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Thirty-first Session

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, 23-27 March 2020

Reporting on the Recommendations of the 30th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa

Executive Summary

This report presents the follow-up to the 30th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa (ARC) recommendations during 2018-19.

Reporting on the Recommendations of the 30th Session of ARC

The table below shows the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the 30th Session of ARC. The number indicated in the table corresponds to the same number in the summary of the main recommendations presented in the Report of the 30th Session of ARC. Each recommendation has been reproduced (in bold) and is followed by key points reflecting accomplishments.

Queries on the content of this document may be addressed to:
ARC-Secretariat@fao.org

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MATTERS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF THE CONFERENCE	
II. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Matters	
A. State of Food and Agriculture in Africa: Future Prospects and Emerging Issues	
Priorities for FAO Activities in Africa	
Recommendations	Comments/Achievements in 2018/2019
<p>22. The Regional Conference</p> <p>vii. Recommended that FAO continue to provide its knowledge and expertise to help Members effectively address the above trends and emerging issues in agriculture and food systems, particularly in the areas of:</p> <p>a. developing comprehensive, multisectoral, multidisciplinary and regional approaches in the formulation and implementation of policies, strategies and programmes based on comparative advantage and for an inclusive agricultural growth;</p>	<p>Evidence generated on cash+ models in Lesotho and home-grown school feeding in Zambia, to support FAO's evidence generation efforts on the impact of social protection on agriculture production and economic inclusion.¹</p> <p>Support provided (i) to countries and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in strengthening capacities to participate in the activities of <i>Codex Alimentarius</i>: inception of Codex Trust Fund project in Cabo Verde and Mali; and (ii) for situation analysis of <i>Codex Alimentarius</i> (the Gambia, Nigeria, the East African Community [EAC]).</p> <p>Support provided to countries (Cabo Verde, Ghana, Mali, Rwanda and Senegal) and RECs (Economic Community of West African States [ECOWAS], Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa [COMESA]) in strengthening capacities to participate in <i>Codex Alimentarius</i> and implementation of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures. Workshops and trainings were provided on Codex (structure and functioning, scientific basis of Codex and Risk Analysis, development and representation of national positions, etc.), microbiological criteria for harmonization of food control measures and trade.</p> <p>Capacity development training undertaken from 20 to 22 May 2019 to support African Union (AU) Member States in reporting on the African Food Safety Index (AFSI).</p> <p>Two regional workshops delivered to English-speaking and French-speaking ECOWAS member countries (6-9 August 2019 and 16-20 September 2019 respectively) on SPS measures to improve their understanding and collaboration between the three international standard setting bodies (<i>Codex Alimentarius</i>, World Organisation for Animal Health [OIE] and International Plant Protection Convention [IPPC]).</p>

¹ <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/CA1916EN> and <http://www.fao.org/social-protection/resources/resources-detail/en/c/1153371/>

In Zambia, the impact evaluation results were presented in a workshop organized jointly by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Universidad de Los Andes of Colombia and FAO on “Improving the Articulation between Social Protection and Rural Development Interventions in Developing Countries: Lessons from Latin America and Africa”. The study also served as a basis for the development of Methodological Guidelines of Impact Evaluation of home-grown school feeding (HGSF), validated by FAO. The evidence will support governments in developing evidence-based policy and programmes.

Institutional assessments were conducted on coherence between social protection, and agriculture or fisheries in Ethiopia, Lesotho, Mali, Senegal and Zambia, to support governments to identify ways to improve coordination to have a greater impact on inclusive agricultural growth. Findings across countries indicate that linking social protection and productive programmes can have synergistic effects that enhance impacts beyond impacts that would have occurred for one programme as stand-alone. However, overall, even where ministries were coordinating complementary interventions, tighter coordination between programmes and institutions during the design phase of interventions could yield deeper impacts for beneficiaries. In Senegal, the study of institutional coherence between social protection and fisheries made key recommendations on forming a social protection working group within the Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy to support the development of an intersectoral strategy to increase social protection coverage for fishers.

Technical and financial support provided together with HGSF products were the basis for the design and operationalization of Cash+ pilots in Mali and Senegal with the aim of improving the linkages between national social protection systems, nutrition and sustainable livelihoods support. Although assessments have not yet been completed, informal information gathering indicates that the pilots have successfully increased knowledge on agricultural and nutritional coherence with social protection among decentralized government actors. In Mali social protection beneficiaries have improved capacity for raising small ruminants to increase incomes and improve access to proteins, while local governments have raised awareness on benefits of social protection and agricultural complementarities. In Senegal, initial results show that families included in the pilot have experienced increased yields, were practising better post-harvest storage, and sharing a portion of the increased production of beans with neighbours.

The comprehensive Executive-level Capacity Development Programme “Strengthening the use of poverty analysis to reach Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 and 2 in Ghana and Zambia” was delivered in a three-phase approach. It included a comprehensive e-learning course (Phase 1) tailored to Sub-Saharan Africa, a face-to-face workshop (Phase 2) tailored to Ghana and Zambia, and a direct coaching phase (Phase 3) to support

implementation of action plans putting into practice lessons learned. The Programme was catalytic to promote multisectoral coordination bringing together executives of diverse Ministries and Agencies, namely food and agriculture; community development and social services; gender, child and social protection; fisheries and livestock; finance; employment and labour relations; local government; national development planning; statistics; and commerce, trade and industry.

FAO, in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), supported the Government of the Republic of Kenya to strengthen the linkages between migration and development through the delivery of a guidance tool for mainstreaming migration into sectors such as agriculture, social protection and rural development, adopting a multisectoral approach. The guidance tool will be used both at the national and county level. It will help to create awareness on migration-related issues and pull/push factors that lead to migration in Kiambu county initially and later in other counties of Kenya.

FAO implemented a mixed methods impact evaluation of the Rural Women Economic Empowerment, a UN Joint Programme in Ethiopia in collaboration with the Second Phase of the Gender, Agriculture and Assets Project (GAAP2), led by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). The study used baseline and midline data collected using the project-Women's Empowerment in Agricultural Index (pro-WEAI) survey tool developed by GAAP2 and the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) developed by Voices of the Hungry project at FAO, as well as results from a qualitative research study, to estimate the impacts of the programme on rural women's economic empowerment and household food security.

Results achieved in terms of dissemination are summarized as follows:

At project level Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (Pro-WEAI), a learning and outreach event, was co-organized by FAO and IFPRI in Rome in April 2018. The meeting brought together Representatives from different agricultural development projects, including the UN Joint Programme on accelerating progress towards rural women's economic empowerment (UN JP RWEE) – a global initiative jointly implemented by FAO, IFAD, UN Women and the World Food Programme (WFP). During the meeting experiences in piloting pro-WEAI as part of the GAAP2 portfolio were shared as well as experience on how pro-WEAI supports knowledge management in projects. Pro-WEIA has been applied in a number of projects and countries (Ethiopia and Rwanda in Sub-Saharan Africa).

A special side event JP RWEE, was held during the Forty-fifth Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) (October 2018). The event, entitled "Women's empowerment for food security and nutrition for all: evidence from joint UN work", was co-organized by FAO, IFAD, WFP and UN Women, along with

the governments of Norway and Sweden. It presented emerging lessons on the impact and results of the JP RWEE, including innovative methodologies to measure women's empowerment in food security and nutrition such as WEAI.

An example was provided on the use of WEAI in Ethiopia; the team developed a project-specific variation, known as the Project-Level WEAI, which features additional indicators for individual empowerment, intra-household relationships, physical mobility, nutrition and health.

At country level, FAO conducted a study in Ethiopia (Oromia and Afar) using the pro-WEAI survey tool developed by GAAP2. The study aimed to estimate the impact on women's economic empowerment as a result of UN Joint Programme interventions in communities in Oromia and Afar. The programme incorporated multiple interventions, which were implemented through women-run rural savings and credit cooperatives (RUSACCOs), with the intention of improving women beneficiaries' decision-making over productive assets, control over income, and leadership within rural institutions. A major component of the programme aimed at rural women's greater access to credit, but interventions also include agricultural livestock and technology transfers, gender-focused community conversation dialogues, leadership skills, and business trainings to name a few. Using baseline and midline data, a difference-in-difference estimator with Inverse Probability Weighting (IPW) was used to evaluate the impact on women's empowerment with select indicators and sub indicators from the pro-WEAI as measures of empowerment. The final results based on the working paper will be available in August 2020.

FAO supported at regional and national levels several policy processes focused on various themes including: private sector partnerships for integrated solutions for financing agribusiness and Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) investment plans (more than 40 countries); formulation of Malabo-compliant National Agriculture Investment Plans (Eswatini, Namibia), building sustainable agri-food sector strategies in Africa; review or formulation of agricultural input policy (Rwanda), agriculture development policy or strategy (Botswana and the United Republic of Tanzania, Zanzibar) and joint policy and strategic support through joint Mainstreaming, Accelerating Policy Support (Cabo Verde); increased private investment and contributions in Antimicrobial Resistance awareness and management in the livestock sector (Burkina Faso, the Congo, Ghana, Liberia, and Togo).

FAO continues to support nutrition-sensitive national and regional agricultural investment plans by mainstreaming nutrition indicators. FAO also support the AUC biennial review process on the ending hunger indicators and aligning them to SDGs. Capacity building on the FIES is being conducted in several countries in the region, including actions to include nutrition indicators like the Minimum

	<p>Dietary Diversity (MDD). South Africa has integrated the MDD in their Household Survey. This is besides the Prevalence of Undernourishment (PoU), which is tracked annually and reported in FAO Regional Panorama on the State of Food and Nutrition Security.</p> <p>FAO mobilized and strengthened capacities of Parliamentarians, their alliances and other stakeholders to drive nutrition-sensitive policies, laws and frameworks for mainstreaming Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) in policies and value chains development strategies, and formulation of CSA investment.</p> <p>FAO supported the African Union Commission (AUC) efforts in monitoring implementation progress and ensuring accountability by building a pool of 50 regional technical experts; supported 16 countries to prepare the second biennial review reports presented to Heads of State and Government in January 2020, and the annual SDG Voluntary National Progress Reviews in 2018 and 2019.</p> <p>The first FAO/World Health Organization/AU International Conference on Food Safety was organized in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 12-13 February 2019 with the participation of more than 500 participants representing over 110 governments, several international and regional intergovernmental organizations as well as civil society and the private sector. Priorities were identified to ensure that food safety strategies and approaches can be aligned across sectors and borders, reinforcing efforts to reach the SDGs.</p> <p>A total of 47 countries have been assisted to produce a gender country profile in collaboration with the regional economic bodies and AUC. The country gender profile analysed gender gaps, good practices and the way forward in empowering women in agriculture, value chains and food and nutrition security. It provides a baseline for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs, the Malabo Declaration and National Agriculture Investment Plans. It informs advocacy, research, and capacity development activities undertaken by policy-makers, research and academic institutions and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) from a gender perspective.</p> <p>The information was validated by the Ministries of agriculture and rural development and the Ministries responsible for gender and women empowerment.</p>
<p>b. addressing the impact of increasing urbanization and rising incomes on food consumption patterns and diets, including through nutrition education, capacity building and awareness raising;</p>	<p>An Eastern Africa Parliamentary Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition was established and trained on sustainable and nutrition sensitive food systems and investments, in line with the training provided to the continental Parliamentary Alliance for Food and Nutrition Security. Membership comprises of 11 countries, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and East African Legislative Assembly (EALA).</p> <p>Advocacy on overweight and obesity, and addressing them through healthy diets in agriculture and nutrition policies and strategies, and</p>

	<p>lifestyles is an important aspect of this alliance. In the same vein dialogues were conducted by FAO for ECOWAS and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) stakeholders on the drivers of overweight/obesity and promoting healthy diets. This also considered integration of indigenous foods in household diets. In addition, FAO supported incentivizing street vendors to sell healthy food products in Accra and Dar-es-Salaam. This innovative and high-tech support is a great opportunity for youth who are tech-savvy to take it up to other cities in the continent. FAO is also working in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to promote local nutritious value chains in an attempt to reduce the dependence of these countries on imports. FAO, in partnership with the European Union, is supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in bio-fortification in Gambia. It is in the plan to scale up this project to other countries.</p>
<p>c. ensuring effective education, advocacy and exchange of knowledge to improve the quality of diets and prevent malnutrition in all its forms.</p>	<p>A subregional nutrition support strategy was developed and a working paper was produced on good practices for nutrition-sensitive agriculture programming in resilience and humanitarian context in Eastern Africa.</p> <p>Burundi, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kenya and Rwanda have been supported to produce Food Based Dietary Guidelines (FBDGs), which are important tools to promote healthy diet choices.</p> <p>The institutional arrangements for food security and nutrition monitoring and analysis are in place in Gabon to produce National Alimentary Recommendations (NAR).</p> <p><i>The Africa Regional Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Development Workshop for Designing and Implementing Sustainable Public Food Procurement Programmes for Home-grown School Meals</i> was developed in collaboration with WFP and the International Training Centre (ITC) of the International Labour Organization (ILO) of the United Nations, also with support from development partners. A follow-up ‘learning journey’ is in the planning stage for 2020 to enable Members to see such programmes in action and allow further exchanges of experiences in implementing HGSEF.</p> <p>The Dimitra Clubs model, promoted by FAO, is increasingly being used in Western and Central Africa to empower rural people through community mobilization, dialogue, the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs), collective action and self-help activities and to improve food security and nutrition with a strong gender focus. To date, almost 4 000 FAO Dimitra Clubs in seven countries of Sub-Saharan Africa (Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana Mali, the Niger and Senegal) have been created.</p>
<p>B. Climate Change and its Impact on the Work and Activities of FAO: Building Resilience to Address Extreme Vulnerability of Africa’s Agriculture and Rural</p>	

Livelihoods	
<p>24.iv. The Regional Conference recommended that FAO:</p> <p>a. Continue supporting its Members in making food and agricultural systems and rural livelihoods more resilient to the impacts of climate change, including through its Strategy on Climate Change and in keeping with the directions of the 2018-2019 biennial focus on climate change;</p>	<p>FAO developed a resilience strategy for (i) Southern Africa (2018-2021); (ii) Eastern Africa (Resilience Team of East Africa [RTEA]); (iii) Madagascar and the United Republic of Tanzania; and (iv) an animal feeding action plan to sustain livestock-dependent livelihoods in Eastern Africa.</p> <p>FAO organized a training on preparedness in Ethiopia, Kenya and South Africa to improve the capacity of Eastern and Southern Africa to provide a coordinated and needs-based response to deteriorating slow-onset humanitarian situations through improved preparedness, early actions linked to early warning triggers, and response actions.</p> <p>FAO continues to strengthen government capacities on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) through the coordination of the Capacity for Disaster Risk Reduction Initiative (CADRI) in the subregion. CADRI scoping missions and capacity assessments have been carried out in Botswana (5-7 December 2018), Comoros (23 September-4 October 2019) and Mauritius (19-30 August 2019).</p> <p>The IGAD Report on Food Crises was launched by IGAD-WFP and FAO on 2 September 2019. The report provides a snapshot on the situation of food crises (acute food insecurity) in the IGAD region.</p>
	<p>FAO implemented a Knowledge Exchange Platform (KEP) on <i>Strengthening Social Protection Linkages with Agriculture for Resilience and Rural Poverty Reduction</i> implemented in Dakar, Senegal, with nine countries participating.</p> <p>FAO implemented a KEP on <i>Strengthening Resilience of the Rural Poor: Improving Linkages between Social Protection, Agriculture and Risk Management</i> held in Nairobi, Kenya, with 14 countries participating.</p> <p>FAO produced a global guidance document on <i>Managing Climate Risks through Social Protection: Reducing Poverty and Building Resilient Agricultural Livelihoods</i>, which provides several examples from Africa.</p> <p>Policy support provided to Somalia on establishing a social protection system, with a focus on support to risk-informed and shock-responsive social protection in a crisis context.</p> <p>Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) cash transfer programme was adapted to strengthen the PSNP's role in disaster risk management. This included situation analysis and scenario planning, focusing on preparation for and prevention of negative impacts, and creating linkages with climate change adaptation and mitigation.</p>

	<p>Technical support was provided for adapting Lesotho's social protection system to link it to early warning, early action (EWEA) systems, in partnership with other UN agencies and funded by the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO).</p> <p>The Predictive Livestock Early Warning Information System (PLEWS) was rolled out in Kenya, providing an accurate estimation of current forage availability and prediction six months into the future.</p> <p>Data and knowledge for vulnerability assessment and adaptation (via Integrated Food Security Phase Classification [IPC] methodology and Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis (RIMA) tool provided in most African countries.</p> <hr/> <p>FAO supported West African countries with severe pastoral crisis in 2018 with assessments, response plan development and resource mobilization.</p> <p>Regional assessment was conducted in line with adapting small-scale irrigation to climate change in West and Central Africa, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger and Sierra Leone. Up-to-date information was made available and irrigation technologies and best practices adapted to climate shocks that are valuable to scale up were highlighted.</p> <p>Detailed country-level analyses were carried out on the impacts of climate change on irrigation systems in four pilot countries: Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Mali and the Niger.</p>
	<p>FAO trained and provided technical assistance to farmers and other stakeholders in four West African countries to allow them to improve their capacity in planning investments in small-scale irrigation by integrating and minimizing costs for adaptation to climate variability.</p> <p>FAO developed the Southern Africa Resilience Strategy for 2018-2021 with the aim of increasing the resilience of agriculture-based livelihoods to enhance food security and nutrition. The strategy will contribute to enhanced food security and nutrition in Southern Africa through multisectoral, multi-hazard and multistakeholder consultations and joint interventions</p> <p>FAO developed the Madagascar Resilience Strategy, which aims to build the resilience of rural livelihoods against risks and hazards in the country.</p> <p>Four subregional workshops were co-organized with World Bank support in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Togo and Zimbabwe on paths to integrate CSA in agriculture policies and value chains and to measure policy-project impact with the Ex-Ante Carbon-balance Tool (EX-ACT): 22 countries were covered and 80 experts from ministries of agriculture and environment were trained</p>

	<p>FAO supported the AUC, the African Union Development Agency (AUDA/NEPAD) and Members in the implementation of a large-scale restoration programme for building resilience of agrosylvopastoral landscapes and livelihoods through the implementation of the Great Green Wall against desertification project in six countries (Burkina, Ethiopia, the Gambia, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal) (funded by the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States/European Union [ACP-EU]). This support is being scaled up through the Turkey-funded project (BRIDGES) in three other countries.</p> <p>The document entitled ‘Qualitative Research Analysis on Livelihoods within the Gum Sector’ with focus on conducting a poverty and vulnerability and livelihood diversification analysis was completed in northern Nigeria under the umbrella support of the AUC and Network of Natural Gums and Resins in Africa. It aims to develop investment programmes to improve the resilience of gum-tree based landscape and livelihoods and in preparation for Green Climate Fund (GCF) investment proposal design.</p> <p>Technical support is being provided to AUDA-NEPAD and Members for the implementation, coordination, resource mobilization and monitoring of countries’ commitments to restore over 100 million ha by 2030 under the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100)</p> <p>Support was provided to ten countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, the Gambia, Ethiopia, the Niger, Nigeria, Togo and Zambia) for promoting and upscaling climate change adaptation and mitigation technologies through approaches such as CSA and Conservation Agriculture.</p> <p>Information and knowledge on options for climate change adaptation and mitigation have been gathered and published for four countries in the form of country CSA profiles, CSA investment framework for resource mobilization (Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, the Gambia and Ghana)</p>
<p>b. Reinforce its work with African countries on their priority actions towards the achievement of the SDGs, the refinement and implementation of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), including resource mobilization, and the preparation of implementation plans to the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030 in Africa;</p>	<p>FAO provided support to the <i>Commission des Forêts d’Afrique Centrale</i> (COMIFAC) to produce guidelines to assist its ten Member States in Central Africa in the monitoring of their achievement of the SDGs related to forests through the project TCP/SFC/3603.</p> <p>FAO provided support to Gabon to assess the status of major demersal fishes stocks (strengthening capacities on fish stock, assessment and evaluation of quality and quantity of data available to support the development of adapted population dynamics models).</p> <p>FAO is providing support to nine member countries for the development and implementation of GCF readiness proposals</p>

	<p>including to support climate action in the agriculture, forest, and land use sectors: Burkina Faso, Chad, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, the Niger, Nigeria and Senegal.</p> <p>In addition, FAO is supporting the formulation of 18 full-fledged funding proposals for submission to the GCF, including one multi-country Great Green Wall project benefiting six countries and the other 16 are country-based. Twenty-five (25) countries are benefiting from such support (including formulation of concept notes and full proposals): Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Chad, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Eswatini, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, the Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, South Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. The projects cover adaptation and mitigation needs to climate change across the different subsectors of forestry, livestock, agriculture and fisheries.</p> <p>AUC and countries are supported through the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) in formulating and tracking the progress of NDC implementation plans in the agriculture, forestry and land use sectors in Africa. Part of this project is a compilation of tools, methods and experiences on NDC implementation in the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sectors as well as an overview and analysis of progress made so far in terms of NDC planning, implementation and monitoring together with recommendations to advance the NDC agenda in Africa. Furthermore, direct support is currently being provided to four pilot countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Mozambique and Uganda. Other countries are benefiting from FAO's technical support through other country-related projects.</p>
<p>c. Facilitate intersectoral coordination and dialogue among relevant ministries and stakeholders to address the vulnerability of agriculture and rural livelihoods to climate change.</p>	<p>FAO supported policy dialogue in selected countries, focused on the expansion of coverage of social protection to rural areas, as well as the synergies on social protection, agriculture and natural resources management in key countries such as Ethiopia, Lesotho, Mali, Zambia, Rwanda and Uganda, among others.</p> <p>In Senegal, a KEP entitled <i>Social Protection Linkages with Agriculture for Resilience and Rural Poverty Reduction</i> (and was hosted in Dakar, 27-29 November 2018, co-organized by the Government of the Republic of Senegal and FAO.² It was attended by representatives from Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, the Niger and Senegal. The capacity strengthening event aimed to foster dialogue to increase coherence across social protection systems and other sectors – namely agriculture – in support of poverty reduction, food security and increased resilience.</p>

² <http://bit.ly/2EFaIbT>; <http://www.fao.org/senegal/actualites/detail-events/fr/c/1175321/>

A KEP on *Strengthening Resilience of the Rural Poor: Improving Linkages between Social Protection, Agriculture and Risk Management* was held in Kenya. The event brought together 14 African countries to exchange knowledge and best practices, with a focus on shock-responsive social protection and the role of social protection in EWEA and national and regional resilience strategies.

Under the framework of Regional Initiative 3 (RI3) on “Building resilience in Africa’s Drylands” FAO is facilitating exchange of resilience-building knowledge, experiences and good practices between IGAD and the *Comité inter-États de lutte contre la sécheresse au Sahel* (CILSS).

FAO facilitated dialogue and knowledge sharing between various stakeholders including at high-level events such as the Africa-Arab Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction.

FAO strengthened regional humanitarian coordination mechanisms and platforms in Southern Africa. Among these mechanisms are the Regional Interagency Standing Committee (RIASCO), Food and Nutrition Security Working Group (FNSWG), Resilience Working Group, Social Protection Platform, IPC Technical Working Group (IPC-TWG), CADRI, SADC, Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis Committee (RVAAC) and Annual Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF). FAO co-chairs the FNSWG, Resilience Working Group and IPC-TWG.

FAO and AUC organized a two-day workshop from 10 to 11 June 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya, on strengthening regional capacities, collaborations and exchanges for resilience building in Africa’s drylands. The meeting brought together key regional stakeholders including the AUC, AU Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), CILSS, IGAD, SADC, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and WFP as well as FAO resilience teams and representatives from other Strategic Programmes and Regional Initiatives. The objective of the meeting was to take stock of the lessons learned and discuss specific thematic areas in order to refine the focus and effectiveness of the regional initiative. The outputs of the regional consultation meetings include (a) the validation of the following thematic areas of focus for the Regional Initiative: DRR in agriculture and Climate Change Adaptation, innovative support to agro pastoral and pastoral livelihoods, resilience building to address natural resources-based conflicts, risk-informed social protection schemes and investment, knowledge exchange, and information and early warning systems and resilience measurement; (b) the recommendation to convene a meeting with RECs and other partners on an annual basis; and (c) the recommendation to continue to support knowledge exchange between RECs in collaboration with the AUC.

	<p>Under the framework of RI3 on “Building resilience in Africa’s Drylands” FAO co-organized and facilitated a parallel session and a policy symposium on increasing adaptation and resilience of African food systems at the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) that took place in Accra, Ghana, from 2 5 September 2019. The policy symposium ended with a Declaration for the embedding of resilience and adaptation interventions into national agricultural and investment plans and scaling up proven technologies targeting smallholder farmers, with a special focus on women and youth.</p>
<p>C. Leveraging Youth Employment Opportunities in Agriculture and Rural Sectors in Africa</p>	
<p>28. The Regional Conference recommended that FAO assist Members in:</p> <p>i. Making agriculture and the agrifood sector competitive and attractive to the youth;</p>	<p>Under a TCP project between FAO and the EAC, 16 youth champions-in-agriculture from the six EAC Partner States participated in a one-month training course at Songhai Regional Center in Benin, focusing on agricultural entrepreneurship and value chain development in integrated ecosystems. During the course, the trainees developed business plans for expanding their businesses, and had the opportunity to build business/support networks. In addition, based on a set of criteria, the participants were provided with small grants, ranging from USD 2 000 to USD 5 000.</p> <p>A consolidated Regional Documented Report on EAC Best Youth Agribusiness Models has been compiled and validated in August 2018. The profiling of “Best Youth Agribusiness Models” across EAC Partner States is an exemplary approach to recognize successful youth-led agribusinesses, enhance youth mobilization, improve farming techniques and promote a new vision of agribusiness and peer knowledge/skills sharing of innovative farming techniques to end hunger and poverty in Africa.</p> <p>A national three-week training of facilitators for the uptake of the FAO Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools (JFFLS) methodology was organized in the Central African Republic in October-November 2019. The aim of the training was to build the capacity of extension officers, young entrepreneurs, youth organizations and school teachers to provide agricultural, business and life skills training specifically adapted to the specific needs of vulnerable rural youth, enabling them to become more productive and active members of their communities.</p> <p>In support to the UN Joint Programme on <i>Supporting sustainable value chain development for job creation, food and nutrition security</i> being implemented in the United Republic of Tanzania (UNJP/URT/501/UNJ), which involves support to incubation centres in specific regions of the country for training of youths in agriculture value chains, the FAO Regional Office for Africa (RAF) financially supported in 2019 one incubation facility – Bihawana Farmers Training Centre in Dodoma City. It was renovated and equipped, and the training for the first youth cohort was undertaken.</p>

RAF has developed a promotional video highlighting success stories of young entrepreneurs in agriculture from **Central Africa**. The video aims to improve the visibility of innovative initiatives by the youth in order to improve the attractiveness of the sector to youth, thus boosting the development of agribusiness in the targeted countries, of the subregion (Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe).

FAO supported implementation **in Senegal** of its Integrated Country Approach (ICA) for promoting decent rural employment, through the designing of the rural incubation and entrepreneurship support model (*Modèle d'Insertion des Jeunes dans l'Agriculture* - MIJA platforms) with the aim to re-qualify pre-existing but not operational *Jeunes Fermes Agricoles* (JFAs). Six sites were selected for the piloting (among the 23 old JFAs), namely Ndiawdoun (Saint Louis), Silane (Diourbel), Mbilor (Saint Louis), Léona (Louga), Soutouré (Kolda) and Dimboli (Kédougou). When operational, the platforms should support four main sectors: aquaculture, horticulture, livestock/dairy production, and poultry farming. In parallel, FAO developed and tested a capacity development package on agricultural skills and rural entrepreneurship, training 60 young agro-entrepreneurs on how to enhance their businesses and 90 youth in agricultural production, using the farmer field schools (FFS) approach.

Under the “Agriculture for Economic Growth in **the Gambia**” Project in the Gambia (GCP/GAM/040/EC), FAO has particularly provided technical support on Output 3 “*Better market access for vulnerable smallholders and the youth and improved functioning of national cooperative and association bodies in the agricultural sector*”. For support to youth in particular, a special programme has been recommended around the following areas of intervention: strengthening the organizational set-up of the youth involved in agriculture/agribusiness in consultation with the National Youth Council and other relevant entities; providing graduation packages for the FFS youth-trainees and trainees from other programmes such as the Gambia Songhai Initiative; offering business development services that the youth need, especially those with promising agribusiness ideas.

FAO has also provided and continues to provide technical support to *the Project on sustaining peace and improving social cohesion through the promotion of rural employment* (UNJP/LIR/026/PBF) **in Liberia**; and **in Mali** to GCP/MLI/044/LUX - *Contribution à l'insertion professionnelle et au renforcement de la résilience des jeunes en milieu rural dans le centre et sud du Mali* and to UNJP/MLI/050/PBF - *Emplois et Jeunes pour la paix – Approche pilote intégrée de stabilisation et de consolidation de la paix par la*

	<p><i>promotion de l'emploi et de la participation des jeunes dans la région de Mopti.</i></p> <p>At the request of the Government of the Togolese Republic, FAO conducted an analysis and made recommendations for improving the performance of the IFAD-funded “<i>Projet National de Promotion de l'Entreprenariat Rural (PNPER) – 2014-2020</i>”, whose objective is to contribute to improving living conditions in rural areas, particularly for youth and women, through the development of rural entrepreneurship. FAO was approached as part of a process of extending the project implementation partnerships to other organizations involved in promoting rural entrepreneurship in Togo, in order to accelerate the project delivery. The recommendation to approach FAO was also supported by IFAD.</p>
<p>ii. Adopting a regional approach towards addressing youth employment in agriculture and agrifood sectors (strategies, platforms, etc.) and value chains through investment, trade facilitation, and better coordination and participation in regional policy dialogues;</p>	<p>Conference on Youth Employment in Agriculture held in Kigali, Rwanda, in August 2018, in conjunction with the AU and the Government of the Republic of Rwanda on the theme: “<i>Youth Employment in Agriculture as a Solid Solution to Ending Hunger and Poverty in Africa: Engaging through Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and Entrepreneurship</i>”. The forum attracted nearly 500 participants (including 250 youth from 40 countries) and allowed an exchange of views on the linkages between agriculture, youth employment, entrepreneurship, rural development and migration, with ICT and innovation as critical enablers. The conference report is available.</p> <p>As a follow up to the Kigali Youth Conference, 2019 joint action plans were developed during the last quarter of 2018 with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and ILO. With the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), two communication products on successful youth employment stories in Africa were produced in November 2018.³</p> <p>Following exchanges with UNIDO inspired by the Kigali Youth Conference in August 2018, a joint flagship initiative for accelerating youth employment in agribusiness in Africa was successfully launched on the sidelines of the seventh edition of the Tokyo International Conference on Africa's Development (TICAD), held in Yokohama, Japan, in August 2019.</p> <p>FAO commissioned the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU) to undertake a situation analysis on “Enabling the Young Agripreneurs to create more decent employment in southern Africa”.</p> <p>A subregional capacity development workshop on youth employment and entrepreneurship in agricultural value chains was organized in April 2019 for Central African countries (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe).</p>

³ <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/99347> and <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/99348>

	<p>The workshop was attended by youth champions in agribusiness, government officials, FAO staff and key partner-organizations e.g. the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), IFAD, ILO, etc. The key outcome of the workshop was the development of country action plans to accelerate the job creation efforts for youth in agribusiness.</p> <p>FAO supported workshops in Burkina Faso and Togo with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs on opportunities for youth in the agricultural sector, focusing on rural transformation and jobs for youth in the food value chains.</p>
iii Formulating or adapting national youth-sensitive policies/programmes.	<p>Under the Africa Solidarity Trust Fund (ASTF) project implemented with AUDA-NEPAD, national action plans on youth employment and skills development in agri-food value chains were produced for Benin, Cameroon, Malawi and the Niger.</p> <p>RAF supported the Congo to formulate an investment proposal⁴ on youth employment in agriculture and agribusiness. The proposal was presented by the FAO Representative in Congo during a restitution meeting to various partners at country level and there were expressions of interest in partnership.</p> <p>Rural youth are at the centre of the Dimitra Clubs' approach being promoted in several countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. Today there are over 17 000 young people (60 percent of them young women) participating in these clubs. Through their membership, the youth engage in concrete actions in the fields of nutrition, food security, girls' education and entrepreneurship.</p>
D. Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	
31. The Regional Conference recommended that FAO:	Information gathering by FAO in order to establish Africa Soil Laboratory Network in the framework of Global Soil Lab Network under Pillar 4 of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) that consists of Regional Soil Lab Networks known in Africa as AFRILAB.
i. Encourage the promotion of the Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform for implementing biodiversity initiatives;	
ii. Support compilation and scaling up of good practices on biodiversity management in a participatory manner;	<p>FAO supported the development of national capacities for conservation and sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in six SADC countries: Angola, Eswatini, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe).</p> <p>FAO contributed to the promotion of and advocacy for the scaling up of participatory forestry in Central Africa through support to the</p>

⁴ [Accélérer la professionnalisation et la promotion de l'emploi des jeunes dans le secteur agricole en République du Congo](#)

	design and adoption of the “Brazzaville Road Map for a more efficient participatory forestry in the context of the 2030 agenda” (May 2018), and its wide diffusion and presentation to diverse audiences (FAO African Forestry and Wildlife Commission, Dakar, June 2018; FAO Committee on Forestry [COFO24], Rome, July 2018; Forest Governance Forum, Brazzaville, October 2018; Congo Basin Forest Partnership conference, Brussels, November 2018).
iii Promote local knowledge, markets and value chain development for seeds/planting materials of minor crops/species;	Through the Great Green Wall project under implementation in six countries in Africa, FAO developed capacities of local communities (women and men, youth) in seeds collection, plant production from locally adapted species of trees, shrubs and grasses (fodder) in support of restoration work under the Great Green Wall.
iv. Support countries in managing the nexus between the requisite increases in productivity/production to respond to food security needs while ensuring biodiversity conservation.	<p>FAO organized a workshop on 11 -12 July 2018 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on “Operationalizing the Eastern Africa Climate-Smart Agriculture Platform (EACSAP) for Effective and Efficient Delivery”. The EACSAP is revitalized and restructured to work effectively.</p> <p>Thirty-four (34) projects were implemented for Fall Armyworm (FAW) sustainable management with a component on good agricultural practices and increased biodiversity to manage the pest and increase production.</p> <p>A specific project on maize intensification was implemented, combining use of quality inputs (seeds) and water use efficiency through adoption of cover crops in Benin.</p> <p>A publication on maize pests and their management on invasive plant species was produced.</p>
E. Progress made on the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States and on FAO’s Interregional Initiative on SIDS: Case of Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS (ARC/18/10)	
32. The Regional Conference: vi. Recommended that consideration be given to a model for landlocked food-deficit countries inspired by the SIDS programme while distinguishing the differentiated needs of both categories of countries.	Concertation held in the four subregional multidisciplinary team meetings with the participation of RECs and high-level authorities in Harare (10-13 September 2019), Addis Ababa (16-19 September 2019), Dakar (7-10 October 2019) and Libreville (29-30 October 2019) led to identification of challenges and opportunities for the landlocked countries as well as solutions for improved food security and nutrition. The findings will be presented at the 31st Session of ARC.
36. The Regional Conference: vi. Recommended that FAO:	<i>The Africa Regional Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Development Workshop for Designing and Implementing Sustainable Public Food Procurement Programmes for Home- Grown School Meals</i> , developed in collaboration with WFP, ITC/ILO (supported by the FAO Nutrition and Food Systems Division [ESN], TCP/RAF/3703 and the FAO Social Policies and Rural Institutions

	<p>Division [ESP]) was held at AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 11-13 November 2019.</p>
<p>a. continue to build on the results and impacts of its programmes, including in food security and nutrition, improved productivity and value chain development, and resilience building for effective management of risks; and,</p>	<p>The <i>Africa Regional Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Development Workshop for Designing and Implementing Sustainable Public Food Procurement Programmes for Home-Grown School Meals</i>, developed in collaboration with WFP, ITC/ILO (supported by ESN, TCP/RAF/3703 and ESP) was held at AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 11-13 November 2019.</p> <p>A national three-week training of facilitators for the uptake of the FAO JFFLS methodology was organized in the Central African Republic in October-November 2019. The aim of the training was to build the capacity of extension officers, young entrepreneurs, youth organizations and school teachers to provide agricultural, business and life skills training specifically adapted to the particular needs of vulnerable rural youth, enabling them to become more productive and active members of their communities.</p> <p>Capacity of national stakeholders from a wide array of sectors strengthened to understand and use poverty analysis in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of multisectoral policies, programmes and strategies to reach SDGs 1 (No Poverty) and 2 (Zero Hunger). The comprehensive Executive-level Capacity Development Programme “Strengthening the use of poverty analysis to reach Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 1 and 2 in Ghana and Zambia” was delivered in a three-phase approach. It included a comprehensive e-learning course (Phase 1) tailored to Sub-Saharan Africa, a face-to-face workshop (Phase 2) tailored to Ghana and Zambia, and a direct coaching phase (Phase 3) to support implementation of action plans putting into practice lessons learned.</p> <p>A south-south KEP entitled <i>Social Protection Linkages with Agriculture for Resilience and Rural Poverty Reduction</i> was hosted in Dakar, 27-29 November 2018, co-organized by FAO-RAF, FAO Senegal, the FAO Regional Resilience, Emergency and Rehabilitation Office for West Africa/Sahel (REOWA) and the <i>Délégué Général à la Protection Sociale et à la Solidarité Nationale</i> (DGPSN), the FAO Programme Support and Technical Cooperation Department and ESP/FAO headquarters. It was targeted toward government representatives from nine Francophone countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, the Niger and Senegal). The aim was to foster dialogue to increase coherence across social protection systems and other sectors – namely agriculture – in support of poverty reduction, food security and increased resilience.</p> <p>FAO organized a regional meeting on “Advancing the Operationalization of the Framework for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Africa (SAMA)” from 23 to 24 May 2019 at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The regional meeting</p>

	<p>allowed stakeholders including AU member countries, RECs, NGOs, financial institutions and development partners to discuss and identify actions that need to be taken to expedite the process of operationalizing the SAMA Framework.</p> <p>The AUC in close collaboration with the Government of Burkina Faso, FAO and other development partners organized a symbolic event on retiring the hand-held hoe to the museum, which was held on 14 and 15 October 2019 during the 2019 International Rural Women’s day. The event involved inauguration of the monument that is expected to challenge the African governments to give more priority to agricultural mechanization as an area for strategic investment.</p> <p>FAO has supported the Government of the Republic of Ghana to revise its national agricultural engineering policy and is currently supporting Benin to revise its agricultural mechanization strategy. Similar work will be conducted in the Gambia, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.</p> <p>FAO supported the organization of the Second all-Africa Post-Harvest Congress and Exhibition, which was held from 17 to 20 September 2019 at the AUC headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. FAO supported the participation of five AU Member States (Ghana, Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe) to share their experience on post-harvest management including development of national post-harvest management strategies.</p> <p>FAO continues to support AU Member States in the development and implementation of the national post-harvest management (PHM) strategies. A dissemination workshop for the national PHM strategy was held in Zambia in June 2019, which involved key stakeholders along the food value chain in the country. Similarly, support is being provided to other countries such as the United Republic of Tanzania to strengthen the national PHM platforms.</p> <p>FAO supported Sao Tome and Principe and Togo in soil fertility management, soils analysis and mapping and conservation practices.</p>
	<p>Various communication materials and technical documents on FAW management were developed. The documents include the guidance note “How to manage FAW: a quick guide for smallholders”; “FAW scouting”; “FAW trapping” and “FAW: pesticide risk reduction”.</p> <p>Four training courses on FAW Monitoring and Early Warning System (FAMEWS) for FAW focal points have been organized as well as the training of trainers on the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) guide</p>

	<p>for FAW FFSs. Supported AUC and ECOWAS in the coordination of FAW management through two TCPs.</p> <p>Supported Nigeria for the management of the tomato leaf miner (<i>Tuta absoluta</i>).</p>
<p>b. 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.</p>	<p>Senegal and Uganda were supported to integrate employment issues into agricultural and rural development policies and strategies and empower youth in rural areas as agents of economic development within their communities.</p> <p>FAO technically supported Senegal with the piloting of six highly replicable platforms to provide proximity agribusiness development services for rural youth. These platforms act as small hubs to provide training in agricultural production, market and business skills, strengthening group cooperation and ensuring viability of business activities.</p> <p>FAO supported Uganda with the “Youth Inspiring Youth in Agriculture” initiative: a nationwide contest attracted over 500 applicants and enabled the selection for award of 25 youth champions who will act as role models in their communities to inspire other young people through their agriculture and agribusiness enterprises.</p> <p>FAO developed a youth-centred value chain analysis tool, which has been piloted in the coffee value chain in Uganda, relating to the ICA programme.</p> <p>FAO provided support to appraise sustainable food value chains in terms of current situation impact and foreseen impact of growth strategies and policies (2018-2030): assessment of pro-poor economic impact (value added distribution, value per day of labour mobilized, farmers’ income), social impact (employment generated, social footprint) and environment impact (carbon footprint, water footprint, climate resilience). Studies on cocoa, cashew, shea and rice value chain appraisal initiated in partnership with national and regional value chain supporting organizations (Cocobod, AfricaRice, Global Shea Alliance, African Cashew Alliance) with 30 targeted countries.</p> <p>Members’ capacity for early detection and prevention of desert locust outbreaks was strengthened through capacity development and deployment of national desert locust unit survey equipment.</p> <p>FAO strengthened existing communication networks for effective desert locust reporting, information sharing and early warning in the affected countries through bilateral agreements to engage in cross-border surveys and information exchange.</p>
<p>B. Decentralized Offices Network</p>	

<p>38. The Regional Conference:</p> <p>ii. Recognized the need to review FAO's work to provide effective support to Members according to needs, in a manner that is commensurate with, <i>inter alia</i>, their income status and in consultation with governments of concerned countries;</p>	<p>RAF organized a series of capacity development trainings through face-to-face training in key areas such as administration on financial risk management, procurement on new processes and procedures, programmes and projects management on how to use FAO corporate systems (FPMIS, IMIS, PIREs). Efforts are geared towards improving staff expertise in the various country offices which is paramount in meeting the needs of each country.</p> <p>The FAO Subregional Office for West Africa (SFW) has been established and covers the 15 West African countries; it also serves as a hub for humanitarian and resilience support through planning, programming, operation and reporting. The aim of the establishment of SFW was also the reinforcement of administrative, operational and technical capacities to better support countries under the subregional office and to provide effective support to Members based on the need expressed by their governments.</p>
<p>iii. Noted the review of country office staffing models to increase adequate representation with adjustment to the emerging needs of countries and welcomed further review in light of criteria adopted by other UN agencies;</p>	<p>The region has strongly advocated for the filling of key positions to be in a better position, in the long term, to strengthen the capacity to deliver expected results in country offices.</p> <p>At the end of 2019, the region had six representations with FAO Representatives <i>ad interim</i>, 12 Assistant FAO Representative (both administrative and programmes) positions vacant and some vacant General Service positions which resources are used to increase technical capacities in country offices.</p> <p>Since 2019 FAO Representative positions have been upgraded.</p>
<p>iv. Highlighted the importance of adequate representation enabling the presence, high-level engagement and resource mobilization capacity to sustain and develop FAO's field programme and requested further consideration of the matter;</p>	<p>RAF is intensifying its resource mobilization strategies at decentralized office levels as well as continue training on partnership with non-state actors in the various subregional offices. A new professional position is established to support monitoring and evaluation functions in the region, working closely with the country offices.</p> <p>The Strategic Partnership Unit has been established and operationally used by combining Resource Mobilization and Partnership since it was introduced from 1 April 2018.</p>
<p>v. Acknowledged the efforts made to strengthen national and international partnerships with key stakeholders for more effective field support;</p>	<p>Training programmes were conducted to strengthen the capacity of rice seeds and paddy producers in ten countries in the region in the framework of FAO-AfricaRice.</p> <p>Training conducted in Mali, Nigeria and Senegal in RiceAdvice, helped to improve rice farmers' yield (gains of 0.6 up to 1.8 tonnes/ha) and income (gains of USD 100 up to USD 250 per ha) by providing personalized advice on rice management practices.</p> <p>FAO trained national programme staff of Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, and Uganda in statistical data collection and new sampling methods.</p>

	<p>AfricaRice actively contributed to the FAO initiative on “Strengthening Agricultural Statistics and Food Security Information” in Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) countries through South-South Cooperation.</p> <p>FAO organized a high-level ministerial conference on rice: delivering on commitments to transform Africa’s rice industry through the FAO South-South Cooperation programme.</p> <p>FAO provided technical and financial support to the review of some of the national rice development strategies in the region at country level through its South-South Cooperation programme.</p>
<p>viii. Underlined the continuing need to prioritize partnerships and increase resource mobilization at the decentralized level, with emphasis on South-South and Triangular Cooperation, and still keeping close collaboration with Rome-based and other UN agencies.</p>	<p>FAO developed a number of partnerships at the regional level, for example with AfricaRice, the International Rice Research Institute and CARD in its efforts to provide support at country level through South-South Cooperation.</p> <p>The three UN Rome-based agencies, led by FAO, signed an agreement to implement a joint initiative through South-South Cooperation.</p> <p>FAO strengthened its partnership with the African Development Bank (AfDB), through a supplementary Memorandum of Understanding signed in August 2018.</p> <p>The South-South Cooperation KEPs on Social Protection and Resilience, held in Dakar and Nairobi, involved the cooperation of several development partners, including IGAD, ILO, UNICEF, WFP and World Bank.</p> <p><i>The Africa Regional Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Development Workshop for Designing and Implementing Sustainable Public Food Procurement Programmes for Home-Grown School Meals</i> was planned and implemented as a collaboration between FAO, ILO and WFP.</p> <p>In partnership with UNIDO, a joint flagship initiative for accelerating youth employment in agribusiness in Africa was successfully launched on the sidelines of the seventh edition of the Tokyo International Conference on Africa’s Development, held in Yokohama, Japan, in August 2019.</p> <p>At the request of the Government of the Togolese Republic and in consultation and collaboration with IFAD, RAF conducted an analysis and made recommendations for improving the performance of the IFAD-funded “<i>Projet National de Promotion de l’Entreprenariat Rural – 2014-2020</i>”, whose objective is to contribute</p>

	<p>to improving living conditions in rural areas, particularly for youth and women, through the development of rural entrepreneurship.</p> <p>FAO is partnering with ITC, the United Nations Capital Development Fund and WFP, in implementing a joint programme on supporting sustainable value chain development for job creation, food and nutrition security in the United Republic of Tanzania (UNJP/URT/501/UNJ). The project in particular involves support to incubation centres in specific regions of the United Republic of Tanzania for training of youths in agriculture value chains. FAO particularly supported in 2019 one incubation facility – Bihawana Farmers Training Center in Dodoma City. It was renovated, equipped and the training for the first youth cohort was undertaken.</p>
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