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FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

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Results and Priorities for FAO in the Africa Region

Executive Summary

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development defines the context in which the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and its member countries will be working toward reaching the Sustainable Development Goals and achieving country specific targets. FAO is well-positioned to act as a facilitator to assist all countries in realizing the goals of the 2030 Agenda, in particular SDG1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere, and SDG2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. Food and agriculture hold the key to realizing the 2030 Agenda, as agriculture is the most inclusive tool to end poverty and hunger.

The “Results and Priorities for FAO in the Africa Region” are informed by the FAO Strategic Framework, Medium Term Plan 2018-21 (reviewed), Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs), achievements and lessons from implementation of Regional Initiatives and discussions on strategic and technical areas of focus. It lays out FAO’s results and priorities in the region, as part of the Governing Body process in which regional priorities are reflected in FAO’s planning for the next biennium, quadrennium and beyond. Deliberations by the Regional Conference on this document will inform the review of the Strategic Framework and Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2022-25 to be submitted to the FAO Conference in June 2021.

The Regional Conference is therefore requested to provide feedback and guidance on the results and priorities of the region, together with new corporate priorities, in the context of the latest regional and global trends and challenges.

The 30th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa underscored the relevance of the three Regional Initiatives and supported their continuation in the 2018-19 biennium to help focus and guide FAO actions on priorities of the region. It is proposed to maintain in 2020-21 all current Regional Initiatives, which support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and relevant regional commitments, such as the 2014 Malabo Declaration.

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In order to enhance focus on results in the Regional Initiatives and country priorities, and to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the country level more effectively, it is proposed to fine-tune the Regional Initiatives through (i) mainstreaming SDGs into country strategies, policies, programmes and investment plans, including National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPs); (ii) enhancing country support for policy design, implementation, public-private dialogue and building implementation capacities; (iii) putting greater focus on cross-sectoral interventions to foster sustainable food systems development; (iv) mainstreaming gender, nutrition and climate change; (v) promoting youth employment, small and medium sized agri-food enterprises, food safety, digital innovations and technologies, partnerships with development finance institutions, and capacity building and dialogue among private sector, civil society, research, academia; and (vi) enhancing knowledge management and communications.

A major new corporate priority is 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). Other priorities include a renewed emphasis on leaving-no-one-behind and organizational consolidation to accelerate support for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and strengthened partnerships including with smallholder producers, food companies, procurers and consumers.

Achieving the SDGs requires food systems transformations, as also embodied in the new “Transforming food systems to achieve the SDGs” approach of the region. To ensure progress on SDGs and food systems transformations, FAO will adopt innovative approaches, including the application of modern science and technologies, digital solutions, and an innovation of mind-set and cooperation models.

Matters to be brought to the attention of the Regional Conference

The Regional Conference is invited to:

- Provide guidance on areas of regional priority for FAO’s work in 2020-21, based on major trends and emerging challenges in the region, within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the revision of FAO’s Strategic Framework; and in this regard, reiterate the continued significance of the three Regional Initiatives, while further refining them in the context of the UN Development System repositioning and new initiatives;
- 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;
- Note the importance of adopting innovative approaches and using modern science and technologies including digital solutions to face new situations and challenges;
- Note the renewed emphasis on leaving-no-one-behind and organizational consolidation to accelerate support for SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs;
- Note the importance of strengthened partnerships, including with smallholder producers and food companies, procurers and consumers, as also highlighted in the 46th session of the Committee on World Food Security;
- Note the importance of food systems transformations that embody the dynamic links across sectors, actors and countries pertaining to the sustainable use of natural resources, agriculture, food security, nutrition and resilience; and

- Recognize the importance of FAO’s Strategic Framework in providing direction for FAO’s technical work and take note of the arrangements regarding the proposed revision of the Strategic Framework to be submitted to the FAO Conference in June 2021.

I. 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 July 2017.¹ The Conference welcomed the close alignment of FAO’s Strategic Objectives with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and highlighted the importance of the full implementation of the repositioning of the United Nations Development System.²
2. Web-Annex 1 provides an overview of the FAO Strategic Programme, including its alignment with the SDGs.
3. As set out 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 Members will be working towards reaching the SDGs 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 achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda, in particular SDG 1 (eradicate poverty) and SDG 2 (end hunger and all forms of malnutrition) through food systems transformations, that embody the dynamic links across sectors, actors and countries pertaining to the sustainable use of natural resources, agriculture, food, nutrition and resilience.
5. 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 to eradicate poverty (SDG 1) and end hunger and all forms of malnutrition (SDG 2). In so doing, it contributes to the attainment of all the other Sustainable Development Goals. The initiative adopts a robust match-making approach that proactively brings together target countries with donors, the private sector, international financial institutions, academia and civil society to mobilize means of implementation that support accelerated actions. It prioritizes countries and territories within countries where poverty and hunger are most concentrated or where national capacities are most limited. It also introduces a framework for monitoring and impact analysis.
6. In order to facilitate the adoption of innovative approaches, the use of modern science and technologies including digital solutions, FAO established a new Office for Innovation. The Office for Innovation will further consolidate and strengthen FAO’s innovative spirit, including innovation of mind-set, innovation of cooperation models, and innovation of application by digitalization.

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

7. In consideration of vulnerability to unique and complex food security and nutrition challenges, FAO established the Office for SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs⁴ to ensure that the special needs of these vulnerable populations and countries are met.
8. Furthermore, following the 46th session of the Committee on World Food Security in October 2019, FAO will strive to facilitate partnerships between smallholder producers and food companies, procurers and consumers.
9. The Strategic Framework is reviewed every four years.⁵ The review for the next Strategic Framework will start in 2020 with the final document being presented to the 42nd session of the FAO Conference in 2021.⁶ Considering that Regional Conferences represent the first step of the schedule of Governing Bodies' input and oversight, this Regional Conference is requested to provide guidance on areas of regional priority in 2020-21 and beyond, both with a view to guiding ongoing regional work and in the context of the development of the new Strategic Framework.
10. Areas of focus in reviewing the Strategic Framework will include the alignment of the results framework with 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.
11. In addition to the alignment of the new results framework with Agenda 2030, the results framework will need to incorporate FAO country-level results more effectively, balancing Member-specific priorities and FAO's corporate priorities as agreed by Members through the Strategic Framework. In this context, FAO's work at the country level needs to fully align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), as the UNSDCF is 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]).
12. The Regional Initiatives serve as a mechanism to ensure effective delivery at country level and a greater impact of FAO's work on the key priorities of each region. The 2018 FAO Regional Conference for Africa (ARC) considered FAO achievements in the region and identified priority areas for 2018-2019: *Africa's Commitment to End Hunger by 2025, Sustainable Production Intensification and Value Chain Development in Africa*, and *Building Resilience in Africa's Drylands*.
13. The 30th Session of the ARC underscored the relevance of the three Regional Initiatives and supported their continuation in the 2018-19 biennium to help focus and guide FAO actions on priorities of the region. It is proposed to maintain all current Regional Initiatives, which support the SDGs and relevant regional commitments, such as the 2014 Malabo Declaration, in 2020-21. Hence, all three Regional Initiatives: *Africa's Commitment to End Hunger by 2025, Sustainable Production Intensification and Value Chain Development in Africa*, and *Building Resilience in Africa's Drylands* will continue.
14. The document is divided into two main sections:
 - a. Section II describes achievements of the region during 2018-19 focusing on Regional Initiatives, in the context of agreed priorities for FAO's work in the region.
 - b. Section III gives an overview of trends and developments in the region going forward, the regional priorities for FAO's work and planned Regional Initiatives.

⁴ Small Island Developing States (SIDS); Least developed countries (LDCs); Land-locked developing countries (LLDCs)

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.

II. Achievements and Lessons Learned in 2018-2019

15. The 30th Session of the ARC underscored the relevance of the three Regional Initiatives: (a) Africa's commitment to end hunger by 2025; (b) sustainable production intensification and value chain development in Africa; and (c) building resilience in Africa's drylands. The Regional Conference noted that the Regional Initiatives were aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Malabo Declaration, and relevant for other frameworks, including the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction.
16. The Regional Conference recommended that FAO: (a) continue to provide its knowledge and expertise to help Members effectively address the trends and emerging issues in agriculture and food systems; (b) continue to build on the results and impacts of its programmes, including in food security and nutrition, poverty reduction, improved productivity and value chain development, and resilience building for effective management of risks; and (c) enhance its support to countries in the important areas of agribusiness development, youth employment, effective water and soil management and control of plant and animal pests and diseases.
17. The key achievements delivered by FAO in the region for the period 2018-2019 are highlighted below. These achievements contribute to FAO's corporate results shown in Web-Annex 2 – Contribution of Results in the Africa Region to FAO Strategic Objectives in the 2018-19 Biennium. Further details are provided in document ARC/20/INF/9 – Reporting on the Recommendations of the 30th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa. Key results of the Corporate Outcome Assessment (COA) 2019 for Africa Region are presented in Web Annex 4 - Corporate Outcome Assessment 2019 Africa Regional Results.

A. Africa's Commitment to End Hunger by 2025

18. Under this Regional Initiative, FAO assisted countries, the African Union Commission (AUC) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in strengthening their systems and capacities to deliver programmes that contribute to eradicating hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, as well as towards mutual accountabilities for delivery of results.
19. FAO strengthened capacities of regional and national institutions involved in food security and nutrition and contributed to enhancing governance and coordination capacities, including the right to adequate food. Specific activities included:
 - a. Institutionalization of the Food Security and Nutrition Working Group and the Resilience Analysis Unit within the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).
 - b. Establishment of the Parliamentary Alliance on Food Security and Nutrition (FSN), in Congo, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Uganda and strengthening capacities of the Pan-African Parliamentarian Alliance and Parliamentarians from the East African Community (EAC).
 - c. Implementation of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP) and Regional Programme for Agricultural Investment, Food and Nutrition Security (PRIASAN).
20. FAO contributed to the improvement of food security and nutrition analysis and enhanced compliance with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)/Malabo Declaration and SDGs accountability and reporting mechanisms. With FAO support, AUC updated the Ending Hunger Indicators and aligned them to SDGs and the African Development Bank (AfDB) developed a nutrition scorecard, which included the Prevalence of Undernourished (PoU) and Household Dietary Diversity Score. FAO strengthened capacities to apply the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) and enhanced country ownership of FSN indicators and their inclusion in National Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks and National Surveys.

21. At the country level, FAO contributed to improve food security and nutrition policies and strategies through:
 - a. Development, review and implementation of sectoral and cross-sectoral policies better integrating FSN, nutrition-sensitive agriculture, land tenure and gender considerations in 14 African countries.
 - b. Support to the formulation of second-generation National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIP), aligned with the CAADP/Malabo Declaration and integrating social protection dimensions, food security and nutrition, gender and resilience in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal and Togo.
 - c. Review of public agricultural expenditure on food security and nutrition and budget planning of agricultural and rural sector programmes in Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Senegal.
22. FAO contributed to the development and validation of nutrition and healthy foods documents, such as the East Africa Nutrition Sensitive School Meals Guidelines in partnership with AUC and the Food-based Dietary Guidelines (FBDG) in Rwanda and countries in Southern Africa. FAO also strengthened capacities of urban street food vendors on nutrition and healthy foods in Ghana and the United Republic of Tanzania. FAO provided support to the AUC around school feeding and on Home Grown School Feeding in 2019.
23. FAO supported generation of data, statistics and knowledge and analytical work on nutrition-related impact analysis in Burkina Faso, Benin, Botswana, Chad, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea, Kenya, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo, to support decision-making and SDGs and Malabo commitment reporting mechanisms.
24. FAO's social protection interventions includes supporting policy dialogue between social protection, nutrition and agriculture sectors, and providing operational support to enhance linkages between social protection and economic inclusion. Meanwhile, FAO's work has also enhanced resilience of poorest households.
25. There has been critical work in Ethiopia, Mali, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, and the United Republic of Tanzania, among many others, all directly supporting the reduction of hunger. This work is aligned with the Malabo commitments around enhancing coherence between social protection and agriculture. For example, FAO supported the *Cash Plus* initiative in the Niger and the Roadmap and Coordination Framework to End Hunger in the Horn of Africa. FAO initiated a capacity development program to enhance the capacity of governments and partners in mainstreaming poverty in rural development programming and enhance results around SDGs 1 and 2. This is considered to be the first critical step to enhance the design and reach of FAO-supported programmes, and improve their impact on reducing poverty and exclusion.

B. Sustainable Production Intensification and Value Chain Development in Africa

26. This Regional Initiative focuses on sustainable intensification of production and the associated measures needed to address post-production issues, including better handling, processing and distribution, improved food quality and safety and facilitating access to markets.
27. FAO supported strategies promoting investment, piloting and scaling-up of a broad range of agricultural practices that are more productive, strengthen production systems, diversify income sources and improve living conditions of households. Specific activities included:
 - a. Investment and policy support for value chain development (e.g. rice in Côte d'Ivoire).
 - b. Application of innovative practices or technologies of food systems, such as sustainable cities in Southern Africa and school gardens in Central Africa.

- c. Capacity building on various improved technologies and practices (including conservation agriculture, sustainable water management, soil fertility techniques, climate-resilient seeds, livestock and post-harvest management) in Benin, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Eritrea, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Namibia, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal and the United Republic of Tanzania.
 - d. Advocacy for the adoption of climate-smart agriculture (CSA) in Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda and Zimbabwe, where it was adopted by more than 30 000 households.
 - e. Support to 22 countries in developing concrete pathways to achieve the SDGs, specifically around monitoring progress, building partnerships and implementing innovative practices/policies; promotion of solar powered irrigation system technology for smallholder farmers in Ethiopia, Kenya, Namibia and Rwanda.
28. FAO provided guidelines for the design and implementation of effective public and private sector partnerships (PPPs) in the agriculture sector, in addition to convening public-private sector dialogues in Ghana, Uganda and Zambia to improve the enabling environment for agri-PPPs. In assisting AUC and RECs to strengthen investment frameworks for agriculture, FAO launched the AgrInvest initiative across the region to attract and de-risk private-sector investment in agri-food systems and value chains. In collaboration with the AUC and targeting Angola, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, FAO also held executive coaching sessions for senior public officials across line ministries (agriculture, trade, finance and planning) and private sector representatives on tools for strategy design and execution in order to foster private sector engagement and sustainable food systems development under the aegis of the NAIPs process.
 29. In collaboration with AfricaRice, the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and the Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD), and targeting Kenya, Senegal and the United Republic of Tanzania, FAO carried out assessments of the role of rice millers in promoting employment generation, nutrition, food safety and access to finance in rice value chains.
 30. In promoting decent rural youth employment and entrepreneurship, FAO contributed to the formulation of agriculture and rural development programmes in Mali, Senegal and Uganda. Other notable achievements in this area included promotion of information and communication technologies (ICT) for young programmers; creation and establishment of the Rwanda Youth in Agribusiness Forum; and formulation of National Action Plan for Youth Employment in Benin, Cameroon, Malawi and the Niger (in collaboration with the New Partnership for Africa's Development [NEPAD] and the Africa Solidarity Trust Fund [ASTF]).
 31. In collaboration with the AUC, FAO prepared and launched the Framework for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Africa, aimed to boost productivity, reduce harvest and post-harvest losses and link agriculture to manufacturing.
 32. FAO assisted AUC, NEPAD, RECs and member countries to implement natural resource preservation initiatives, including the African Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100), Great Green Wall, Pan-African Sustainable Forest Management strategy, Agreement on Port State Measures, the African Union Strategy on Illegal Exploitation of Wildlife Resources and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in Central and West Africa.
 33. Stakeholders were trained on: (i) forest resources assessment in 19 Francophone and 15 Anglophone countries; (ii) sustainable management of natural resources in Benin and the Democratic Republic of Congo; (iii) small-pelagic fisheries management in the State of Eritrea; (iv) fish stocks assessment in the Gabon; and (iv) development of an inclusive Blue Economy Programme in Kenya.
 34. The capacities of RECs and member countries were strengthened to enable participation in the activities of the international food standards setting bodies (Codex, World Organisation for

- Animal Health [OIE], International Plant Protection Convention [IPPC]), especially on microbiological risk management and Codex's microbiological criteria for foods in order to improve compliance with Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and trade facilitation requirements.
35. Initiatives to improve gender equality and women leadership were implemented in agricultural value chain development and cross-border trade in Cabo Verde, Guinea, Rwanda and Zambia. FAO supported the review and validation of the ECOWAS Action Plan on Gender and Agriculture and development of its Outlook on Gender and Agri-food systems. Extension staff were trained in Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and gender-sensitive nutrition-related practices in Malawi.
 36. FAO contributed to improving land tenure security in Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Kenya and Liberia, considering the customary laws and practices, digitization of land registries and gender gaps in access to agricultural land.
 37. FAO supported the AUC to strengthen its capacity to coordinate and monitor post-harvest loss reduction initiatives and supported Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, to develop their National Post-harvest Management Strategies based on loss assessment studies.

C. Building Resilience in Africa's Drylands

38. This Regional Initiative strengthens institutional capacity for resilience; supports early warning and information management systems; builds community-level resilience; and responds to emergencies and crises.
39. FAO supported the formulation and development of resilience strategies, including the East Africa Regional Livestock Strategy and Regional animal feed action plan; strengthened capacities on the feed balance methodological approach in Chad and the Niger; and a roadmap for inter-institutional cooperation on the peace-food security-pastoralism nexus in the Sahel and West Africa, in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP) and the European Union.
40. Member countries received training to enhance reporting progress on building resilience for the Biennium Review Report of the Malabo Declaration, including the review of the indicators of resilience. AUC experts were trained on the Resilience Index Measurement Analysis tool and its use was promoted in Kenya and Uganda.
41. In collaboration with partners such as AfDB, FAO raised awareness and shared relevant information on regional platforms and with member countries to enhance capacity for control and management of pests and transboundary animal diseases. Specific activities included:
 - a. Harmonization and fast tracking of pesticide registration for Fall Armyworm (FAW), control and training in early warning and monitoring systems using FAW Monitoring and Early Warning System (FAMEWS) tool.
 - b. Development of national and regional surveillance strategies for Antimicrobial Resistance and support to antimicrobial mitigation activities.
 - c. Capacity building of stakeholders (including veterinary services) in 20 African countries for early detection, assessment, control and management of major outbreak of the FAW, highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and *Peste des petits ruminants* (PPR).
42. FAO supported disaster risk reduction initiatives, such as the National Strategy for Early Warning, Emergency Response and Resilience for Agriculture in Burundi, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Madagascar and Mali. A second initiative was the East Africa Fall Armyworm Strategy and Implementation Plan. Support for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction was provided to Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia. Similarly, FAO enhanced country capacities on the use of FAO Emergency Response Preparedness Plan

- (FERPP) and the Disaster Risk Prioritization (DRP) tools strengthened in East and Southern Africa.
43. FAO supported member countries in integrated and multi-sectoral strategies for sustainable ecosystem management, restoration of land and climate change adaptation, including access to climate finance through the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Nationally Determined Contributions implementation. Other interventions helped to eliminate stockpiles of Persistent Organic Pollutants and obsolete pesticides in Benin and Eritrea, strengthened pesticide regulatory capacity and promoted Integrated Pest Management in Malawi and in ECOWAS Member States. In Uganda, FAO raised awareness and strengthened capacities on safety and health in agriculture, protecting children and young workers from pesticide exposure.
 44. Activities that strengthened the resilience of vulnerable population groups, especially women, included:
 - a. Establishment of Dimitra Clubs, a group of women and men who gather on a voluntary basis to find solutions to community issues and to implement them using local resources, in the Central African Republic and the Congo.
 - b. Strengthened households' savings and credit capacity with *Caisses de résilience* in Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Djibouti, Guinea-Bissau and Mali.
 - c. Enhanced capacities of governments to establish feed inventories and feed balance in arid and semi-arid areas in Ethiopia and Kenya.
 45. In crisis situations in the Cameroon, Central African Republic, and Chad, FAO resilience projects helped improve food security in affected households through timely provision of appropriate inputs, tools, processing and conservation techniques of farm products. In drought-affected areas in Somalia and Zimbabwe, and the El Niño crisis in Eswatini, FAO interventions helped improve resilience of vulnerable households, including livelihood emergency packages and enhanced access to seeds for maize, groundnuts, beans and vegetables, using the e-voucher system (Eswatini); provision of water for humans and livestock, subsidized stock feed and seeds and rehabilitation or construction of community assets (Zimbabwe); and humanitarian support in collaboration with other UN agencies (Somalia).

D. Notable Partnerships and Innovation

46. FAO facilitated several partnerships and knowledge management activities including:
 - a. Facilitation of partnership with AfricaRice, the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and the Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD), in the framework of South-South cooperation, for transfer of technologies in rice value chain. New partnerships were developed with the Brazil Africa Institute and the Rural Development Administration of the Republic of Korea, focusing on strengthening national institutions in Africa, especially in food security and nutrition.
 - b. Collaboration with parliamentarians and universities, including respectively the Pan-African Parliamentarian Alliance and EAC Parliamentarians and the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) to develop evidenced-based policy processes and legislation towards the achievement of the Africa Agenda 2063, Malabo commitments and SDGs.
 - c. Convening of the Round Table of Contributors to replenish the ASTF, an African driven innovative financing mechanism to fund regional projects.
 - d. Co-convening of the Africa Food Security Leadership Dialogue, which commits FAO to work with the African Development Bank, World Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and other partners to find new ways to address the food security situation in Africa.

- e. Providing strategic partnership support for the 2019 Africa Green Revolution Forum, including organization and FAO participation in several thematic and plenary sessions.
- f. Jointly publishing the Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition with the UN Economic Commission for Africa.
- g. Supporting the operationalization of a regional network on climate smart agriculture (CSA) in East Africa and publication of CSA country profiles for Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, in collaboration with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security.
- h. Contributing, under the One Health Initiative, to the establishment of a platform on plant health in Central Africa and cross-border collaboration on animal health in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel.
- i. Spearheading, with United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Accelerator for Agriculture and Agroindustry Development and Innovation (3ADI+) to leverage the capacities of local, national, and regional actors to develop sustainable value chains in the Africa region.
- j. Generating evidence, with United Nations Children's Fund and the University of North Carolina, on the impact of national cash transfer and social protection programs in sub-Saharan Africa.

E. Gaps and Lessons Learned

47. Lessons drawn from FAO's work during 2018-2019 include:
- a. NAIPs are important sector strategy planning and execution tools to foster sustainable food systems development. Involving the private sector in strategy design and investing in public-private-civil society dialogues that result in a unified long-term strategic vision for the NAIPs will strengthen countries' abilities to respond to the disruptors the food industry and governments face, such as climate change, digitalization, trade wars and population growth.
 - b. Public-private partnerships (PPP) typically involve multinational companies more than domestic companies in the Africa region. This is due to a lack of domestic private sector skills and resources to cover high transaction costs required for partnering with the public sector. The enabling environment for business is also not conducive for partnering in the agriculture sector, with policy frameworks typically designed for infrastructure PPPs.
 - c. Mainstreaming Sustainable Food and Agriculture in agricultural investment and other strategic plans requires integrated approaches and enhanced multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms that go beyond the agriculture sector. Significant gaps between planning, implementation and budgeting is a major reason why countries are lagging behind on SDGs and Malabo commitments. The achievement of tangible results is highest where national and regional capacities exist together with clear mechanisms to link investment plans to policy and budgeting processes.
 - d. Knowledge exchange is key to building synergies and collaboration for the uptake of good practices including good resilience practices.
 - e. Interventions that address the multidimensional aspects of resilience through multi-sectoral approaches need strategic internal and external partnerships to strengthen capacities and help communities absorb, anticipate, transform and recover from shocks.

III. Main Areas of Work for 2020-2021

48. FAO's Africa's priorities in 2020-21 and beyond are shaped by key trends that are driving structural changes in the agricultural landscape and food systems in the region. In line with FAO's Strategic Objectives, Regional Initiatives and country development plans, Regional and country offices are receiving strategic and policy support, including new guidelines for the development of CPFs under the UNSDCF. These priorities aligned with the planning and programming cycle of the UN Development System reform will provide a road map for effective implementation at the country level.
49. The FAO Regional Office for Africa Regional Management Meeting held in March 2019 in Accra concurred that Regional Initiatives were still relevant, but that they needed to be fine-tuned to enhance their effectiveness and coordination, particularly at the country and subregional levels. The three Regional Initiatives will therefore continue to serve as delivery mechanisms with a shift to better emphasize: (a) mainstreaming SDGs into country strategies, policies, programmes and investment plans, including NAIPs; (b) enhanced country support for policy design, implementation, public-private dialogue and building implementation capacities; (c) greater focus on cross-sectoral interventions for an inclusive transformation and poverty eradication, as well as for conflict sensitive programming in the context of Humanitarian, Development, Peace Nexus; (d) mainstream gender, nutrition and climate change; (e) increased focus on youth employment, digital technologies, partnerships with development finance institutions, private sector, civil society, research, academia, etc.; and (f) enhanced focus on knowledge management and communications. These proposed shifts in emphasis in the Regional Initiatives are expected to ensure greater focus, consistency, coordination and implementation support in the identified priority areas.

A. Africa's Commitment to End Hunger by 2025

50. FAO will provide enhanced policy support to regional partners and countries in key areas including: (a) AUC and its development agencies for the formulation of NAIPs, and regional policy dialogues to sensitize decision-makers and other stakeholders on the linkages and alignment between SDGs and Malabo Commitments; (b) accelerate country-level SDG implementation in response to country requests for Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support missions; (c) update or enact national nutrition-specific policies/legislations and instruments and develop cross-sectoral nutrition guidelines and instruments to eradicate malnutrition as part of the Second International Conference on Nutrition, AU Nutrition Strategy, SDGs and Malabo targets; and (d) enhance private sector engagement in formulation and implementation of NAIPs; and (e) and foster sustainable food systems as a mechanism to strengthen linkages between production and consumption of food.
51. FAO will support policy advocacy with relevant ministries and stakeholders to ensure coherence for increased investments in nutrition and inclusive sensitive food value chains. FAO will support countries to develop and implement nutrition and inclusive sensitive policies and strategies using relevant tools and instruments, as well as to develop nutrition-sensitive food value chains and promote indigenous foods.
52. FAO will help strengthen capacities of parliamentarians, policy-makers, civil society and other non-state actors to improve engagement and governance of the food security and nutrition agenda, including the enactment and implementation of legal and accountability frameworks that protect the right to food, and the formulation and implementation of nutrition-sensitive policies and legislation at regional, country and community levels.

B. Sustainable Production Intensification and Value Chain Development in Africa

53. FAO will provide capacity development support to the AUC and RECs to promote sustainable practices for healthy and safe food production systems (crops, livestock, fisheries, forestry) implemented by farmers, producers and other value chain actors. Integrated Pest Management will be promoted and packages for major pests of maize, cassava and banana developed. One Health approaches will be implemented for addressing human-wildlife-livestock-ecosystem interface issues, including disease surveillance, outbreak responses, conflict resolution or land-use management.
54. Capacity development for proven, high-performance, food production technologies and innovations will be provided to farmers and other actors in value chains to increase productivity and efficiency in agri-food systems. Climate-smart agriculture and agro-ecology approaches, restoration and related action will be mainstreamed in agricultural policies and investment plans. Policy dialogues will be organized to support biodiversity mainstreaming and combating illegal exploitation of natural resources. Implementation of Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management and Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure will be supported and national livestock plans, including policies, legislation, action plans for disease prevention and control, feed and productivity, antimicrobial use and antimicrobial resistance will be developed.
55. Support will be provided to regional and national partners in development of strategies, programmes and investment plans, such as NAIPs with a view to help mainstream sustainable food and agriculture in the implementation of Malabo commitments and SDGs. The goal will be to foster a more integrated approach.
56. AUC, RECs and member countries will be supported towards the formulation, financing, implementation and reporting on NDC implementation plans.
57. FAO will support value chain development in countries that aim to develop new or upgrade existing value chains through coordinated interventions to expand market opportunities and enable inclusive private investments along the entire value chain. Support will be provided to foster partnerships and strengthen capacity of state and non-state actors to engage with the private sector in inclusive and sustainable food system development, including formulation and implementation of NAIPs and Regional Agriculture Investment Plans (RAIPs).

C. Building Resilience in Africa's Drylands

58. In agriculture and climate resilience, FAO will support resilience investments to reduce risks and vulnerabilities of communities in the face of climate extremes and other shocks. Good practices on information and early warning systems and resilience measurements will be scaled up.
59. FAO will provide timely livelihoods-tailored support during emergencies, using policy tools such as the Feed Action Plan, early warning tools such as the Predictive Livestock Early Warning System, Feed Balance Sheet and the Pictorial Evaluation Tool for addressing the critical issue of shortage of feed to pastoralists. These tools with great potential will be adapted and scaled up across subregions in Africa.
60. FAO will work on risk-informed social protection schemes and investment to support chronically poor but also crisis-affected people before, during and after shocks, as an important bridge in the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus. Attention will be given to risk-informed social protection systems that are scalable, flexible, and connected to Early Warning Early Action.
61. FAO will foster knowledge exchange on resilience-enhancing good practices to support decision-making and uptake by policy-makers for effective resilience investments and policies

to: catalyse synergies between existing institutions/mechanisms (RECs, AUC, Global Network against Food Crises); strengthen collaboration on knowledge management and information sharing; promote a common vision and harmonized approach to provide evidence for influencing decision-making that informs investment.

IV. Key Messages

62. FAO's results and priorities in the Africa region are informed by the FAO Strategic Framework, Medium Term Plan 2018-21 (reviewed), CPFs, achievements and lessons from implementation of Regional Initiatives to date and agreed approaches on strategic and technical areas of focus.
63. The assessment of achievements shows that FAO has made notable progress in 2018-2019 with lessons that provide useful guidance for future programming. The main areas of work for the 2020-21 biennium ensure that the Regional Initiatives would continue to serve as an effective delivery mechanism for FAO's work on key priorities in the region, but they can also be refined to address emerging trends and challenges. FAO's flagship Hand-in-Hand Initiative is considered a powerful approach to improve effectiveness and impact on delivery.