

FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

Thirty-second Session

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Reporting on the recommendations of the 31st Session of the Regional Conference for Africa

Executive Summary

This report presents the follow-up to the 31st Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa (ARC) recommendations during 2020-21.

Reporting on the Recommendations of the 31st Session of ARC

The report shows the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the 31st Session of ARC. The order and numbering indicated in the table corresponds to the Report of the 31st Session of ARC. The recommendations which have been reproduced are followed by key points reflecting accomplishments.

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MATTERS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF THE CONFERENCE

II. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Issues	
A. COVID-19 and its impact on agrifood systems, food security and nutrition: implications and priorities for the Africa Region	
Recommendations	Key Points - Actions Taken
<p>21. The Regional Conference <u>recommended</u> that FAO:</p> <p>i. Continue its support to Members to strengthen their response to COVID-19 in the key areas, including by ensuring that the national response plan include response to and recovery for agriculture and food systems;</p>	<p>Under the FAO COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme, the FAO Regional Office for Africa (RAF) is implementing a current portfolio of projects at country, subregional and regional levels, with a total budget of USD 145 million, benefiting 33 countries, of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately USD 136 million in voluntary contributions (VC) approved as of December 2021; • About USD 9 million in FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) in 24 countries in addition to sub-regions and the region. • For example, FAO subregional Office for Eastern Africa (SFE) has been collaborating with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP) in the project, “<i>Strengthening resilience of agrifood micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) during and post COVID-19 in East Africa,</i>” to help different communities to mitigate the threats posed by COVID-19 on agricultural productivity and market access. • RAF developed and published Africa Regional (RAF) Action Sheets (ASs) to support member countries and regional entities in resource mobilization efforts and formulation of COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programmes. Priorities include: (i) Preventing next zoonotic pandemics; (ii) Trade and food safety standards, (iii) Boosting smallholder resilience for recovery; (iv) Economic Inclusion and Social Protection to Reduce Poverty; and (v) Food Systems.
<p>ii. Consider the emerging priorities resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic in supporting Members to mitigate the significant threat that this virus represents to ending extreme poverty and eradicating hunger in Africa. Specifically,</p>	<p>Under the component of the Global COVID-19 Humanitarian Response plan, FAO carried out a series of key activities to save lives and livelihoods in 18 African countries, reaching 2.5 million households (14.4 million people) with an estimated budget of about USD 428 million.</p> <p>FAO rolled out timely data collection and analysis to provide on-the-ground assessments and monitoring of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on agrifood systems and food security. This data helped humanitarian actors and governments to avert the worst-case scenario of food security deterioration. The</p>

Documents can be consulted at www.fao.org

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<p>the Regional Conference recommended that FAO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Support Members in the socio-economic impact assessments to measure the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on food security, nutrition, and functioning of agrifood systems; b) Support Members to make nutritious foods available and affordable by designing and implementing interventions that draw from recommendations in the State of Food Security and Nutrition (SOFI) 2020 report; c) Provide support to establish and promote multisectoral approaches for addressing food security and nutrition; d) Support countries to design and implement more efficient, cost-effective and innovative social protection programmes, including adjusting programme design, management tools, and delivery systems with the view that these programmes should be positioned and guided within national social protection system frameworks that promote long-term household resilience; 	<p>Organization ensured that essential operations to mitigate the pandemic's effect continue, including input distribution in time for upcoming seasons (see https://doi.org/10.4060/cb5911en).</p> <p>A policy brief was developed on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on agriculture, food systems and rural livelihoods in Eastern Africa. The brief was derived from the preliminary analyses of the impact of the pandemic in the subregion. It provided policy options for safeguarding the lives and livelihoods of the most vulnerable people in the subregion. The policy brief can be accessed here. https://www.fao.org/3/cb0552en/CB0552EN.pdf</p> <p>In reference to building coherent social protection systems, FAO has worked with IFAD and <i>Universidad de los Andes</i> (UNIANDES) to conduct evaluations and institutional analyses of coherence of social protection programmes with agriculture in four countries including Ethiopia, Lesotho, Mali and Zambia. Fisheries intervention was studied in Senegal. The findings from these studies will be disseminated widely to enable other countries to engage in more coherent social protection programming to facilitate poverty reduction and resilience building.</p> <p>FAO has strengthened nutrition programmes at country and regional levels. A Letter of Agreement (LOA) was signed with the Forum for Agricultural Research for Africa (FARA) to promote access to healthy diets using indigenous foods. COVID-19 pandemic impact assessments on nutrition were conducted in several countries in West Africa.</p> <p>At country level, FAO has assisted national governments to improve coherence of national programmes. Examples include:</p> <p>In Ethiopia, FAO provided support for Updating the National Food Composition Tables and the assessment of livelihoods packages to inform the integration of livelihood approaches into the new phase of the social protection flagship programme (Productive Safety Nets Programme [PSNP]), which FAO is currently the livelihood technical co-lead.</p> <p>In Burundi, with the support of FAO, the country is implementing nutrition sensitive agriculture in many projects and programmes at country level within 71 districts in 13 provinces. The country has also undertaken a nationwide study on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on food security and nutrition, which has been published.</p> <p>At a national level, Burundi finalized and validated the second Generation Multi-sectoral Food Security and Nutrition Strategic Plan (PSMAN II); developed and validated the monitoring and evaluation mechanism of PSMAN II; established the National Food Security and Nutrition Platform; and developed</p>
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	<p>regulatory texts and training modules for provincial and municipal platforms for food security and nutrition.</p> <p>In Zambia, FAO supported the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services in developing a methodology for better targeting a livelihoods support package called the Food Security Programme.</p> <p>In Senegal, FAO has assisted the government in the design and implementation of improved nutrition sensitive social protection interventions, moving towards more integrated approaches to tackle food security and nutrition and reduce poverty.</p>
<p>iii. Support Members and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to seize opportunities for accelerating innovation and digitization.</p>	<p>FAO continues to support Members and RECs in accelerating innovation and digitization through high-level discussions and fora. The Organization launched the 1 000 Digital Villages Initiative aiming at improving livelihoods in rural areas, combat hunger, poverty and inequality.</p> <p>A subregional project, “<i>Promoting Employment Opportunities and Agripreneurship among Youth and Women in Eastern Africa</i>,” has been well underway to create decent employment in agriculture and agribusiness for youth and women in seven Eastern Africa countries: Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. The project focused on aggregating information on agriculture and strengthening capacities of youth and women by creating linkages with financial service providers through promoting digitalization.</p> <p>FAO, in partnership with Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), developed a massive open online course (MOOC) on youth agripreneurship in Africa. The MOOC combines entrepreneurship best practices with the agrivalue-chain approach championed by FAO. The course is already being piloted in Uganda.</p> <p>To promote the application of IT in agricultural digitalization, the FAO office, in collaboration with local authorities and CSI, rolled out the Digital Services Portfolio (DSP) in Tanzania to strengthen digital advisory services capabilities. The services include meteorological forecast, advice for livestock and aquaculture production as well as post-harvest practices. In Senegal, the DSP was extended to assist with education on the COVID-19 pandemic and best health practices in addition to agricultural advisory services.</p>

B. FAO's Hand-in-Hand Initiative: a new approach to combat poverty and hunger	
<p>25. The Regional Conference <u>recommended</u> that FAO:</p> <p>i. Support the strengthening of national and regional institutional and technical capacities for knowledge and data generation and management that support evidence-based planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and learning;</p>	<p>Currently, 25¹ African countries are participating in the Hand-in-Hand (HIH) Initiative. FAO, under its Technical Cooperation Programme, had funded projects in 15 countries² for an amount of USD 5 million to start implementation of the initiative which includes launch, data collection, donor mapping and training in use of the Geospatial Platform, micro-region typologies using stochastic profit frontier analysis, among others.</p> <p>For example, Angola intends to improve its Agroeconomic Information System and agricultural statistical capacity for better, evidence-based decision-making through TCP/ANG/3802. The TCP has been used to prepare Food Balance Sheets that show the trends in the overall national food supply and to complete a national agricultural survey.</p> <p>FAO strengthened capacities of 42 participants from 15 countries³ on the Operational Guidelines of the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020 (WCA 2020). To assist Members in improving data collection, processing, analysis, dissemination, comparability and development of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators, FAO organized the 27th Session of the African Commission on Agricultural Statistics (AFCAS)³; forty AFCAS member countries participated.</p>
<p>ii. Support Members to put in place well-coordinated and efficient data collection and management systems through the Initiative, including indicators developed to measure progress in the implementation of the Malabo Declaration and the SDGs;</p>	<p>Some countries participating in the HIH Initiative, such as, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Mali and Zimbabwe, conducted an initial analysis to differentiate productive territories. Using stochastic profitability frontier analysis linking multiple layers of georeferenced data, the analysis identifies areas where increased agricultural investment would translate into improved, sustainable production, accelerated poverty reduction (SDG 1), access to healthy diets (SDG 2), and reduced inequality (SDG 10).</p> <p>A dashboard is being developed to provide full transparency over programme performance and to enable real-time impact analysis on an on-going basis. The dashboard incorporates data and analysis painstakingly collected over many months and benefits from close consultations between host governments and multiple partners, all of which have informed the implementation of the country's strategic programme and investment plan.</p> <p>The dashboard is designed to provide regular, real-time reporting of progress against programme milestones and SDG objectives, all with visualizations that serve as a guide and touchstone for the</p>

¹ Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Chad, Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe

² Angola, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroun, Chad, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Rwanda, Mozambique

³ Angola, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Cabo Verde, Cameroun, Gabon, Guinea Bissau, Malawi, Rwanda, Mozambique, Chad

	government and partners. It also provides key impacts and cost-benefit analysis, showcasing advancement in the areas of intervention.
iii. Promote the fact that there are significant convergences among most of the indicators developed to measure progress in the implementation of the Malabo Declaration and the SDG indicators;	<p>FAO trained 50 participants from 12 countries on SDG indicator 2.3.1: “Volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size” and SDG indicator 2.3.2: “Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and Indigenous status” to accelerate the adoption and implementation of the newly developed SDG methodologies (Tier II indicators).</p> <p>FAO made available its database for selected SDG indicators and supported several countries (Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Niger, Rwanda, and Tanzania) to prepare the third cycle of CAADP Biennial Review (BRs), and the African Union and AUDA to compile the continental Biennial Review report.</p> <p>FAO supported eight countries⁴ towards completing the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) on SDG implementation, and prepared and disseminated two editions (2020 and 2021) of the Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition in Africa (SOFI), as part of monitoring progress toward food security and nutrition targets in the region.</p>
iv. Promote effective public and private partnerships inclusive of small-scale producers, as an essential factor leading to the achievement of results that transform lives and promote sustainable landscapes;	<p>Zimbabwe has made progress and advanced partnerships securing support from the United Arab Emirates (USD 0.5 million for Inclusive Value Chain Development) and the Kingdom of the Netherlands (Food Loss and Waste).</p> <p>Ethiopia seeks to accelerate agricultural transformation and rural development, building on existing work with the government and its partners to support development and implementation of the Integrated Agro-Industrial Park policy. The HIH Initiative support is first developing value chain studies and subsequently investment analyses and plans to guide public and private development partner investments into production, aggregation, value-addition and commercialization, specifically through the Agro-Commodity Procurement Zones (ACPZs) surrounding the parks.</p> <p>Similar undertakings are underway in several more countries, including Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and São Tomé and Príncipe.</p>
v. Consider ways to enhance and extend the Hand-in-Hand Initiative approach to strengthen FAO country support to achieve other FAO priority objectives, working in alignment with UN country team priorities and, in particular, to	The diverse benefits presented by the designation of the HIH Initiative as one of the 20 Priority Programme Areas under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, in particular the ability to use the HIH Initiative as proof of concept and learning laboratory for an Organization-wide shift from a fixed, project orientation to a more dynamic, scaled-up programmatic approach.

⁴ Angola, Cabo Verde, Chad, Madagascar, Namibia, Niger, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe,

<p>respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated impacts;</p>	<p>One of the key lessons learned so far is that the HIH Initiative is not a programme to be exported to countries, but offers a series of supports that are designed to ensure that national and international programme, policy and investment decision-making are founded on the strongest available science and country-specific evidence; fully achieve the potential of both traditional and non-traditional development partners to work together to mobilise means of implementation and accelerate achievement of national priorities for the SDGs, adhering to established international norms and standards; promote and facilitate scaled-up public and private investment as essential drivers of transformative change; and provide an enabling environment, including state of the art monitoring and evaluation systems, to sustain collaborative action over time.</p>
<p>vi. Set up a dedicated component to assist beneficiaries of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative to digitalize and deploy appropriate technologies in agrifood systems;</p>	<p>Through FAO TCPs, the HIH Initiative has invested a total of USD 5 million in 15 African countries as of December 2021.</p> <p>The designation of the HIH Initiative as a Programme Priority Area (PPA) under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 provides an institutional framework for a more comprehensive and systematic approach to address existing institutional bottlenecks and develop the set of institutional supports required to unlock the full potential of the Initiative. The PPA core and extended teams are expected to serve as an Organization-wide think-tank for developing required institutional capabilities for each area. In the case of the HIH Initiative, this will extend beyond purely technical concerns to important operational topics.</p> <p>Support for digitalization is evident through the creation and accelerated development of the HIH Geospatial Platform which consolidates and enables access to all FAO-held data through an open platform, and technical experts from twenty technical units have been working with the Geospatial Platform team in the Digitalization and Informatics Division (CSI) to catalogue, cleanse, geo-reference, provide metadata according to validated standards, and enable access to many data sets previously held separately by the different technical divisions and by the regional and country offices. To facilitate the application of the platform, training on using the HIH Geospatial Platform was held with 9 Countries (Angola, Cameroon, Gabon, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda and Zimbabwe).</p> <p>For example, in Ethiopia, the most recent HIH Initiative partner to come on board is Digital Green, a platform for disseminating agricultural knowledge to farmers through digital technology.</p>
<p>vii. Encourage experience-sharing among participating countries of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative.</p>	<p>As the HIH Initiative expands across FAO countries, each of the teams have made efforts to promote and encourage participation through the sharing of best practices. Internal experience-sharing webinars were held, for example, twice for West Africa in July and October 2020, and twice for the whole region, at the Regional Management Meeting (RMT) in April 2021. FAO country representatives in Ethiopia, Mali and Zimbabwe shared their perspectives, and most recently in late November 2021, representatives of FAO Country Offices in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Mali and Zimbabwe were invited to present on progress. In</p>

	<p>addition to internal FAO webinars to share experiences, for example, the HIH Initiative Nigeria Country Team at the retreat invited presentations from the HIH Initiative Country Teams in Ethiopia and Zimbabwe for experience-sharing.</p>
<p>C. Building resilient food and agriculture systems in the context of overlapping multiple crises (climate extremes, transboundary pests and diseases, conflicts and economic downturns): addressing the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus in Africa</p>	
<p>28. The Regional Conference <u>recommended</u> that FAO:</p> <p>i. Reinforce its priorities on investments and partnerships for integrated, comprehensive and innovative approaches and systems towards building resilience, including through holistic social protection schemes, across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus, to enable shifting from delivering humanitarian assistance to ending the need for it, by reducing risks and vulnerabilities, and supporting prevention efforts.</p>	<p>Under the Regional Initiative on building resilience in Africa’s drylands, FAO is supporting countries for risk-informed and shock-responsive social protection systems to improve food security and nutrition and protect households' assets and increase income of the most vulnerable population. This approach is contributing to a major paradigm shift in humanitarian assistance, moving from crisis response to preventive and proactive initiatives. In this context, FAO works in two dimensions in food crisis contexts, i.e. (i) leveraging existing social protection system in response to shocks and crises, and (ii) supporting the development of social protection systems that are designed to expand the support in case of crisis or disasters where they do not exist. FAO is leveraging on the cash-based interventions to build up shock responsive safety net mechanisms.</p> <p>In Ethiopia, FAO has supported the integration of livelihood approaches into the new phase of the social protection flagship programme (Productive Safety Nets Programme, PSNP), with FAO being now the livelihood technical co-lead. In West Africa and the Sahel, FAO supported early warning systems capacity building and the implementation of the Early Warning Early Action approach (EWEA), linking them with social protection systems to mitigate the impact shocks in agriculture. Finally, the Global Network Against Food Crises projects implemented by FAO, including in the Sahel, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Somalia and South Sudan, are building the resilience of vulnerable communities to food crises and generating learning to improve future programming and strengthen partnerships across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.</p> <p>FAO and the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) co-delivered, on July 2021, a capacity strengthening workshop on ‘<i>Enhancing the resilience and self-reliance of migrants, refugees and host communities in Eastern Africa</i>’. The workshop served as a platform to promote the exchange of lessons learned and discuss key approaches and opportunities for adapting and improving current policy and programming on migration, rural development and resilience and strengthen the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in the region, including in the context of COVID-19 response and recovery.</p>
<p>ii. Ensure more deliberate and consistent integration of conflict-sensitive approaches, and enhance local capacities for peace, along</p>	<p>FAO conflict-sensitive approaches consist of context analysis and conflict-sensitive programming. FAO conflict-sensitive projects are implemented in fragile, conflict-affected and/or post-conflict settings, where institutions may be weak, societal relations are fractured, and access to resources is constrained or highly</p>

<p>with investment into how to address the complexity and needs of vulnerable groups during both their daily lives and during crises;</p>	<p>competitive. For instance, FAO has 22 ongoing Peace Building Fund projects in Africa at around USD 19.3 million in 13 countries, including: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Sudan.</p> <p>The FAO Subregional Office for Eastern Africa (SFE) delivered trainings on conflict-sensitive programming for 121 experts drawn from Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan and Uganda. It also documented lessons learnt from FAO Somalia on conflict-sensitive programming, based on the results of Pro-Resilience Action (PROACT) project. In SFE, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on peace and conflict was also documented, and recommendations for adaptive programming were presented.</p> <p>Collaborations with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (CEWARN) have been continued on cross-border conflict analyses and information sharing.</p>
<p>iii. Emphasize stronger collaboration while focusing on achieving collective outcomes to address the vulnerability and risks facing communities in crisis-prone countries;</p>	<p>FAO has been working with international and regional partners to manage and reduce risks in the face of climate variability and extremes, which themselves can contribute to conflict by undermining livelihoods, food security and nutrition. Since 2016, the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) are implementing jointly a five-year programme aimed at protecting and promoting communities' food and livelihoods sources by restoring, rehabilitating and supporting their productive assets (such as land, natural resources, inputs, tools, access to water, livestock, etc.), improving market linkages and strengthening technical and marketing capacities in Niger, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Somalia. This will contribute to addressing the root causes of food insecurity and vulnerability, and ultimately reduce dependency on humanitarian assistance.</p> <p>In collaboration with IFAD and WFP, FAO prepared the G5 Joint Programme for the Sahel in response to the Challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Conflict and Climate Change (SD3C). It is an RBA programme designed to strengthen the resilience of the most vulnerable rural populations in the Sahel region in a sustainable way to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts and the effects of climate change. The programme runs for USD 180 million over six years and covers the G5 Sahel countries: Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal. The programme started in 2021 and is funded by IFAD and the Green Climate Fund (GCF).</p> <p>In the Somaliland, South Sudan and the Sudan, FAO is implementing a programme for building food system resilience in protracted crises in partnership with the Wageningen University and Research Centre. The four years programme of USD 28 million adopts an innovative area and livelihood-based approach that looks at the multidimensional threats and risks that communities are exposed to, while identifying and utilizing opportunities for improved livelihood resilience. The programme aims at improved inclusive</p>

	<p>access and management of local natural resources, improved livelihood and income opportunities along value chains, enhanced capacity of local communities around nutrition-sensitive livelihood support, and generating learning on improved policy and practices on food system resilience. This programme also promotes coordination with relevant stakeholders involved in targeted areas to reach collective outcomes between multi-sectoral humanitarian and development interventions.</p>
<p>v. Strengthen capacities of countries in the resilience of food and agricultural systems in the context of crises, particularly extreme weather events, transboundary pests and diseases, conflicts and economic recessions;</p>	<p>FAO supports countries to safeguard agricultural livelihoods and food security of vulnerable households by acting ahead of hazards, thereby reducing humanitarian needs, preventing the deterioration of food security and strengthening resilience of food and agricultural systems.</p> <p>FAO has developed Early Warning and Early Action (EWEA) systems tailored to each country and are based on existing early warning systems to identify timely triggers for early action. These systems enable FAO to monitor major risks, including climatic shocks and conflicts, and to act early to mitigate its effects on the agriculture sector and livelihoods through an operational tool, the EWEA plan. In this context, FAO strengthens staff capacity at country, regional and global level as a pre-requisite for the set-up of EWEA systems in high-risk countries and the provision of adequate support during the risk analysis, activation and implementation process; and strengthen advocacy efforts based on collected evidence on the effectiveness of anticipatory action.</p> <p>FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS), in partnership with NASA Harvest, conducted training on agrometeorological indicators for 114 staff in government institutions, NGOs, international organisations and FAO Country Offices (including EWEA focal points) across Southern Africa to strengthen analytical capacities in agricultural monitoring using remote-sensing data. FAO GIEWS in collaboration with NASA Harvest is piloting a crop mapping exercise in Malawi and Namibia to update cropland maps and obtain yield data for remote-sensing based yield forecast models. A mobile-based application to collect qualitative data on crop conditions is being developed in both countries. The objective is to provide national stakeholders with innovative tools for early warning information. FAO GIEWS is implementing the Food Price Monitoring and Analysis (FPMA) Tool in Angola and Zimbabwe. The FPMA Tool is a cloud-based software that enables national institutions to better manage, disseminate and analyse domestic price information. In Uganda, FAO works on harmonized early warning systems to inform effective anticipatory action programmes, especially for pastoral areas.</p> <p>In South Sudan, FAO is a key partner of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) pilot programme on anticipatory action focusing on floods. Other examples of FAO anticipatory action interventions include protecting assets and livelihoods against the impending shock</p>

(such as rebuilding riverbanks or repairing irrigation schemes) as well as prepositioning to ensure timely humanitarian assistance to those most in need (such as the preposition seeds or tools).

In West Africa, FAO provides technical support to the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) and governments in the food and nutrition situation annually regarding food and nutrition situation information and food and nutritional vulnerability analysis assessment in the Sahel through the *Cadre Harmonisé*.

In Ethiopia, FAO supported a request to build capacity of national institutions to develop the regulatory ability to conduct Plant Pest Risk Analysis and reduce the impediments caused by plant pests in trade for better Market Access opportunities for Ethiopian trade. The training was matched by specialized training in Plant Pest Risk analysis and mentoring by the Kenya Plant Health Inspection Service. The outcome of the technical assistance is the enhanced ability of Ethiopia's regulatory bodies to analyze plant pest threats in formal trade pathways and develop the appropriate phytosanitary measures to mitigate those threats at the originating point of the commodity intended for import.

In Eastern Africa, development and management of reporting accountability frameworks, including a dedicated Dashboard, were established for Desert Locust prevention. The dashboard can be accessed at: <https://www.fao.org/locusts/response-overview-dashboard/en/>

Fall Armyworm continues to be a major pest, threatening food security and livelihood in SSA. Various technologies and tools have been developed for its sustainable management. For that reason, the Global Action for FAW control, launched in 2019 has aimed at integrating, demonstrating and delivering these technologies and facilitating the adoption at scale, of region-specific integrated pest management (IPM) strategies.

The Global action has been implemented in four (4) demonstration countries (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Kenya and Malawi) representing the 4 RAF sub-regions and IPM packages for upscaling have been developed.

A technical brief on Fall Armyworm (FAW) management was published, outlining success stories from previous projects in sub-Saharan Africa. The publication demonstrates that Farmer Field Schools (FFS) are effective in introducing behavioural change among participants on the fact that pesticide applications are popular methods to control FAW or other invasive pests effectively.

The publication can be accessed at: <http://www.fao.org/3/cb3890en/cb3890en.pdf>

<p>vi. Review its programmes to adapt to the current market contexts by the global economic and health crisis induced by the COVID-19 pandemic;</p>	<p>The Organization ensured that essential operations to mitigate the pandemic's effect continued, including timely input distribution for upcoming seasons. FAO supported crop and vegetable production for about 1.5 million households (8.9 million people) by providing vital agricultural inputs despite movement restrictions and in full alignment with World Health Organization (WHO) and national health and safety guidelines (see also paragraphs A i) and A ii) above).</p> <p>Smallholder Resilience for Recovery Programme accounts for 85 percent of the total funding for the FAO COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme in the Africa region.</p>
<p>vii. Work with FAO Members of the AUC and <u>discuss</u> the highly political issues of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus;</p>	<p>At regional level, FAO has been strengthening its collaboration with the African Union and Regional Economic Communities to build resilience of agrifood systems and livelihoods to socio-economic and environmental shocks and stresses along the HDP nexus. IGAD, Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) and FAO organised a virtual knowledge share fair in 2020 on: <i>"Promoting innovation to build resilience against climatic shocks"</i>. The themes of the share fair were Information systems, early warning systems and analysis; Disaster risk reduction and climate resilience; Innovative support to pastoralists and agro-pastoralists, social protection and safety nets; and Natural resource-based conflict. The 2020 virtual share fair built on AUC, IGAD, CILSS, and FAO's previous efforts to promote knowledge management for informed decision-making and investment in resilience building in Africa.</p>
<p>viii. Create a continental platform for food security and information system for use by countries</p>	<p>The regional technical platform is being finalized with the collaboration of the Office of Communications (OCC), Digitalization and Informatics Division (CSI) and RAF. The platform will be a reference for technical staff in the region for knowledge sharing and collaboration.</p>
<p>D. Progress made on FAO's Regional Programme in the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and towards development of an action programme to address food security and nutrition challenges in Land-locked Developing Countries (LLDC) in Africa</p>	
<p>33. The Regional Conference <u>recommended</u> that FAO:</p> <p>i. Support and strengthen the collaboration among land-locked African countries and their respective transit neighbours, including the formulation of policy priorities and investments for enhanced food security and trade;</p>	<p>FAO has approved special funding for a proposal which will address collaboration among LLDCs and looks at some policy matters.</p> <p>Examples of collaboration in such countries include two transboundary projects between Mali and Mauritania, and Mali and Burkina Faso respectively. The projects are entitled as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNJP/MLI/064/PBF: Conflict management and agro-pastoral resilience building on the Mauritania-Malian border ; • UNJP/MLI/055/PBF: Promotion of a peaceful transhumance in the Liptako Gourma region.

	<p>Malawi is participating in the sub-regional project “<i>Support Towards the Operationalization of the SADC Regional Agricultural Policy</i>” (GCP/SFS/004/EC).</p> <p>FAO is implementing a Flexible Multi-Partner Mechanism (FMM) sub-programme 2.3, <i>Empowering women in food systems and strengthening the local capacities and resilience of SIDS in the agrifood sector</i> (FMM/GLO/145/MUL), which covers Cabo Verde and Comoros. http://www.fao.org/3/cb0685en/cb0685en.pdf</p> <p>Under the subprogramme, gender sensitive value chain assessments were undertaken in Comoros for the fruit and poultry value chains and in Cabo Verde for the fisheries value chain. In Cabo Verde, 30 women fishmongers benefitted from capacity development activities on seafood transformation, reducing losses and increasing nutritional and economic value. Various fish processing and conservation equipment have been procured (e.g. Ice Machine using solar panels, Fridge Truck) and will benefit two fishery communities (100 farmers).</p> <p>In Comoros, the subprogramme has put in place a virtual platform on micro finance targeting women entrepreneurs (Information platform on microfinance; Information on loans and different eligibility criteria): http://www.facekm.net/</p> <p>The following promising practice “<i>Empowering women in small scale and artisanal fishing value chains in Cabo Verde</i>” has been documented and presented in a global webinar on “<i>Reducing the gender gap in the fisheries sector for sustainable food systems</i>” held on 18 November 2021.</p>
<p>ii. Strengthen coherence in supporting land-locked countries in Africa, considering their vulnerability to address unique and complex food security and nutrition challenges;</p>	<p>Programme planning for strengthening coherence include resilience building and social protection for strengthening the resilience and social protection of populations vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity; diversification of production and development of agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery value chains; support for the formulation and implementation of national policies.</p> <p>In Zambia, the Rapid Food Systems Assessment project is undergoing a planning process for collection of data through the joint efforts of the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), the Center of Initiative and Development (CFID), the European Delegation in Zambia, and two FAO national consultants.</p> <p>In Malawi, there is an ongoing national and subnational food systems dialogue being implemented by FAO Malawi with the Ministry of Agriculture.</p>
<p>iii. Support LLDCs to put mechanisms in place and harness public and private investment in</p>	<p>A current example in the FAO portfolio of this is the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, which is developing very well in Mali with the buy-in of main cooperating partners and a clear leadership at government level. In</p>

<p>agriculture, food security, and nutrition to capitalize on the existing potentials;</p>	<p>Malawi, there is a national census of agriculture and livestock (NACA) programme that is in the technical support phase.</p>
<p>iv. Assist LLDCs to proactively and meaningfully address their food security and nutrition challenges through regional and continental initiatives, for example, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Programme on Infrastructure Development in Africa, and Africa Climate Smart Agriculture Vision 25X25;</p>	<p>Examples of success from this include the Great Green Wall Initiative and the G5 Sahel Resilience programme, as well as Strengthening Coordination, Scaling Up and Governance of Conservation Agriculture in Southern Africa (SSUGCASA) (FBA under the Project Symbol, FMM/GLO/146/MUL).</p>
<p>v. Pay special attention to the Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS component of the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in SIDS (GAP).</p>	<p>Currently, there are TCP projects in Mauritius focused on the SIDS component, including (a) support to the development of a policy and strategic plan for the fisheries sector; and (b) enhancing rural livelihoods and agriculture productivity through agroforestry development in Mauritius.</p> <p>The African Solidarity Trust fund project titled “<i>Adoption of efficient and climate-smart agriculture practices in African Small Island Developing States</i>” completed in June 2021 had promoted in Seychelles the adoption of efficient and climate-smart food production practices; facilitating market opportunities; and appropriate nutritional behaviours through sustainable food systems, healthy diets and improved nutrition.</p>
<p>vi. Scale-up assistance to SIDS to facilitate private sector involvement in food security and nutrition in the region</p>	<p>There are several projects of note, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Comoros, a project is underway supporting the development of nutrition sensitive agriculture; • Support to smallholder farmers to upgrade agriculture and to deal with imports of pork and broiler poultry in the Seychelles; • Enhancing livelihoods, food security and maritime safety through increased resilience of fishing communities dependent on coral reef fisheries in the African coastal countries of the Indian Ocean (Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius and the Seychelles); and • In Cabo Verde, in the framework of the African Solidarity Trust Fund project, in partnership with relevant Ministries and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), a Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) country profile was produced following a stocktaking on CSA, including identification of adapted technologies and best practices.

E. Actualizing inclusive food systems transformation in Africa through leveraging innovation and digitalization: toward 2021 UN Food Systems Summit	
<p>37. The Regional Conference <u>recommended</u> that FAO:</p> <p>i. Assist FAO Members, in collaboration with the African Union and its institutions, to best integrate sustainable food and agriculture into national investment and strategic action plans, cross-sectoral coordination of activities, and use the “Transforming Food and Agriculture to Achieve the SDGs: 20 Interconnected Actions to Guide Decision Makers” as a roadmap to support transformation and promote nutrition-sensitive food systems.</p>	<p>FAO is collaborating with the AU and its institutions on many projects. Institutions include the Regional Economic Communities like the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) for projects in food safety for trade facilitation and mainstreaming nutrition and developing Regional Food Based Dietary Guidelines. FAO has almost 700 projects in total with TCP support in all the 47 countries of RAF towards the SDGs.</p>
<p>ii. Strengthen assistance to countries in agriculture (crops, livestock, forestry, and fisheries) through promoting innovations and broadening their access to small-scale producers, integrated policy support and multisectoral approaches;</p>	<p>FAO has supported the design and implementation of shock responsive systems and linking social protection programmes to EWEA mechanisms. FAO implemented cash interventions in immediate response to the COVID-19 pandemic to support the livelihoods and resilience of agropastoral communities – in alignment with national Social Protection systems in selected Sahel countries. In Somalia, FAO is leveraging the ongoing cash transfer programmes to build a shock responsive safety net mechanism.</p> <p>Building on its expertise, FAO works with partners on an innovative process to support policymakers, programme and field officers in optimizing the design, implementation and evaluation of sectoral programmes and investments by addressing malnutrition and identifying key evidence gaps to inform operational research agendas.</p> <p>A series of four guidance notes specific to each sector (crop production, fishery and aquaculture, forestry, and livestock) were developed to support government and partners, building on experience from 12 countries - Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, Uganda and Zimbabwe,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Crop Production: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximizing nutrition in the crop production sector in Ghana. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Guidance Note: https://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CB7069EN – In brief: http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb5607en • Literature review: https://www.fao.org/3/cb5564en/cb5564en.pdf

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Forestry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximizing nutrition in the forestry sector in Uganda. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Guidance Note: https://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CB7338EN – In brief: http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb5606en • Literature review: https://www.fao.org/3/cb5563en/cb5563en.pdf ▪ Livestock: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximizing nutrition in the livestock sector in Eswatini and Zimbabwe. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Guidance Note: https://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CB6851EN/ – In brief: http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb5605en • Literature review: https://www.fao.org/3/cb5565en/cb5565en.pdf ▪ Fisheries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximizing nutrition in the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Kenya. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Guidance Note: https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb7344en – In brief: http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb5604en • Literature review: https://www.fao.org/3/cb5566en/cb5566en.pdf <p>FAO is also assisting countries through linking social protection systems with early warning systems and anticipatory actions to mitigate the impact of shocks in agriculture. Additionally, Global Network Against Food Crises projects implemented by FAO, including in the Sahel, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Somalia and South Sudan, are building the resilience of vulnerable communities to food crises and generating learning to improve future programming and strengthening partnerships across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.</p>
<p>iii. Promote, diversify and strengthen cooperation with regional bodies, international financial institutions, public and private partners for long-term investments, innovative solutions and systems to achieve the SDGs and support the broader 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit;</p>	<p>Examples of such cooperation are taking place in collaboration with AU organs like the Pan African Parliament (PAP) and its associated Pan African Parliamentary Alliance on Food and Nutrition Security (PAPAFSN) and the right to food and establishing national and regional PAPAFSN. Such alliances have been formed for East Africa and Cameroon, Madagascar, Sierra Leone and Uganda to name some countries. FAO Chairs the Ending Hunger Indicators of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) process of the AU and works to align the Malabo commitments with the SDGs.</p> <p>In 2018-20, FAO supported the ECCAS Commission in developing a gender and agriculture action plan. The Action Plan was endorsed by Ministers of Gender in December 2021 during their conference in the Republic of Congo (ECCAS will present the report during their Heads of State Summit in June).</p>

	<p>https://ceeac-eccas.org/presidence/reunion-des-ministres-du-genre-et-de-la-promotion-de-la-femme-des-etats-membres-de-la-ceeac-sur-les-defis-de-la-resolution-1325-du-conseil-de-securite/</p> <p>This ECCAS Action Plan on Gender and Agriculture (APGA) seeks to improve the mainstreaming of gender at institutional and operational level, in present and future policies and programmes in the agrifoods sector, including the PRIASAN and PNIASAN regional and national programmes.</p>
<p>iv. Affirm, in the run up to the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, through a process of the UN Member States and stakeholder consultation, the centrality of food systems to the sustainable development agenda and the urgency of investing in more sustainable food systems;</p>	<p>A learning route was implemented by FAO in partnership with PROCASUR to highlight Kenya's Home Grown School Feeding (HGSF) programme. The HGSF programme has been highlighted as a social protection programme with strong potential to support resilient local food systems. As such, this knowledge exchange event targeted 25 government officials, decision makers and key stakeholders from nine African countries (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia) with the aim to build their capacity to implement HGSF programmes in their own context.</p>
<p>v. Propose action by FAO intergovernmental bodies to align UN Member States and stakeholders around a standard definition of food systems and a practical framework for concerted action to realize the potential of food systems transformation as a driver for achievement of the SDGs;</p>	<p>FAO joined the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ITC-ILO) in designing a virtual training and mentorship programme for government counterparts from several African countries, entitled "<i>ITC/ILO E-coaching on Social Protection: Towards Shock Responsive Systems</i>". Participants learned best practices in designing and implementing social protection measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and principles of shock responsive social protection in general. Furthermore, FAO has been developing with ITC-ILO a blended training programme to enhance the technical capacities of the Network of Parliamentarians on Gender Equality and Investments in Agriculture and Food Security in areas such as gender-responsive budgeting and planning as well as equitable agrifood systems development.</p>
<p>vi. Develop strengthened evidence and tools for improved measurement, analysis, and management of trade-offs in specific contexts by providing open data-sharing platforms for modelling and analysis, and rolling out data systems and technologies to local communities and small-scale farmers;</p>	<p>FAO supported the AU Commission in leading the social protection track for a two-day virtual conference entitled, "<i>Cultivate Africa: Galvanizing partnerships for promoting resilient agriculture and food system in Africa in the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic</i>" (17-18 November 2020). Two sessions were held to highlight immediate social protection responses to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as initiatives to strengthen social protection and build household resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic recovery and beyond. The conference brought together a wide variety of stakeholders (UN, CSO, NGO, government, etc.) with the aim to identify opportunities for partnerships and investment opportunities for building more robust systems.</p> <p>In addition, FAO promoted the use of sex-disaggregated data with a focus on measuring the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on agriculture, food security and nutrition for evidence-based policymaking. Such</p>

	evidence includes “Gender-responsive digitalization: A critical component of the COVID-19 response in Africa.” (FAO. 2021. Accra. https://doi.org/10.4060/cb5055en)
vii. Accelerate multistakeholder action to transform agrifood systems to ensure that the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit provides the opportunity to endorse effective and intensified action, including scaled-up investment and innovation and rapid dissemination of experience and knowledge based on increased science-based policy dialogue and networks;	<p>Multistakeholder actions taking place include urban municipalities’ engagement in independent dialogues on Food Systems Transformation leading to the UN Food Systems Summit, in partnership with Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI). These dialogues are taking place in the following RAF cities: Accra and Tamale in Ghana, Nairobi and Kisumu in Kenya; Antananarivo in Madagascar, Lilongwe in Malawi, Quelimane in Mozambique, Kougheul, Kigali and Rulindo in Rwanda, Kaffrine and Sanggalkam in Senegal, Cape Town in South Africa, Dar es Salaam and Arusha in Tanzania and Entebbe in Uganda.</p> <p>Building on the declaration of 2021 as International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour, FAO has pledged to intensify the Organization’s efforts against child labour in agriculture. Some results delivered include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of the technical paper: Accelerating Action To Help to End Child Labour In Agriculture In Africa. The paper provides an in-depth analysis of the situation, challenges and opportunities to end child labour in agriculture in the region. It ties in with the 2030 Agenda in partnering and sharing knowledge to support countries to implement and monitor the SDGs - a key output on knowledge generation. • Delivery of the Africa Conference ‘Ending Child Labour in Agriculture in Africa’. The conference was organized in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the African Union Commission (AUC). As a result of the conference, the AUC pledged to include child labour indicators as part of its biannual review activity, and a set of 15 policy recommendations were identified. The conference mobilized over 300 relevant stakeholders, and spotlighted high-level speakers from FAO, ILO and AUC, as well as speakers from government, NGOs, private sector, producers’ organizations, and academia. • The compelling outcomes of the regional conference were presented during the FAO-organized Global Solutions Forum: Acting together to end child labour in agriculture on 2-3 November 2021. This was a further occasion to show that Africa and its agricultural actors are taking a long-term stand against child labour and for sustainable agrifood systems.
viii. Support governments and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen innovation capacity in all its dimensions, including promoting new institutions, inclusive policies, practices, innovative financing and risk-sharing mechanisms, market	Strong partnership with IGAD continues under the umbrella of the Global Network against Food Crises on issues related to early warning, food security analysis, resilience measurement, advocacy, climate adaptation and pastoralism. This includes direct funding as well as capacity development with resources from the European Union, Sweden, Switzerland and the Adaptation Fund, in particular.

information systems and technologies to support inclusive agriculture and agrifood systems transformation;	
ix. Continue to support the strengthening of strategic partnerships and platforms, and establishing systems to enhance trade and regional integration;	<p>Current projects to support the strengthening of strategic partnerships and platforms, and establishing systems to enhance trade and regional integration, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “<i>Support for Boosting Intra-African Trade in Agricultural Commodities and Services to advance the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)</i>”(TCP/RAF/3708). • The launch of FAO & AUC-DARBE of the Framework for Boosting Intra-African Trade in Agricultural Commodities and Services as a blueprint for expanding agricultural trade between African countries and aims to unlock the potential of the agricultural sector to contribute to sustainable and inclusive growth for Africa (LINK). • Partnership with IGAD continues under the umbrella of the Global Network against Food Crises.
xi. Consider how to undertake a systemic transformation of food systems to make it attractive to both young people and small holder farmers.	<p>Current actions to make systematic transformation of food systems appealing to youth include examples through the joint FAO and UNIDO, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, Opportunities for Youth in Africa (OYA) programme. OYA, with six pilot countries (Cabo Verde, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Tunisia and Zambia), works to accelerate efforts in the area of job creation for African youth, especially through agribusiness and entrepreneurship development. Implementation has started through the FAO funded TCP/RAF/3802 and the Italian funded GCP/INT/920/MUL.</p> <p>Social media examples engaging youth include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries (LDCs) (26/05/2021) (twitter https://www.fao.org/new-york/news/detail/en/c/1402282/) • The 10th ECOSOC Youth Forum (06/04/2021) (LINK) • The International Youth Day celebration (2021) twitter
III. Programme and Budget Matters	
A. Results and Priorities for FAO in the Africa Region	
44. The Regional Conference <u>recommended</u> that FAO: i. Reiterate the continued significance of the three Regional Initiatives, namely Ending	FAO ensured continuity in the implementation of the three Regional Initiatives and, in 2021, guided by the new FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, refined them into four regional thematic priorities and 15 specific Programme Priority Areas of work for efficient and tangible results delivery at the country level.

<p>Hunger by 2025; Sustainable Intensification of Production and Value Chain Development; and Building Resilience in Africa's Drylands, in driving the priority areas for Africa;</p>	
<p>ii. Refine the regional priorities in the context of new initiatives such as inclusive agrifood systems transformation, the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, digitalization and Innovation, the COVID-19 Response and Recovery programme as well as the UN Development System repositioning;</p>	<p>Aligned with FAO's Programme Priority Areas, the four regional thematic priorities formulated for RAF in 2021 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Sustainable Agrifood Production Systems; (ii) Efficient and Equitable Food and Nutrition Systems; (iii) Climate action and sustainable natural resources management; and (iv) Building resilience, ending poverty.
<p>iii. Elaborate and strengthen a regional work programme to provide technical assistance to African FAO Members under the coordination of the responsible AU institutions and RECs in the implementation of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), including strengthening of food safety standards, among others;</p>	<p>In April 2021, FAO and the African Union Commission co-published the Framework for Boosting Intra-African Trade in Agricultural Commodities and Services. The Framework aims to support policymakers and the private sector to develop strategies, policies and programmes to promote intra-African agricultural trade and the development of agricultural value chains, so that Africa's farmers, small and medium agri-businesses, women and youth, can reap the benefits of the AfCFTA single market.</p>
<p>iv. Recognize and support the important role that the AfCFTA can play in enhancing FAO work in food security and nutrition, as well as food systems;</p>	<p>In April 2021, FAO and the African Union Commission co-published the Framework for Boosting Intra-African Trade in Agricultural Commodities and Services (BIAT). The Framework aims to support policymakers and the private sector to develop strategies, policies and programmes to promote intra-African agricultural trade and the development of agricultural value chains, so that Africa's farmers, small and medium agri-businesses, women and youth, can reap the benefits of the AfCFTA single market.</p> <p>Implementation of the BIAT framework will enhance FAO's support for the AfCFTA as the key pillars of the framework are all in line with FAO's mandate and expertise.</p> <p>Between 12 October and 8 November 2020, FAO, in collaboration with UNITAR, ran the third edition of the e-Learning Course on "Trade, Food Security, and Nutrition" for Sub-Saharan African (SSA) policy decision-makers. The course was expert-facilitated and delivered in French via the e-learning platform developed by UNITAR, with FAO training materials and experts. The course provided a platform for</p>

	<p>learning and exchange of experiences among representatives from governments directly involved in the formulation and implementation of agricultural policies and programmes in SSA.</p>
<p>v. Elaborate/strengthen its work programme on climate change, biodiversity and sustainable natural resources management, especially land degradation, desertification, floods, etc., building on flagship programmes such as the Great Green Wall, Green cities, etc.</p>	<p>FAO and the African Union Commission (AUC) are jointly implementing the Africa Open Data for Environment, Agriculture and Land (DEAL) Initiative, using digital technology to collect and analyse data by African trained experts. In July 2021, FAO and the AUC have organized a virtual event and presented the first findings on continental Africa Open DEAL and Africa's Great Green Wall biophysical baseline data as a key step for further programming of combating desertification, land degradation, biodiversity loss and climate change (https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb5896en/ https://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CB5896FR).</p> <p>FAO is supporting the African Union Commission, the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall (PAGGW), and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and member countries in the implementation of Africa's Great Green Wall (GGW) through Action Against Desertification programme. Initially funded for 6 countries by the European Union/Organization of Africa, Caribbean and Pacific States, Action Against Desertification (AAD) received financial support from Turkey to expand its activities to three other countries and to South-South cooperation. FAO's AAD restoration activities are implemented on the ground in Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Sudan and have, so far, resulted in the restoration of over 60 000 ha of degraded agro-sylvo-pastoral lands, reaching out to more than 500 rural communities. The restoration approach and model of putting rural communities at the center of its operations and increasing useful plants diversities in restoration interventions, are captured in a practitioners' manual for large scale restoration in support of small-scale farming in the Sahel. Building on the AAD's successful approach, lessons learnt and results, the comprehensive manual entitled "Restoration in action against desertification" was published in January 2020 in four languages, English, French, Arabic and Spanish, for a wider use, highlighting methodologies, technologies and lessons learnt to help scaling up large-scale restoration to support rural communities' resilience. FAO is also supporting SADC to develop its own GGW initiative for the Southern Africa sub region through a subregional TCP to support technical backstopping and resource mobilization.</p> <p>As an accredited agency for the GCF, and to support member countries' efforts in scaling up its popular model of restoration interventions as part of the Great Green Wall implementation, FAO is supporting 8 member countries at their request, including Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal, all of which, except Djibouti and Mauritania, are AFR100 members. The proposal (a multi country one called Scaling Up Resilience in Africa's Great Green Wall – SURAGGWA) will cost more than USD 200 million and is targeting restoration interventions of about two million ha of degraded lands for a 10-year duration, by 2030. In addition to this multi-country project to be submitted to GCF, several Readiness funding proposals have already been approved and under implementation to study GGW</p>

countries' specific Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) context including identification, adaptation and mitigation options and market analyses, development of partnerships and private sector engagement that will feed into the SURAGGWA multi-country project. Sudan has also benefited from a GCF country project in support of the GGW called Gums for Adaptation and Mitigation in Sudan (GAMS): Enhancing adaptive capacity of local communities and restoring carbon sink potential of the Gum Arabic belt, expanding Africa's Great Green Wall.

As an accredited agency of the GEF, FAO is implementing the GEF-7 Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program on Dryland Sustainable Landscapes (DSL-IP). The five-year programme, which is comprised of a Global Coordination Project (GCP) and eleven national (child) projects, was endorsed by the Global Environment Facility in June 2021 with an overall objective to avoid, reduce and reverse further degradation, desertification and deforestation of land and ecosystems in targeted dryland regions, through the sustainable management of production landscapes. The DSL-IP which has a total grant funding of USD 104 million and USD 810 million of co-financing is led by FAO in coordination with three co-implementing agencies: The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the World Bank (WB). The FAO-led child projects in Southern Africa (Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe) will be closely aligned with, and contribute to the implementation of, SADC's Great Green Wall Initiative which was endorsed in October 2019, while the IUCN led projects in Kenya and Burkina Faso will contribute to the GGWI Sahel.

The DSL-IP Global Coordination Project (GCP) will support the eleven countries in the implementation of their interventions by providing demand-driven technical support which includes the development/refinement of selected community of practices for sustainable dryland management and the documentation and sharing of evidence based good practices to enhance the programme's overall coherence, scale and impact.

Further information about the DSL-IP can be accessed [here](#).

RAF in collaboration with AUDA-NEPAD and in the context of the regional TCP/RAF/3710 aims at strengthening capacities of AUDA-NEPAD, countries' institutions and stakeholders across sectors for effective coordination and implementation of AFR100 commitments. It focuses primarily on the following: (i) establishment of an online monitoring and knowledge platform on Restoration in Africa and hosted by the Secretariat; (ii) developing a regional capacity development plan benefiting countries, addressing implementation and monitoring AFR100 at country and regional levels; (iii) support to resource mobilization efforts through the formulation of a regional/country programme portfolio with technical and financial partners, including through GEF and GCF resources. Part of this support included the secondment

	<p>of consultants to AFR100 Secretariat, the development and publication of the first ever review of Forest and Landscape Restoration in Africa, 2021 (https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb6111en https://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CB6111FR), the support to the organization of workshops and capacity development activities and events, and to both working groups on monitoring and financing, a capacity needs assessment and ongoing development of a capacity development plan and development of value ongoing resource mobilization.</p> <p>FAO has published its Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors together with a global action plan. Based on the strategy and the outcomes of the Africa multistakeholder Dialogue on mainstreaming biodiversity in agriculture sectors, RAF will be developing an action plan for the region aligned with its Priority Plan of Action.</p> <p>FAO supports countries to safeguard agricultural livelihoods and food security of vulnerable households by acting ahead of hazards, thereby reducing humanitarian needs, preventing the deterioration of food security and strengthening resilience of food and agricultural systems. FAO has developed EWEA systems tailored to each country and are based on existing early warning systems to identify timely triggers for early action. These systems enable FAO to monitor major risks, including climatic shocks and conflicts, and to act early to mitigate its effects on the agriculture sector and livelihoods through an operational tool, the EWEA plan. In this context, FAO strengthens staff capacity at country, regional and global level as a pre-requisite for the set-up of EWEA systems in high-risk countries and the provision of adequate support during the risk analysis, activation and implementation process; and strengthen advocacy efforts based on collected evidence on the effectiveness of anticipatory action. In Uganda, FAO works on harmonized early warning systems to inform effective anticipatory action programmes, especially for pastoral areas.</p>
<p>vi. Strengthen coherence in supporting SIDS, LDCs, and LLDCs, considering their vulnerability to unique and complex food security and nutrition challenges;</p>	<p>Examples of success from this include the Great Green Wall Initiative and the G5 Sahel Resilience programme. Other examples of success include the implementation of the project “<i>Strengthening Coordination, Scaling Up and Governance of Conservation Agriculture in Southern Africa</i>” (SSUGCASA).</p>
<p>vii. Promote knowledge-sharing and scaling-up of best practices, technologies and innovative approaches, including data analytics, geo-spatial platform and digital solutions, to inform policies and investments that accelerate agricultural transformation and food systems development to eradicate poverty, end</p>	<p>At regional level, FAO has been strengthening its collaboration with the African Union and Regional Economic Communities to build resilience of agrifood systems and livelihoods to socio-economic and environmental shocks and stresses along the HDP nexus. In 2019, FAO and the AUC organised a joint workshop on strengthening regional capacities, collaborations and exchanges for resilience building in Africa’s drylands. The objective of the workshop that brought together key regional stakeholders including the AUC, AU-IBAR, IGAD, CILSS, SADC, UNICEF, WFP, the World Bank, was to take stock of the</p>

<p>hunger and all forms of malnutrition, and the attainment of other SDGs; Ensure policies are integrated and coordinated to harness synergies at sectoral levels and attain coherence at continental level, thus supporting countries to achieve food sovereignty; and</p>	<p>lessons learned and discuss on specific thematic areas to refine the focus and effectiveness of the Regional Initiative.</p> <p>In 2020-21, FAO prepared 10 national gender profiles of agriculture and rural sectors to inform policies, programmes and national and regional agricultural investment plans.</p> <p>In collaboration with various partners, FAO supported the ECOWAS Network of Parliamentarians on Gender Equality and Investments in Agriculture and Food Security. A series of virtual dialogues fostering peer learning and sharing of good practices among parliamentarians from ECOWAS, Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe were organized on several themes, including gender-responsive policies and strategies, family farming, land tenure, youth employment, financial inclusion and climate change. National parliamentary forums for capacity development and policy dialogue were organized in Niger, Sierra Leone and Togo.⁵</p>
<p>viii. Ensure policies are integrated and coordinated to harness synergies at sectoral levels and attain coherence at continental level, thus supporting countries to achieve food sovereignty; and</p>	<p>IGAD, CILSS and FAO organised a virtual knowledge share fair in 2020 on: “<i>Promoting innovation to build resilience against climatic shocks</i>”. The themes of the share fair were information systems, early warning systems and analysis, disaster risk reduction and climate resilience, innovative support to pastoralists and agropastoralists, social protection and safety nets and natural resource-based conflict. The 2020 virtual share fair built on AUC, IGAD, CILSS, and FAO’s previous efforts to promote knowledge management for informed decision-making and investment in resilience building in Africa.</p>
<p>ix. Support countries to scale up evidence-based successful projects and programmes.</p>	<p>The current HIH Initiative is working in 25 sub-Saharan African countries or 28 African countries (+Sudan) out of 38 countries globally and providing more than an ample evidence base for successful projects and programmes.</p>
<p>B. Decentralized Offices Network</p>	
<p>47. The Regional Conference <u>recommended</u> that FAO:</p> <p>i. Ensure full implementation of all the recommendations made on this subject at the 30th Session of the Regional Conference held in the Sudan;</p>	<p>RAF is working to ensure full implementation of the recommendations made at the 30th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa, held in the Sudan.</p>

⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sque1BGmCyg>

ii. Continue efforts to strengthen its technical capacities and policy integration at regional and subregional levels;	RAF continues to strengthen its technical capacities and policy integration at regional and subregional levels through thoughtful programmes and initiatives.
iii. Ensure leadership in the region across relevant SDGs, including those under FAO's custodianship, with special attention to addressing hunger and poverty in the most needy and vulnerable countries;	RAF continues to ensure leadership in the region across relevant SDGs through the implementation of its strong programme portfolio.
iv. Shift towards a full programmatic approach at decentralized level and set more tangible programmatic objectives to demonstrate better its valuable contributions to the SDG achievements in line with recommendations of the Evaluation of FAO's Strategic Results Framework;	RAF has developed a full programmatic approach for the planning and implementation of FAO's programmes in Africa as part of the regional re-organization programme. This programmatic approach comprises four regional thematic priority areas and 15 programme work areas that are fully aligned with the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31. A summary of the programmatic approach will be presented in the document Priorities for FAO in the Region under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 at ARC 32.
v. Pursue the adjustment of its decentralized offices business models, in particular in light of the UN Development System repositioning, in order to ensure greater flexibility and efficiency in the use of the Organization's existing limited financial and human resources, aiming to respond to Members' emerging needs and priorities in line with the SDGs;	Collaboration with the private sector is already taking place in RAF, notably in Kenya and Uganda. FAO is in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and private sector companies are implementing a three-year programme, funded by the IKEA Foundation, aiming at creating a conducive environment and space for the economic integration of refugees and host communities through groundnuts and fruits in Kenya and Uganda through value chains (production, aggregation, transformation and sale). Private sector collaborators are Insta Products (Kenya) and KadAfrica (Uganda).
vi. Evaluate, identify and seize emerging opportunities arising from UN Development System repositioning at country and regional levels, building on lessons learned and successful experiences in collaboration with other partners, especially in the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) environment.	In collaboration with IFAD and WFP, FAO prepared the Joint Programme for the Sahel in response to the challenges of COVID-19 pandemic, Conflict and Climate Change (SD3C). It is an RBA programme designed to strengthen the resilience of the most vulnerable rural populations in the Sahel region in a sustainable way to mitigate the COVID-19 crisis, conflicts and the effects of climate change. The programme covers the G5 Sahel countries: Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal. The first phase of the programme started in 2021 through Unilateral Trust Funds (UTF).

<p>vii. Ensure that the recently established Office of SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs (OSL):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. brings technical departments and divisions, technical experts and decentralized offices together to strengthen the impact of programmes in the priority countries; b. engages with external actors and partners, including Members, the private sector and UN partners to mobilize resources and/or complement interventions in areas beyond the Organization's mandate or capacity, and to facilitate the implementation of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative in SIDS, LDCs, and LLDCs; 	<p>Programme planning for strengthening coherence include resilience building and social protection of populations vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity in LDCs and LLDCs.</p> <p>FAO Country Offices, in conjunction with technical divisions, are already implementing such projects whilst engaging with external partners.</p>
<p>viii. Increase the visibility, presence and capacity of FAO in the region to demonstrate impact, influence relevant policy processes, dialogues and agendas from the country, subregional, regional and global levels;</p>	<p>The number of press releases and feature stories generated by FAO's Regional Office for Africa has increased, and FAO's corporate media team in Rome has started to distribute to global media outlets feature stories demonstrating FAO's impact in the Africa region. Country office communications team members have been provided with a comprehensive online communications toolkit to improve communications capacity including planning, media outreach and visibility. Support has also been provided by the Regional Office to Country Offices to improve the hiring of quality communications officers. These efforts are ongoing. The Regional Technical Platform will be launched in 2022 to showcase best practices from across the region.</p>
<p>ix. Reconsider the skills and competency mix needed to improve programme delivery, and the collaboration, coordination and communication model between country, subregional, regional and headquarters offices to enable smoother synergies and linkages between them to deliver on the complex mandate of the Regional Office for Africa collectively;</p>	<p>Resources are being allocated in the RAF portfolio to ensure ideal implementation of programme delivery while ensuring synergies and linkages between internal and external partners.</p>

<p>x. Streamline and decentralize processes, especially for sourcing, deploying and managing talents and for procuring goods and services in a timely and effective way right where they are needed; and</p>	<p>Within the UN system, strong collaboration remains with UNICEF and WFP, including through but not limited to the Food Security and Nutrition Work Group. For example, in April 2019, the three agencies launched a joint response plan to the drought situation in Eastern Africa. Likewise, FAO and the UNHCR have formalized their partnership through a global Memorandum of Understanding that started to be rolled-out in Africa since February 2020 and the deployment of a jointly recruited programme officer.</p>
<p>xi. Strengthen stakeholder engagement and partnership building; improve resource mobilization, strategic communication, policy analysis and facilitation of policy development/reform; and learn to manage diversity of backgrounds, disciplines, geographical and technical expertise, languages, areas of development and policy work for greater effectiveness.</p>	<p>Progress is advancing toward implementing a robust system to support partner “matchmaking” under the Hand-in-Hand Initiative. Consistent with the national ownership principle, the search for partners is based on locally identified needs - partners are identified and selected by national governments based on partners’ abilities to provide means of implementation – financing and investment, science, technology and know-how, access to markets, institutional, trade and legal support, and other forms of capacity and human capital development.</p> <p>The matchmaking will proceed through well-prepared “executive roundtables” (ERTs) or stakeholder consultations, in which national and international partners review the HIH-supported programme, the territories in which it operates, the value chains and markets, the population and natural and built environments. Discussion will focus on identifying key constraints and possible actions by partners and the government to address these constraints.</p> <p>Commitments by partners are confirmed through agreements with the governments, and all partners are requested to report regularly on progress toward agreed milestones in a framework developed by FAO to create visibility and reinforce ownership for the government and its partners. The outcomes of the ERTs will provide key inputs for the overall programme design which will be supported by an investment plan designed to drive the programme of work.</p> <p>As a complement to this work, IGAD, CILSS and FAO organised a virtual knowledge share fair in 2020 on: “<i>Promoting innovation to build resilience against climatic shocks</i>”. The themes of the share fair were information systems, early warning systems and analysis, disaster risk reduction and climate resilience, innovative support to pastoralists and agro-pastoralists, social protection and safety nets and natural resource-based conflict. The 2020 virtual share fair built on AUC, IGAD, CILSS, and FAO’s previous efforts to promote knowledge management for informed decision-making and investment in resilience building in Africa.</p>