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# PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

**Hundred and Thirty-fourth Session**

**Rome, 7-11 November 2022**

**Preparation for the Medium Term Plan (Reviewed) 2022-25 -  
Regional and Technical Priorities**

Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This document follows on guidance provided by the 168th Session of the Council on the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2022-23 (CL 168/REP) and is the first step in the review of the Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2022-25.
- *Sections II and III* provide a summary of regional and technical priorities as expressed by the Regional Conferences and Technical Committees held in 2022, which will feed into the preparation of the MTP 2022-25 (Reviewed).
- *Section IV* presents an overview of updates to the corporate results framework as the basis for official monitoring and reporting under the MTP 2022-25.
- Members supported all regional and technical priorities identified, including their association with the Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Overarching themes emerging from the Regional Conferences and Technical Committees included the state of food and agriculture in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of conflicts on global food security, and addressing climate change, amongst others.
- The results framework has been updated to reflect Governing Body requests for adjustments to certain terminology and to include all remaining undefined targets for *Objective 5: Technical quality, statistics, cross-cutting themes and accelerators*.

### GUIDANCE SOUGHT FROM THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

- The Programme Committee is invited to:
  - a) take note of the regional and technical priorities and provide any guidance to inform the Reports of the Regional Conferences and Technical Committees held in 2022; and
  - b) take note of the updates to the results framework as the basis for formal monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the MTP 2022-25.

### Draft Advice

#### **The Committee:**

- **welcomed document PC 134/2 *Preparation for the Medium Term Plan (Reviewed) 2022-25 - Regional and Technical Priorities*;**
- **supported the priorities identified by the Regional Conferences and Technical Committees to guide the preparation of the MTP 2022-25 (Reviewed); and**
- **appreciated that guidance from the Council had been taken into account as reflected in Annex 1, *Updated results framework 2022-25*.**

## I. Introduction

1. In January 2022, FAO commenced implementation of the *Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2022-25 and Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2022-23 (C 2021/3)* following endorsement by the 42nd Session of the FAO Conference, and approval of the *Adjustments to the PWB 2022-23 (CL 168/3)* by the 168th Session of the Council.
2. In line with the schedule for Governing Body input and oversight defined in Basic Texts,<sup>1</sup> the Regional Conferences and Technical Committees provided priorities to inform the preparation of the MTP 2022-25 (Reviewed) for submission to the relevant Governing Body Sessions in the first half of 2023.
3. Therefore, this document is the first step in the review of the MTP 2022-25 and responds to specific guidance provided by the 168th Session of the Council<sup>2</sup> on the Adjustments to the PWB 2022-23.
4. *Sections II and III* of this document present a summary of regional and technical priorities, as expressed by the Regional Conferences and Technical Committees held in 2022, which will feed into the preparation of the MTP 2022-25 (Reviewed); and *Section IV* provides an update of the results framework 2022-25 as the basis for official monitoring and reporting. *Appendices 1 and 2* present graphically a summary of the regional and technical priorities. *Annex 1* presents the updated results framework.

## II. Priorities expressed by the Regional Conferences held in 2022

5. The following Regional Conferences were held in 2022:

Regional Conferences	Date
<b>Regional Conference for the Near East (NERC) 36th Session</b>	10-13 January 2022 7-8 February 2022
<b>Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC) 36th Session</b>	8-11 March 2022
<b>Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (LARC) 37th Session</b>	28 March-1 April 2022
<b>Regional Conference for Africa (ARC) 32nd Session</b>	11-14 April 2022
<b>Regional Conference for Europe (ERC) 33rd Session</b>	10-13 May 2022
<b>7th Informal North America Regional Conference (INARC)</b>	12-14 April 2022

6. All Regional Conferences acknowledged and welcomed the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 and contributing to the achievement of SDGs in the regions. Likewise, the Regional Conferences welcomed the attention in the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 to the specific conditions, needs and priorities of Members in the regions. Members also recognized the relevance of the 20 Programme Priority Areas (PPAs)<sup>3</sup> mapped to Regional Priorities/Regional Initiatives for the achievement of the *four betters* to meet the SDGs, while fully

<sup>1</sup> FAO Basic Texts, Volume II, Section F, *Implementation of the IPA regarding the reform of the programming, budgeting and results-based monitoring system, Schedule for Governing Body input and oversight under the reformed programming, budgeting and results based monitoring systems.*

<sup>2</sup> CL 168/REP

<sup>3</sup> Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) articulated and comparative advantage in contributing to meet the four betters

utilizing the cross-cutting accelerators of technology, innovation, data and complements, and embedding the cross-

7. The Regional Conferences welcomed updates on the development of the FAO Strategies on Climate Change and Science and Innovation, and stressed the importance of strengthened partnerships with smallholder producers and their organizations, as well as with the private sector, including small and medium enterprises (SMEs), agrifood companies and consumers.

8. Among others, Members appreciated corporate initiatives such as the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme, One Country One Priority Product and the 1000 Digital Villages. Regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, Members expressed concern about the impact of its implications toward the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular, the negative effects of the pandemic on crop, livestock and fisheries productions, on food processing by SMEs, and on prices of staple foods.

9. Members emphasized the role of agrifood systems in supporting economic recovery, promoting access to healthy diets, generating employment in rural and urban areas, managing natural resources sustainably, and in accelerating progress towards the achievement of the SDGs, amongst other priorities.

10. Regional Priorities and Regional Initiatives represent the approaches towards achieving

inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems for *better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life*, leaving no one behind. Regional Priorities/Regional Initiatives were presented to the Regional Conferences through the 20 Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) and associated SDG targets in the *Priorities for FAO's work in the region under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31* documents.<sup>4</sup> All new and updated Regional Priorities/Regional Initiatives and their association with the Strategic Framework 2022-31 were endorsed by the 2022 Regional Conferences.

11. In addition, the 7th Informal North America Regional Conference (INARC) held on 12-14 April 2022, discussed several thematic areas, *inter alia* the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit Coalitions and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change COP 27, innovative protein developments and sustainability benefits to food systems, standard setting bodies (Codex Alimentarius and the International Plant Protection Convention), and food loss and waste. Among priorities identified by the -23 were the impact on global food security of conflicts, FAO governance, climate change and resilience, science and innovation, and agricultural trade.

12. *Appendix I* shows the association of the *four betters* and 20 PPAs with Regional Priorities/Regional Initiatives for the five Regions.

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<sup>4</sup> NERC/22/3; APRC/22/8; LARC/22/2; ARC/22/3; ERC/22/5

### III. Priorities expressed by the Technical Committees held in 2022

13. The following Technical Committees were held in 2022:

Technical Committees	Date
Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) 75th Session	13-15 July 2022
Committee on Agriculture (COAG) 28th Session	18-22 July 2022
Committee on Fisheries (COFI) 35th Session	5-9 September 2022
Committee on Forestry (COFO) 26th Session	3-7 October 2022

14. The Technical Committees endorsed technical priorities proposed in the context of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 and the Medium Term Plan 2022-25, as presented in the relevant Programme of Work documents of the Technical Committees.<sup>5</sup>

15. The 75th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) reviewed the latest developments in food and agricultural markets, underlined the significance of market transparency, and emphasized the importance of timely and credible market information. In this context, the CCP requested FAO to continue and intensify its efforts to support informed policy decisions and promote policy coordination by providing up-to-date and objective data and information, market assessments and outlooks. The CCP also highlighted that trade, along with efficient and enhanced productivity and sustainable agrifood systems, plays a vital role in improving global food security in all its dimensions.

16. The 28th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) reviewed the central role of agrifood systems in achieving the SDGs, covering a range of topics, such as the COAG Sub-Committee on Livestock, FAO Strategic Priorities for Food Safety, One Health, the FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance 2021-2025, the *State of the World's Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture 2021*, the governance of water tenure, mainstreaming biodiversity, agriculture and forestry linkages, the Global Soil Partnership, and the future of food and agriculture. COAG took note of the proposed priority areas of work, including achieving resilient sustainable agrifood systems; addressing threats to plant, animal and human health through the One Health approach; climate and natural resources (biodiversity, land and water); and revitalizing agriculture and inclusive rural transformation.

17. The 35th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) discussed the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture, securing and expanding the contribution of aquatic food systems to global food security and employment, in the context of a changing climate, a better use of biodiversity, ensuring equitable growth for small-scale operators and the elimination of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, amongst other areas. COFI supported the priority areas of work of FAO in fisheries and aquaculture, including sustainable aquaculture; sustainable fisheries management; sustainable trade and value chains; and other elements such as improving the quality and coverage of fishery and aquaculture statistics with special focus on consumption statistics, and the expansion of the nutritional values calculated through food balance sheets.

18. The 26th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) discussed the strategic direction for the future work of FAO in forestry, including the FAO flagship report *The State of the World's Forests 2022*; forest pathways for green recovery and building inclusive resilient and sustainable economies; and the outcomes of the XV World Forestry Congress. COFO endorsed FAO priority areas of action in forestry, including enhancing sustainable use and management of forests and

<sup>5</sup> CCP 22/6; COAG/2022/2; COFI/2022/12; COFO/2022/7.1

improving livelihoods, halting deforestation and enhancing resilience; mainstreaming biodiversity and restoring forest ecosystems; and contributing expertise, statistical information and analysis.

19. *Appendix 2* shows the association of each technical priority area with the 20 PPAs, from the Technical Committee

#### **IV. Updates to the results framework**

20. The FAO results framework 2022-25 is firmly anchored in the 2030 Agenda and prioritizes SDG targets and indicators. It includes 20 Programme Priority Areas (PPAs), accelerators, and cross-cutting themes. The results framework guides the planning of FAO's work under the two-year Programme of Work and Budget and provides the basis for reporting on delivery of results and financial resources. Some updates have been made to the results framework as described below.

21. Changes to the results frameworks for the PPAs respond mainly to Governing Body requests for adjustments to certain terminology.<sup>6</sup>

22. In addition, following further elaboration of the programme of work under *Objective 5: Technical quality, statistics, cross-cutting themes and accelerators*, all targets have been defined to ensure adequate measuring of outcomes at the end of the Medium Term Plan 2022-25 period.

23. The full updated results framework is in *Annex 1*. Additional refinements to the results framework to better reflect ongoing developments and processes will be included in the Medium Term Plan 2022-25 (Reviewed), as appropriate, to be presented to Members in 2023.

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<sup>6</sup> CL 168/REP

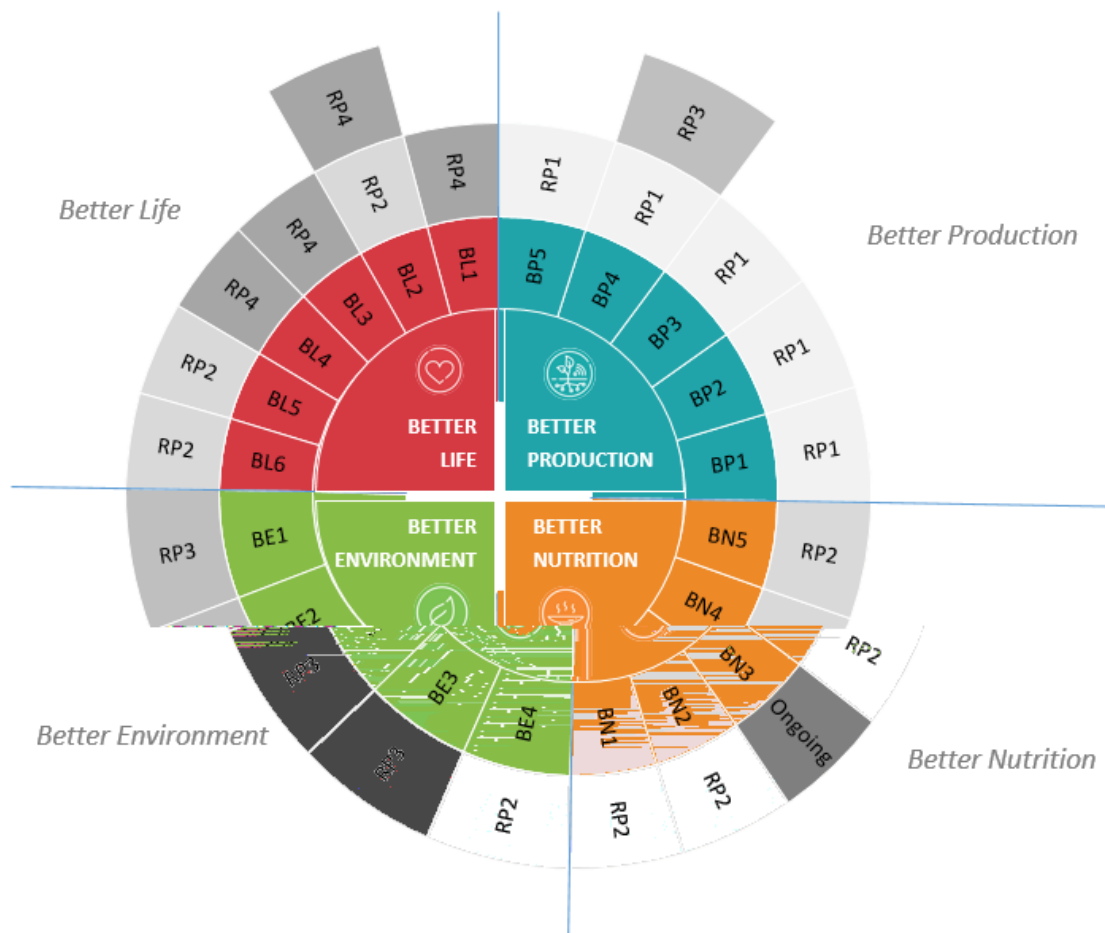
## Appendix 1: Regional Priorities/Regional Initiatives proposed by FAO and endorsed by the 2022 Regional Conferences

The following graphics present visually the relationship of the Regional Priorities/Regional Initiatives and the corporate framework. The centre rings show the *four betters* and PPAs, with Regional Priorities/Regional Initiatives relating to each PPA stacked up towards the exterior of the chart.

The table below is the legend for the PPAs shown in the graphics.

Better Production	Better Nutrition	Better Environment	Better Life
BP1: Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture Production	BN1: Healthy Diets for All	BE1: Climate Change Mitigating and Adapted Agri-Food Systems	BL1: Gender Equality Empowerment
BP2: Blue Transformation	BN2: Nutrition for the Most Vulnerable	BE2: Bioeconomy for Sustainable Food and Agriculture	BL2: : Inclusive Rural Transformation
BP3: One Health	BN3: Safe Food for Everyone	BE3: Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for Food and Agriculture	BL3: Agriculture and Food Emergencies
BP4: Small-Scale Access to Resources	BN4: Reducing Food Loss and Waste	BE4: Achieving Sustainable Urban Food Systems	BL4: Resilient Agrifood Systems
BP5: Digital Agriculture	BN5: Transparent Markets and Trade		BL5: Hand-in-Hand (HIH) Initiative
			BL6: Scaling up Investment

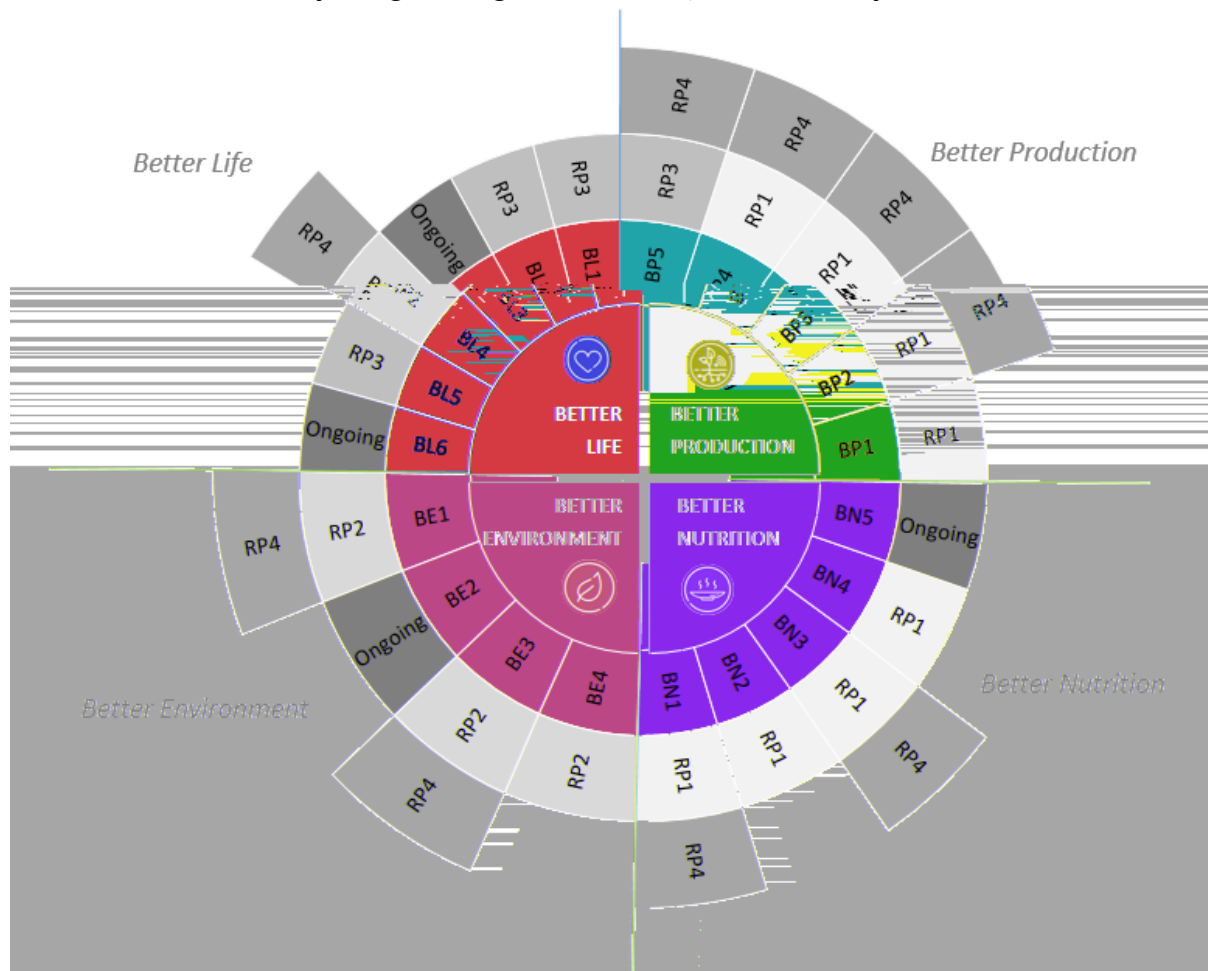
*Africa Region: Regional Priorities, PPAs and the four betters*



	Regional Priorities
RP1	Agrifood Production Systems
RP2	Efficient and Equitable Food and Nutrition Systems
RP3	Climate and natural resource management
RP4	Building resilience, ending poverty
Ongoing	Ongoing regional and country level work



*Asia Pacific Region: Regional Priorities, PPAs and the four betters*



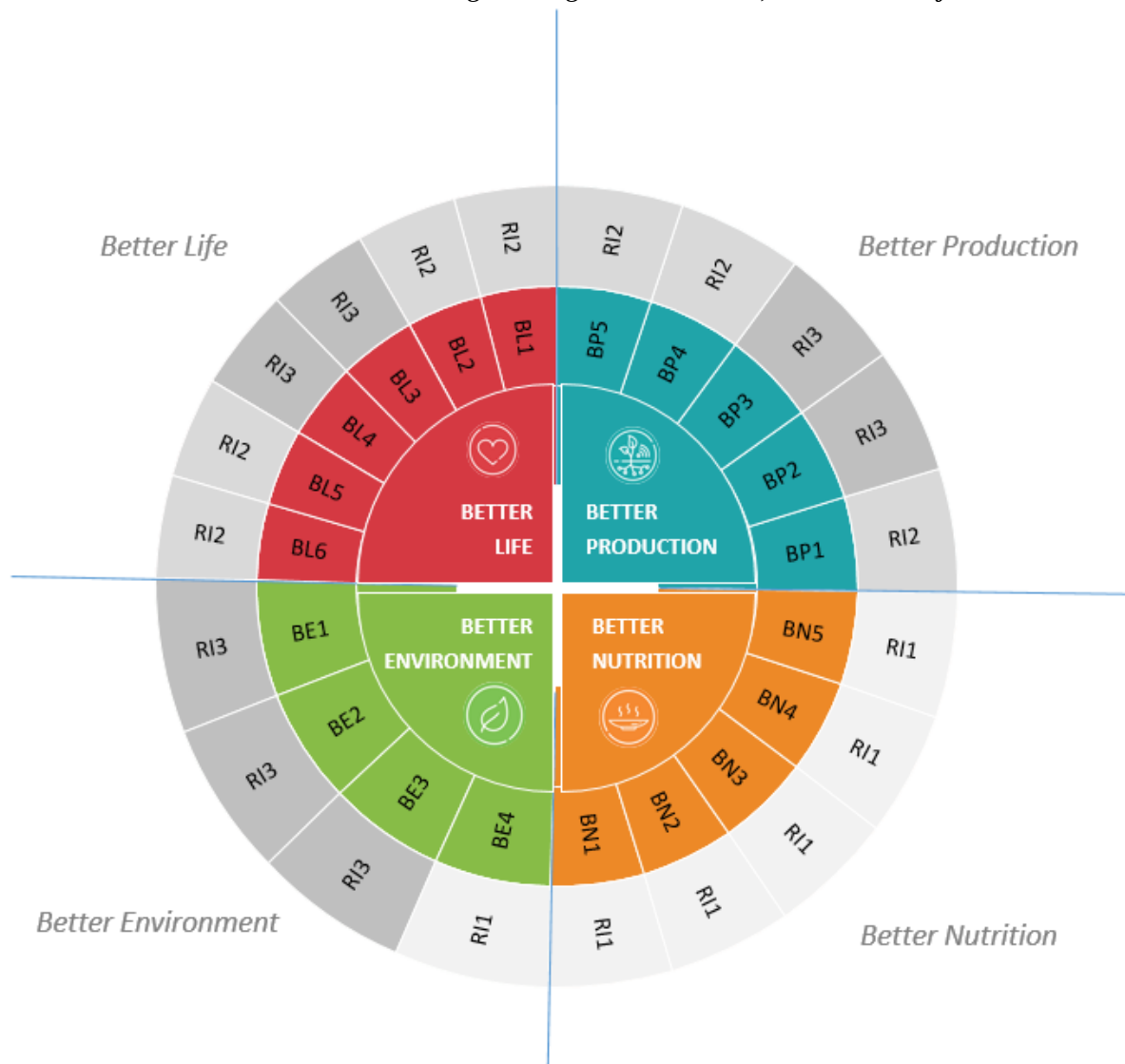
Regional Priorities	
RP1	Transforming agrifood systems
RP2	Accelerating sustainable natural resources management
RP3	Inclusive rural transformation
RP4	Pacific SIDS
Ongoing	Ongoing regional and country level work

**Europe Region: Regional Initiatives, PPAs and the four betters**



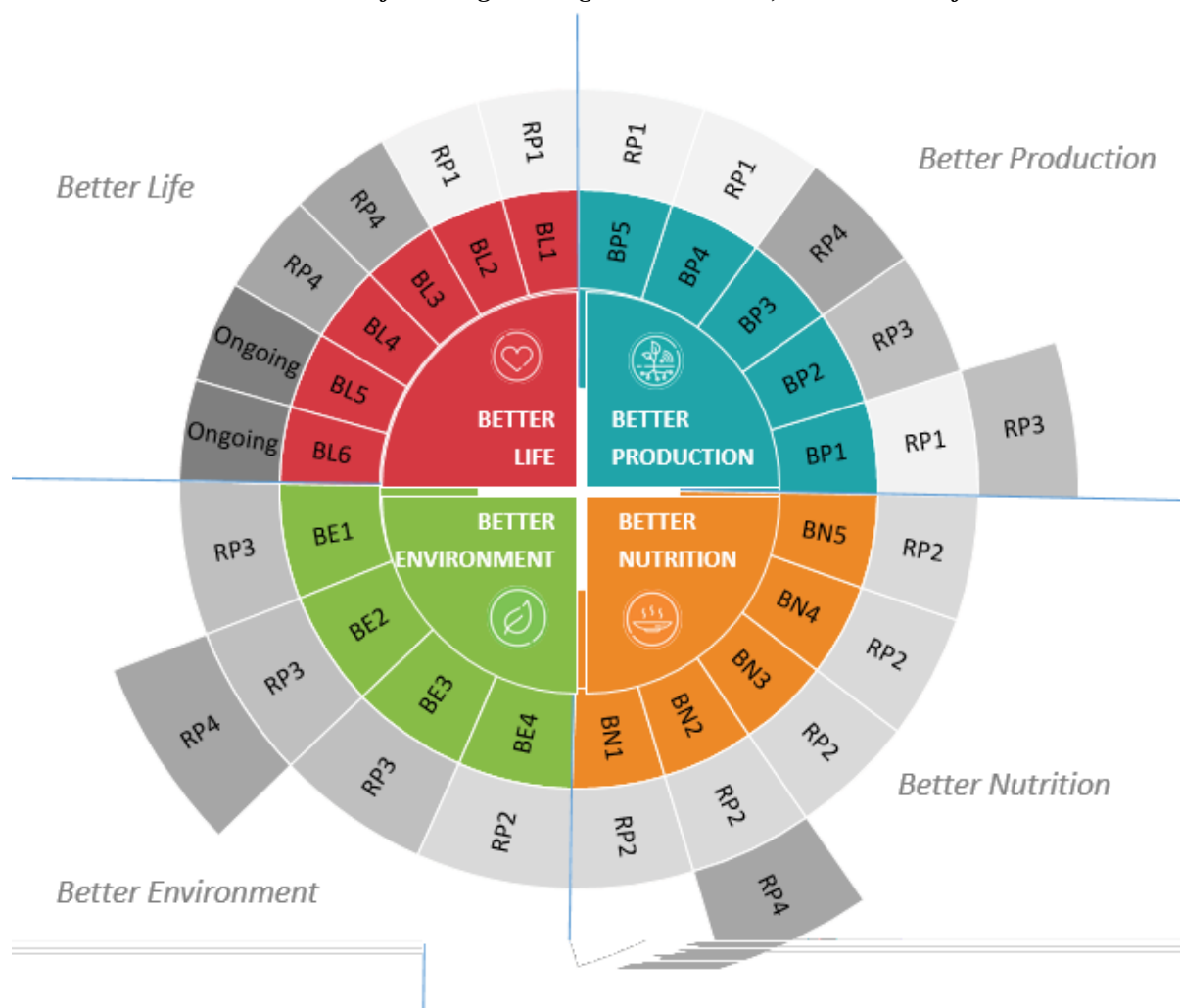
	Regional Initiatives
RI1	Rural transformation and digitalization
RI2	Transforming food systems
RI3	Natural resources and climate change
Ongoing	Ongoing regional and country level work

*Latin America and the Caribbean Region: Regional Initiatives, PPAs and the four betters*



	Regional Initiatives
RI1	Sustainable agrifood systems
RI2	Prosperous and inclusive rural societies
RI3	Sustainable and resilient agriculture

*Near East and North Africa Region: Regional Priorities, PPAs and the four betters*



	Regional Priorities
RP1	Rural transformation
RP2	Food security and healthy diets
RP3	Greening agriculture
RP4	Resilience to multiple shocks
Ongoing	Ongoing regional and country level work

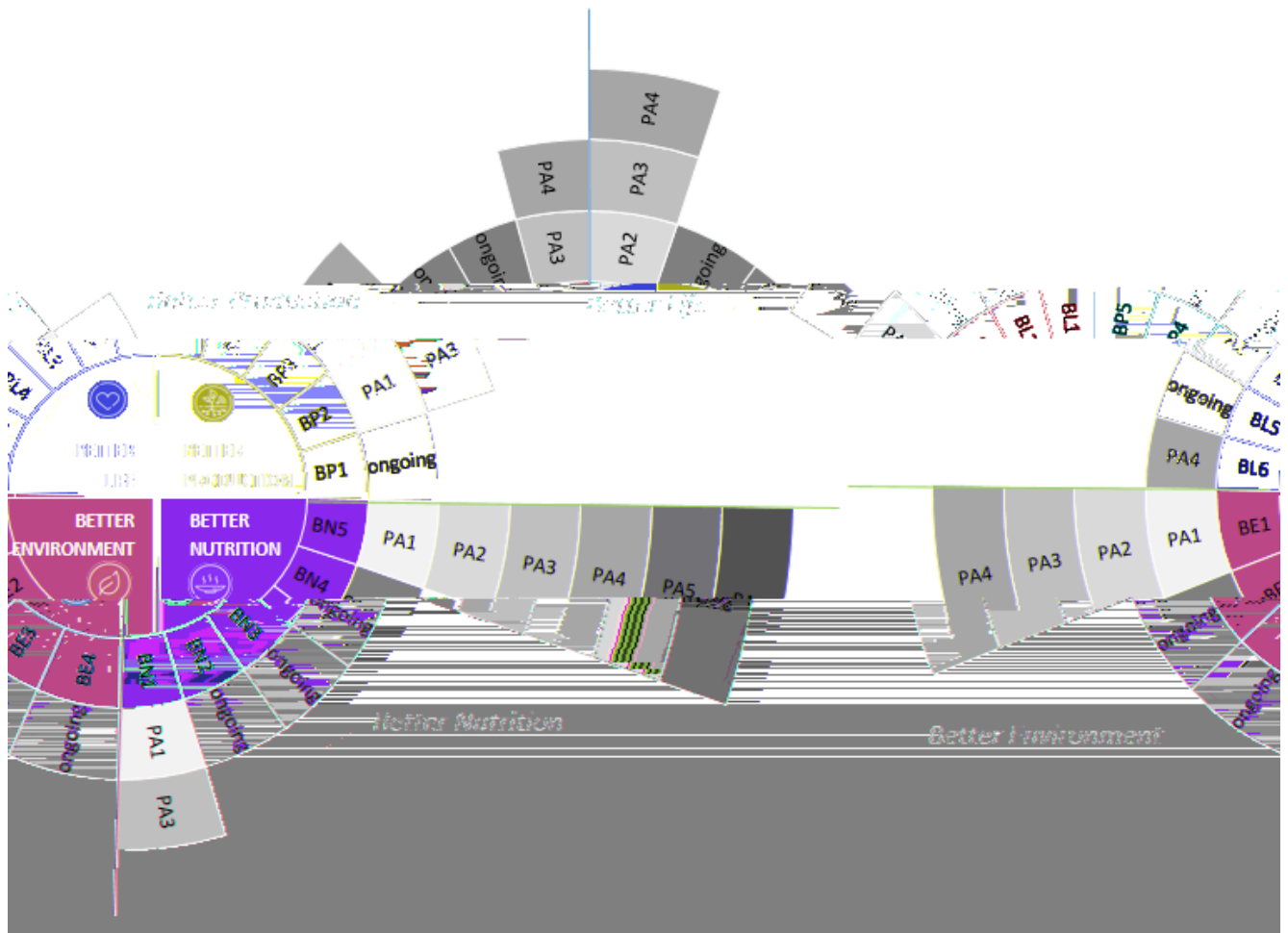
## Appendix 2: Technical priorities proposed by FAO and endorsed by the 2022 Technical Committees

The following graphics present visually the relationship between the technical priorities presented in the Programme of Work documents of the Technical Committees and the FAO corporate framework. The centre rings show the *four betters* and PPAs, and the technical priorities relating to each PPA are stacked up towards the exterior of the chart.

The table below is the legend for the PPAs shown in the graphics.

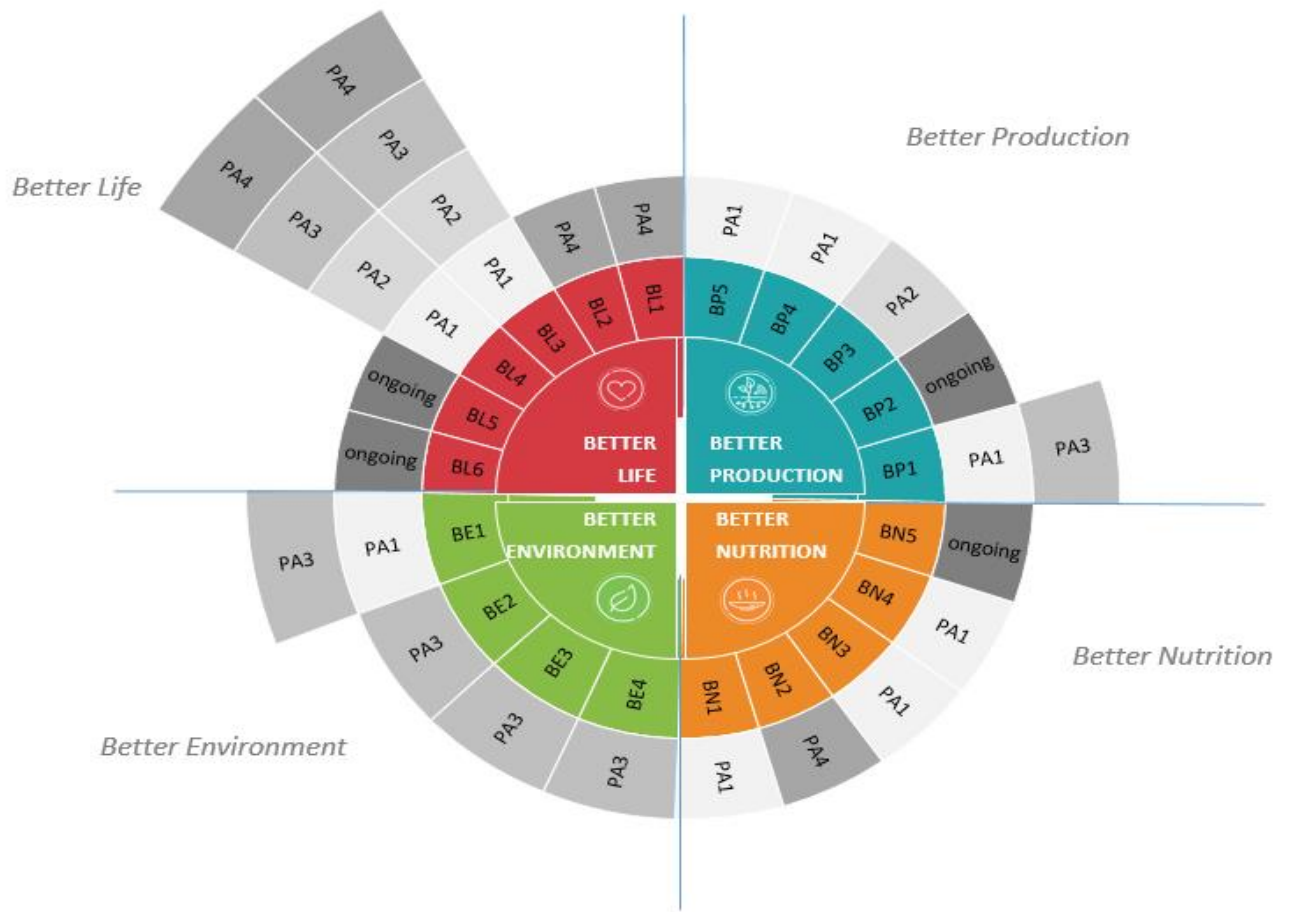
Better Production	Better Nutrition	Better Environment	Better Life
BP1: Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture Production	BN1: Healthy Diets for All	BE1: Climate Change Mitigating and Adapted Agrifood Systems	BL1: Gender Equality Empowerment
BP2: Blue Transformation	BN2: Nutrition for the Most Vulnerable	BE2: Bioeconomy for Sustainable Food and Agriculture	BL2: Inclusive Rural Transformation
BP3: One Health	BN3: Safe Food for Everyone	BE3: Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for Food and Agriculture	BL3: Agriculture and Food Emergencies
BP4: Small-Scale Access to Resources	BN4: Reducing Food Loss and Waste	BE4: Achieving Sustainable Urban Food Systems	BL4: Resilient Agrifood Systems
BP5: Digital Agriculture	BN5: Transparent Markets and Trade		BL5: Hand-in-Hand (HIH) Initiative
			BL6: Scaling up Investment

*CCP technical priorities, PPAs and the four betters*



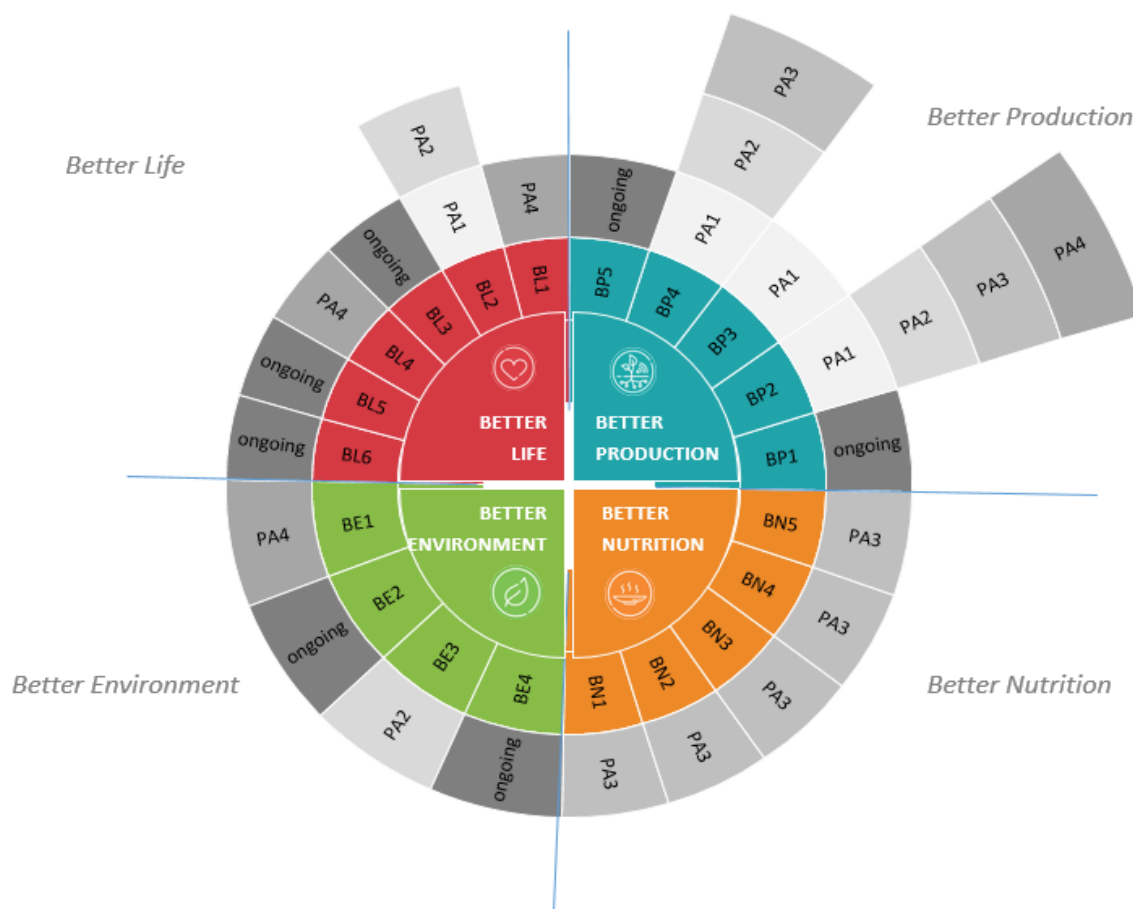
	Priority Area
PA1	Commodity market monitoring, assessment and outlook
PA2	Food security monitoring and assessment and early warning
PA3	Food and Agricultural Trade
PA4	Responsible global value chains
PA5	Commodity Intergovernmental Groups (IGGs)
PA6	Other core activities
Ongoing	Ongoing technical work

**COAG technical priorities, PPAs and the four betters**



	Priority Area
PA1	Achieving resilient sustainable agrifood systems
PA2	Addressing threats to plant, animal and human health through the One Health approach
PA3	Climate and Natural Resources (biodiversity, land and water)
PA4	Revitalizing agriculture and inclusive rural transformation
Ongoing	Ongoing technical work

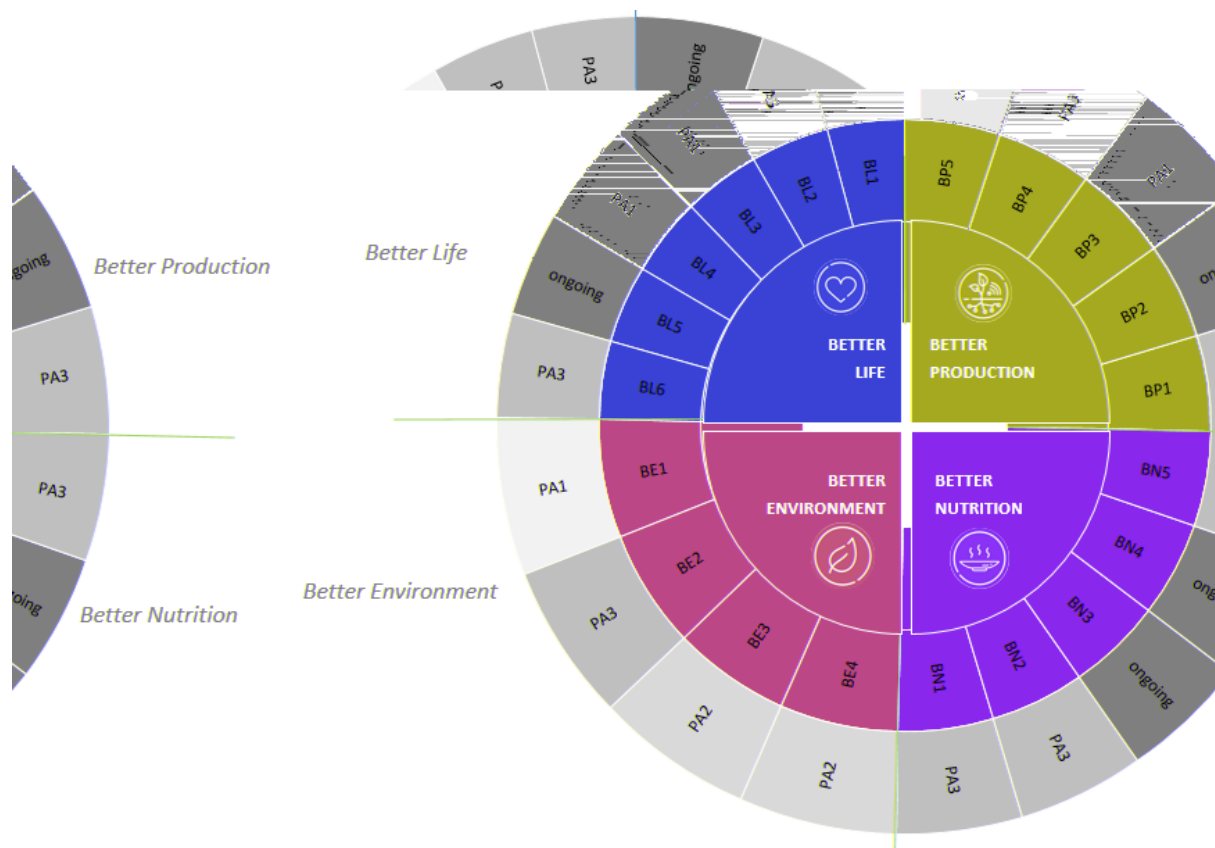
*COFI technical priorities, PPAs and the four betters*



	Priority Area
PA1	Sustainable Aquaculture
PA2	Sustainable Fisheries Management
PA3	Sustainable Trade and Value Chains
PA4	Cross Cutting elements
Ongoing	Ongoing technical work



**COFO technical priorities, PPAs and the four betters**



	Priority Area
PA1	Halting Deforestation and Enhancing Resilience
PA2	Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Restoring Forest Ecosystems
PA3	Enhancing Sustainable Production, Use and Livelihoods
Ongoing	Ongoing technical work