forests, FAO plays a key role in supporting the sustainable use and management of natural resources and their strategic contribution to meeting present and future demand in the region. At the same time, climate change threatens efforts to ensure global food security, eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development. The key objectives of this priority area are to reduce natural resource degradation to a sustainable level, increase resource productivity and conserve genetic resources, as well as help countries to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change by supporting resilient and sustainable policy and practices, and promoting tried and tested approaches, such as climate-smart agriculture and agro-ecology. The previous RI on Blue Growth will be an important component of this expanded RI, in order to support achievement of the sustainable use of the world's marine and freshwater ecosystems, as well as sustainable growth of regional aquaculture for food and nutrition security. FAO aims to take integrated and holistic approaches to strengthen national capacities, foster regional collaboration and provide technical and policy guidance. It will contribute to the countries in achieving SDGs 1, 2, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16.

Related programmatic areas of focus

79. **Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, including combating IUU fishing:** FAO will support the scaling up of innovative aquaculture and fisheries practices and technologies for sustainable growth of the sector and increase its resilience to climate and socio-economic changes. Building and developing regional capacity to adhere to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA), the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries and those for Flag State Performance and the Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries are priority areas. FAO will focus on supporting member countries to formulate, implement and operationalize their policies and programmes in order to be consistent with these international instruments.

80. In the 2020-21 biennium, FAO will support Members to: strengthen equitable and gender-sensitive aquaculture and fisheries value/supply chains; improve aquatic animal health management and related governance, including addressing the risk of AMR associated with aquaculture for food safety and human health; and strengthen the conservation of aquatic biodiversity and environment and fisheries habitats. FAO will support Members to effectively combat IUU fishing through effective implementation of the PSMA, Flag State Responsibilities and other international instruments by providing technical support to strengthen national legal and policy frameworks that close existing gaps, thereby reducing the opportunity for IUU fishing in the region.

81. **Water scarcity:** Regional capacities will be improved to analyse water scarcity and implement water policies and investment strategies in the face of changing climate. The FAO Water Scarcity Programme (WSP) in Asia and the Pacific region aims to bring agricultural water use to within sustainable limits and prepare the agricultural sector for a productive future with less water. Specifically, the WSP will provide a practical framework to: assess the scope of water scarcity and evaluate management and response options, including improved governance; and assist partner countries to plan and implement programmes of adaptive management in the agricultural water sector in Asia, using advanced tools and knowledge generated by the programme.

82. **Land restoration, including sustainable forest management, sustainable land and soil management, and biodiversity conservation:** Key actions under this priority area will be aligned with the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. FAO will support member countries to identify opportunities and constraints regarding land restoration and resource-use efficiency, promoting sustainable solutions and an enabling environment. In the context of the ecosystem approach and digital agriculture, FAO will promote the integration of innovative management practices in agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry and fisheries for transforming food systems, landscapes and livelihoods.

83. FAO will also support enhancing the capacities of forest and farm managers, including forest/tree-dependent people, for improved business-related skills, and access to markets and technologies. Responsible investments and technologies for meeting restoration and sustainable forest management targets will be promoted, underpinned by enhanced knowledge-sharing networks, partnerships, microfinance and incentive mechanisms.

84. **DRR and climate resilience:** FAO will support enhancing country capacities to scale up climate change adaptation, mitigation and DRR actions, emphasizing nature-based solutions and climate-smart agricultural practices. The role of the agriculture sector and its contribution to national and regional implementation and reporting on the Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework for DRR and related SDGs will be promoted. FAO will support the strengthening of climate information and services, innovative tools and technologies, including agro-ecological zoning, Early Warning Early Action and integrated social protection programmes, to enhance climate and disaster resilience. Furthermore, actions will focus on enhancing capacities to implement water- and fertilizer-saving technology packages and to collect data for decision-making to foster climate-resilient production systems.

85. FAO will continue to support member countries to accelerate climate adaptation and mitigation as

integral to sustainable agricultural development and natural resources management, in collaboration with key stakeholders. This includes an emphasis on mainstreaming agrobiodiversity and nature-based solutions to enhance the resilience of ecosystems and food systems. FAO will also support strengthened capacities of ASEAN and SAARC for developing sustainable and climate-smart food systems. The impacts of planted forest on smallholder livestock farmers and sustainable livestock production and livelihoods in the Greater Mekong Subregion will be reviewed.

RI (3) Regional Initiative on One Health and control of transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases

86. Pests and diseases do not respect borders, so tackling them requires coordinated national, regional and global action. One Health is an integrated approach for preventing and mitigating health threats at the Animal–Human–Plant–Environment interfaces, with the objective of achieving public health, food and nutrition security, sustainable ecosystems and fair trade facilitation. This also requires partnerships with relevant organizations, particularly academia and research institutions. FAO will work closely with OIE, WHO and others in the region to mobilize and enhance the capacity of all stakeholders to promote the surveillance and monitoring of and collective responses to pests and diseases, in support of the achievement of food and nutrition security. It will contribute to the countries in achieving SDGs 1, 2, 3, 11, 12, 13 and 17.

Related programmatic areas of focus

87. **AMR, food safety and public health:** FAO will support Members to track the status of food safety in the region by using science-based indicators. AMR data generation (surveillance) in food and agriculture will be progressively improved through the development and publication of AMR regional and national guidelines. AMR stewardship and awareness will be strengthened through the development of technical tools and guidance materials, the delivery of educational materials among the next generation of veterinarians, and support to public health across the region.

88. **Control and management of transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases:** FAO will continue to strengthen national capacity to minimize adverse impacts of animal and plant pests and diseases on public health, livelihoods, and economic and food security. Evidence-based successful risk management approaches will be further piloted/scaled up, building on FAO's achievements and lessons learned in implementing the animal health programme through the FAO Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases over the past 15 years. FAO will implement future-focused approaches to identify major challenges and develop policies to promote lower-risk and sustainable food systems, engaging key stakeholders along the value chain, including communities and the private sector, in order to ensure the institutionalization of good practices and the development of economically, socially and culturally acceptable scaling-up strategies. FAO will support countries in the long-term management of TADs, further strengthen member countries' animal health service capacities, and facilitate multilateral and regional collaboration to prevent and eradicate TADs.

89. In the region, FAO will support enhanced governance and coordination mechanisms to integrate the development and improvement of risk management systems for regulating the safe movement of animals, plants and food. Member countries will be provided with guidance on evidence-informed processes, while improved knowledge management and awareness-raising will support more coherent and synergistic decision-making and implementation, involving national and regional partners. Regional as well as national capacities for sustainable FAW management, diagnosis and surveillance of cassava and banana diseases will be improved through FAO's technical assistance.

IRI (4) Interregional Initiative on Asia-Pacific SIDS on food security, nutrition and climate resilience

90. As FAO's delivery mechanism for the GAP in the Pacific Islands, the IRI focuses on the thematic areas of the Pacific Food and Nutrition Framework, where FAO has a lead role to play, to complement the implementation of the Pacific CPF. With the aim to accelerate progress towards food security and

nutrition goals by strengthening the delivery of FAO's programme in coherence and coordination with development partner support, the IRI will continue to focus on partnerships and on the delivery of the multisectoral and multistakeholder activities identified in the Pacific Food and Nutrition Framework implementation strategy.

91. FAO will support a nutrition-sensitive food systems approach and encourage coordinated multisectoral actions in the implementation of the Pacific Food and Nutrition Framework through a comprehensive analysis of nutrition and food systems in the Pacific region, with a High-level Symposium on Nutrition and Food Systems convened in the Pacific. Capacities will also be strengthened for policy effectiveness analysis and coordination of multisectoral activities. In order to support the implementation of agriculture and food security and nutrition policies. As well as exploring the possible extension of the FIRST Programme to additional interested countries in the Pacific.

92. Support will be provided to improve national agriculture censuses and capacities to produce and analyse SDG 2.1 indicators from national surveys.

93. FAO will support the development of resilient, climate-smart and nutrition-sensitive agriculture and fisheries techniques, including through the implementation of a community nearshore fish-aggregating devices programme in selected countries. It will also help to improve agriculture and fisheries value chains through knowledge generation and training, and strengthening the analytical capabilities of laboratories in the region.

Cross-cutting priority areas of impact

94. **Data, agriculture census and SDG monitoring** (contributing to all SDGs): FAO will support strengthened collection, access, analysis and monitoring of food security and nutrition data for policy-makers. This will build on supporting four priorities: (i) more frequent and harmonized statistics through the use of an integrated system of agriculture surveys and censuses and improved coordination between national statistics offices and ministries of agriculture; (ii) more cost-effective and timely statistics, through increasing use of technologies, such as tablet-phone-based data collection and use of alternative data sources (for example, Earth observation data/satellite imagery), as well as through administrative data, such as land records, to both generate agriculture statistics and ensure geo-referencing; (iii) improved data access through open-data policies and provision of anonymized microdata; and (iv) adoption of a hand-in-hand approach to strengthen knowledge-sharing and capacity- building, in which the first innovators share their knowledge, expertise and experience with those that follow.

95. **Digital agriculture, innovation and technology** (contributing to all SDGs): Expanded use of new information, digital and communication technologies is critical for monitoring food systems, pests/diseases and biodiversity, and for enhancing disaster risk reduction and management. FAO seeks to build on successful experiences to support member countries in the region in developing digital-agriculture strategies. Moreover, FAO is broadening the scope of work in digital innovations and communication technologies in response to the powerful pull of these innovations, their continued expansion into the agricultural landscape and their potential impact on productivity and sustainability, as well as the social equity implications of such disruptive technologies.

96. FAO is developing a new and expanded strategy for digital innovations in agriculture to meet the growing demands from Members to integrate and upgrade their digital innovation capacities for sustainable agriculture, food systems, natural resources and climate action. The new digital innovation strategy in the 2020-21 biennium onwards aims to exploit the expanding digital innovation landscape by supporting the deployment and integration of digital innovations into food- and agriculture-related development projects at the country level. FAO will focus on supporting and meeting country needs in planning, piloting and investing in innovative technologies such as seasonal forecasts, early warning systems, *in situ* hydro-meteorological data, remote-sensing-based monitoring, product tracing systems, data and field observation, and surveys.

97. The matrix in Figure 2 shows the linkages between the focused programmatic areas, the RIs, the five SOs, and the relevant SDG targets.

98. FAO is proactively contributing to the UN development system regional reform in Asia and the Pacific, including the establishment of a strong joint UN knowledge management hub and strengthening of joint statistics, policy and analytical work with Regional Economic Commissions and other UN agencies, bringing the Organization's comparative advantage. FAO is convinced that improved alignment at global, regional, subregional and country levels will support strengthened national ownership, substantial efficiency gains, and improved effectiveness. The Organization has provided FAO Representatives with updated guidelines on the FAO CPF in order to facilitate strong alignment of FAO activities to the UNSDCF. Enhanced coordination and effectiveness at country level will be supported by normative work at the regional level and, in line with the UN reform at country level, increasingly complemented by joint planning, programming and budgeting on key areas such as disaster risk reduction and climate resilience, and transforming food and agriculture systems for healthy diets and improved nutrition, especially for the poor and vulnerable communities.

99. FAO's support to Asia and the Pacific countries to accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs will be advanced through effective partnerships with a broad range of actors, including governments, parliamentarians, academia and research institutes (including the CGIAR centres), civil society, family farmers and their organizations, and through South-South and Triangular Cooperation. FAO will strengthen its engagement with the private sector to unlock substantial investment flows, innovation, more sustainable practices and rural development, focusing on less-developed countries and vulnerable communities to ensure that no one is left behind. Through the Hand in Hand initiative, FAO will support countries to use Geographic Information Systems and other data to target the poorest, identify opportunities for and investment gaps in food and agriculture, provide a framework for rigorous performance evaluation against SDG milestones, enable matchmaking of finances and know-how across countries, and build partnerships at all levels for results. In carrying forward the Hand in Hand initiative in the region, national ownership and leadership will be fundamental to ensure the sustainability and institutionalization of efforts. Furthermore, FAO will build broad support across the United Nations and other development actors to scale up successful experiences and establish clear synergies with ongoing and planned initiatives aimed at achieving the SDGs.



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Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الأمم المتحدة
للإغذية والزراعة

Figure 1. FAO Results Framework – Main Components

FAO's vision

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

The three global goals of Members

- 1) 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
- 2) Elimination of poverty and the driving forward of economic and social progress for all, with increased food production, enhanced rural development, and sustainable livelihoods
- 3) Sustainable management and utilization of natural resources, including land, water, air 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

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Additional objectives

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, and technical standards
- 2) Collect, 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 levels to prepare, implement, monitor and evaluate evidence-based policies, investments and programmes
- 5) Advise and support activities that gather, 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

- 1) Outreach
- 2) Information technology
- 3) FAO governance, oversight and direction
- 4) Efficient and effective administration

Figure 2. Linkages between the Programmatic Areas of Focus, Regional Initiatives, Strategic Objectives and SDG targets

Programmatic Area of Focus	Regional Initiative	Strategic Objectives	Contribution to achieving SDG Targets
<p>1. Inclusive and sustainable transformation of agricultural and food systems</p>	<p>RI 1. Regional Initiative on Zero Hunger through promotion of sustainable transformation of food and agriculture systems to end poverty and malnutrition</p>	<p>SOs 1, 2, 3, 4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eradicate extreme poverty for all people (1.1) • Reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children in poverty (1.2) • Build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters (1.5) • Access by all to safe nutritious food (2.1) • End all forms of malnutrition (2.2) • Double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small - scale food producers through secure access of land (2.3) • Ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production (2.4) • Maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals (2.5) • Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets to help limit extreme food price volatility (2.c) • Halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses (12.3) • Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities (13.b) • Effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing to restore fish stocks (14.4) • By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas (14.5) • Ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems (15.1)

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation - neutral world (15.3) • Significantly increase the exports from developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020 (17.11)
2. Support diversification of food production and consumption for healthy diets and improved nutrition	RI 1. Regional Initiative on Zero Hunger through promotion of sustainable transformation of food and agriculture systems to end poverty and malnutrition	SOs 1, 2, 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access by all to safe nutritious food (2.1) • End all forms of malnutrition (2.2) • Double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small - scale food producers (2.3) • Ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production (2.4) • Maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals (2.5) • Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets to help limit extreme food price volatility (2.c) • Reduce by one third premature mortality through prevention and treatment (3.4) • Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change - related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities (13.b)
3. Promotion of socio-economic inclusion	RI 1. Regional Initiative on Zero Hunger through promotion of sustainable transformation of food and agriculture systems to end	SOs 1, 3,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eradicate extreme poverty for all people (1.1) • Reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children in poverty (1.2) • Ensure equal rights for all (1.4) • Build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters (1.5)

	poverty and malnutrition		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers through secure access of land (2.3) • By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training (8.6) • Take immediate measures to eradicate forced labour and elimination of child labour (8.7) • Progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 percent of the population at a rate higher than the national average (10.1) • Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities (13.b)
4. Inclusive value chains, and food loss and waste	RI 1. Regional Initiative on Zero Hunger through promotion of sustainable transformation of food and agriculture systems to end poverty and malnutrition	SOs 2, 3, 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access by all to safe nutritious food (2.1) • End all forms of malnutrition (2.2) • Double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers (2.3) • Ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production (2.4) • Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets to help limit extreme food price volatility (2.c) • Halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses (12.3) • Effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing to restore fish stocks (14.4) • Significantly increase the exports from developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020 (17.11)

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<p>5. Sustainable urban food systems</p>	<p>RI 1. Regional Initiative on Zero Hunger through promotion of sustainable transformation of food and agriculture systems to end poverty and malnutrition</p>	<p>SOs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure to climate - related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters (1.5) • Access by all to safe nutritious food (2.1) • End all forms of malnutrition (2.2) • Double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small - scale food producers (2.3) • Ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production (2.4) • Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets to help limit extreme food price volatility (2.c) • By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training (8.6) • Progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 percent of the population at a rate higher than the national average (10.1) • Halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post - harvest losses (12.3) • Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change - related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities (13.b)
<p>6. Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, including IUU</p>	<p>RI 2. Regional Initiative on Climate Change and enhancement of sustainable management and use of natural resources</p>	<p>SOs 2, 5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eradicate extreme poverty for all people (1.1) • Reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children in poverty (1.2) • Build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure to climate - related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters (1.5) • Access by all to safe nutritious food (2.1) • End all forms of malnutrition (2.2)

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small - scale food producers (2.3) • Ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production (2.4) • Maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals (2.5) • Halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses (12.3) • Effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing to restore fish stocks (14.4) • By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas (14.5) • Ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems (15.1)
7. Water scarcity	RI 2. Regional Initiative on Climate Change and enhancement of sustainable management and use of natural resources	SOs 2, 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure to climate - related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters (1.5) • Double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small - scale food producers (2.3) • Substantially increase water - use efficiency and reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity (6.4) • Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change - related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities (13.b) • Ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems (15.1) • Combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation - neutral world (15.3)

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8. Land restoration (including forest management, land and soil management, biodiversity)	RI 2. Regional Initiative on Climate Change and enhancement of sustainable management and use of natural resources	SOs 2, 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure to climate - related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters (1.5) • Double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small - scale food producers (2.3) • Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change - related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities (13.b) • Ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems (15.1) • Combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation - neutral world (15.3) • Ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems (15.4)
9. DRR and climate resilience	RI 2. Regional Initiative on Climate Change and enhancement of sustainable management and use of natural resources	SOs 2, 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure to climate - related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters (1.5) • Access by all to safe nutritious food (2.1) • End all forms of malnutrition (2.2) • Ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production (2.4) • Substantially increase water - use efficiency and reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity (6.4) • Significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters (11.5) • Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries (13.1)

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change - related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities (13.b) • Ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems (15.1) • Combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation - neutral world (15.3) • Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates (16.1)
10. AMR, food safety and public health	RI 3. Regional Initiative on One Health and control of transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases	SOs 3, 4, 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure to climate - related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters (1.5) • Access by all to safe nutritious food (2.1) • End all forms of malnutrition (2.2) • Ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production (2.4) • Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets to help limit extreme food price volatility (2.c) • Reduce by one third premature mortality through prevention and treatment (3.4) • Significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters (11.5) • Significantly increase the exports from developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020 (17.11)
11. Transboundary animal and plant pest and disease	RI 3. Regional Initiative on One Health and control	SOs 2, 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small - scale food producers through secure access of land (2.3)

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control and management	of transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production (2.4) • Significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters (11.5) • Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries (13.1)
12. SIDS in Asia and the Pacific	IRI 4. Inter-regional Initiative on Asia Pacific SIDS on food security, nutrition and climate resilience	SOs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure to climate - related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters (1.5) • Access by all to safe nutritious food (2.1) • End all forms of malnutrition (2.2) • Double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small - scale food producers (2.3) • Ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production (2.4) • Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets to help limit extreme food price volatility (2.c) • By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training (8.6) • Progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 percent of the population at a rate higher than the national average (10.1) • Halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post - harvest losses (12.3) • Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change - related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities (13.b)

13. Data, agriculture census and SDGs monitoring	Cross-cutting	SOs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	All SDG targets
14. Digital Agriculture/Innovation and technology	Cross-cutting	SOs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	All SDG targets