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FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Thirty-eighth Session

Georgetown, Guyana, 11-13 March and 18-21 March 2024

Priorities for FAO in the region under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31

Executive Summary

In support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, FAO delivers its technical work through Regional Priorities (RPs). The RPs are guided by the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31, the Medium Term Plan (Reviewed) 2022–25 and Programme of Work and Budget 2024–25, and by countries' realities and needs. Through them, FAO supports its Members to achieve international commitments and regional plans, like the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) Plan for Food and Nutrition Security and the Eradication of Hunger 2025, and the Paris Agreement, amongst others.

For 2024–2025, four major topics affecting agrifood systems set the stage for FAO's programmatic focus in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC): (i) low economic growth; (ii) rural poverty and inequality; (iii) high rates of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition; and (iv) the impact of climate change and ecosystems degradation.

To address these challenges, FAO proposes the following four RPs:

RP 1: Efficient, inclusive and sustainable production

RP 2: End hunger and achieve food security and nutrition

RP 3: Sustainable management of natural resources and adaptation to climate change

RP 4: Reduction of inequalities, poverty and promotion of resilience

To enhance its work, FAO will intensify the application of technology, innovation and data, and bring greater focus on strengthening governance, human capital, and institutional development in all interventions. Three cross-cutting themes – gender, youth and inclusion – are key areas to be addressed across all of FAO's programmatic work. The identified Value-Added Impact Areas (Hand-in-Hand Initiative, 1000 Digital Villages Initiative, and One Country One Priority Product, and others) will prioritize key actions for a greater contribution to sustainable development.

Documents can be consulted at www.fao.org

Recommendations for the Regional Conference

The Regional Conference is invited to:

- Note the challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) including substantial increases in poverty (Sustainable Development Goals [SDG] 1) and inequalities (SDG 10), and high prevalence of hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition (SDG 2).
- Endorse the four Regional Priorities to implement the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31 in the context of regional realities and priorities.
- Request FAO to provide integrated (normative, technical, policy, operational and investment planning) support to Members towards implementing the Regional Priorities.
- Request FAO to provide support for resource mobilization to implement the Programme of Work 2024–25 in the region.

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

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The 43rd Session of the FAO Conference endorsed the Medium Term Plan (Reviewed) 2022-25 and the Programme of Work and Budget 2024–25, and approved the Biennial Theme 2024–25 “Water resources management for the *four betters: better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life*, to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.¹

2. FAO’s work is guided by the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31, which seeks to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the transformation to MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable, agrifood systems for *better production* (BP), *better nutrition* (BN), a *better environment* (BE), and a *better life* (BL), leaving no one behind. Its 20 Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) articulate FAO’s thematic and technical comparative advantage. Regional Priorities are elaborated with the relevant PPAs and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

3. Beyond the 2024–2025 biennium, and in line with the programming and budgeting cycle elaborated in the FAO Basic Texts,² input on priorities from the 2024 Regional Conferences will guide FAO’s programming for the 2026–2027 biennium and will support the review of the FAO Strategic Framework to be presented to the FAO Conference in 2025.

II. CONTEXT

Medium-long term futures of agrifood systems

4. Strategic foresight at FAO examines the alternative future patterns of agrifood, socioeconomic and environmental systems, and the dynamics of their driving forces, to identify strategic options for triggering changes towards sustainable and resilient agrifood systems at all levels.

5. Following the guidance from the Committee on Agriculture and other Governing Bodies, FAO is reinforcing its strategic foresight capacity in collaboration with United Nations (UN) bodies, academia, civil society, and other foresight networks. This includes implementing Regional Foresight Exercises (RFEs) in all five FAO regions, involving subregions and selected pilot countries. The RFEs

¹ C 2023/REP at <https://www.fao.org/3/nm800en/nm800en.pdf>

² Basic Texts of FAO, Volume II, F. Implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action regarding the Reform of the Programming, Budgeting and Results-based Monitoring System

aim to accelerate strategic thinking, increase capacity to support transformative changes of agrifood systems, and inform Members on strategic options available to achieve sustainable and resilient agrifood systems.

6. The recently launched FAO flagship report *The future of food and agriculture – Drivers and triggers for transformation* (FOFA-DTT), warns that current trends could threaten the sustainability and resilience of agrifood systems and jeopardize the achievement of the *four betters*, potentially leading to increased food crises. Drivers such as population growth, urbanization, macroeconomic instability, poverty, inequality, geopolitical tensions, competition for resources and climate change are already negatively impinging on agrifood, socioeconomic and environmental systems while food prices are increasing. Transitioning towards sustainability may require a new mindset that prioritizes long-term objectives and addresses trade-offs through massive investment in domains with high transformative potential such as the four “triggers for transformation” proposed in the FOFA-DTT report: institutions and governance; consumer awareness; income and wealth distribution; and innovative technologies and approaches.

7. During the RFE, regional experts identified key regional priority drivers out of the 18 drivers of agrifood systems identified in the FOFA-DTT report. Climate change is exacerbating the degradation of ecosystems due to deforestation, the fragilization of coral reef and the loss of soil fertility due to prevailing monoculture, erosion, and untaxed environmental costs, raising serious concerns. Volatile economic growth, lack of public investment, and weak wealth redistribution reinforce worrying poverty and inequality trends and divergence between lower-middle-income (LMIC) and high-income (HIC) countries.

8. The LAC subregions suffer from either export or import commodity-dependence, which interconnects the agrifood systems to macroeconomic volatility and geopolitical instability affecting exchange rates, interest rates and indebtedness, with negative effects on food prices and incomes, and undesirable food security and nutrition outcomes. In fact, short-termism and political economy dynamics have undermined tax revenues and fiscal space, inclusive growth and investment in innovation in both rural areas and urban peripheries, thus restricting diversification and decent employment opportunities, specifically for youth and Indigenous Peoples.

9. Despite the aforementioned challenges, the RFE has highlighted significant potential in the region to move agrifood systems towards sustainability and resilience, as outlined in the FOFA-DTT scenario “Trading off for sustainability” (TOS). Civil society groups in the region may have the potential to stimulate, support and complement governments to activate the key “Triggers for Transformation” identified by FAO.

10. The RFE will deepen qualitative and quantitative analyses of alternative scenarios and triggers for transformation, to address political economy challenges and highlight policy implementation opportunities. Adopting circular economy approaches in agriculture, also based on Indigenous Peoples’ knowledge, adjusting consumption patterns towards less resource-intensive and more nutritious foods and healthy diets, and enhancing regional and sub-regional cooperation are possible ways forward being explored.

II.1. Challenges and opportunities

11. Five major issues are impacting the region’s agrifood systems: (i) low economic growth; (ii) rural poverty and inequality; (iii) high rates of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition; (iv) the impact of climate change; and (v) ecosystems degradation.

12. In 2022 the gross domestic product (GDP) of LAC expanded at a rate of 2.7 percent on average, 3.8 percent points less than in 2021. The post-COVID19 scenario and -the Ukraine conflict brought inflationary pressures, slow job creation, falling investment, debt increases and growing social

demands.³ However, the challenges date back further, as 2023 marked a 10 year -period over which economic growth will have averaged only 0.8 percent. Alongside the economic slowdown and recent shocks, slow growth during the 2014–2023 decade risks many SDGs to not be met by 2030.⁴

13. In 2023, LAC marked a decade of stagnation and setbacks regarding rural poverty and extreme poverty. The rate of rural poverty has remained at 44 percent since 2014 and disproportionately affects Indigenous Peoples.⁵ As one of the world’s most unequal regions,⁶ rural populations are often excluded from social protection systems and insurance mechanisms.⁷

14. The region faces significant challenges in eradicating hunger and malnutrition. People suffering from hunger slightly decreased from 7 percent in 2021 to 6.5 percent in 2022.⁸ The prevalence of moderate and severe food insecurity, measured by the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), has also decreased from 40.3 percent in 2021 to 37.5 percent in 2022.⁹ The current cycle of high food prices poses a challenge for food security and nutrition (FSN), particularly as the region has the highest cost of a healthy diet compared to world averages.¹⁰

15. The region is particularly vulnerable to climate change.¹¹ Between 2008 and 2018, agriculture production losses related to climate disasters for LAC were estimated at USD 29 billion, with the Caribbean region losing about 14 percent of its potential production.¹² In 2022, climate-related disasters impacted 17 countries, affecting 3.8 million people.¹³ It is estimated that by 2030, climate change could push 2.4-5.8 million people into extreme poverty.¹⁴ Furthermore, the El Niño/La Niña climatic phenomenon brings uncertainty to food production and livelihoods. Adequate preparedness and response strategies are fundamental to mitigate climate-related disasters consequences.

III. PRIORITY AREAS OF WORK IN 2024–2025 AND BEYOND

III.1. Regional Priorities

16. In support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, FAO delivers its technical work through Regional Priorities (RPs), guided by the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31, the Medium

³ ECLAC. 2022a. *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean: Trends and challenges of investing for a sustainable and inclusive recovery*. In:

https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/48078/7/S2201057_en.pdf

⁴ ECLAC. 2023. *Halfway to 2030 in Latin America and the Caribbean: progress and recommendations for acceleration* (LC/FDS.6/3). In:

<https://repositorio.cepal.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/f2ef47b4-55cb-4e08-a6a2-8bfc50ffb209/content>

⁵ ECLAC. 2023. Household Surveys Databank (BADEHOG).

In: <https://statistics.cepal.org/portal/cepalstat/dashboard.html?theme=1&lang=en>

⁶ Chancel, L., Piketty, T., Saez, E., Zucman, G. et al. *World Inequality Report 2022*. World Inequality Lab.

⁷ ILO & FAO. 2021. *Extending social protection to rural populations: Perspectives for a common FAO and ILO approach*. Geneva. In: <https://www.fao.org/3/cb2332en/CB2332EN.pdf>

⁸ FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2023. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023. Urbanization, agrifood systems transformation and healthy diets across the rural–urban continuum* (SOFI) 2023.

⁹ FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2023. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023. Urbanization, agrifood systems transformation and healthy diets across the rural–urban continuum*. Rome, FAO. In: <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc3017en>

¹⁰ FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2023. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023. Urbanization, agrifood systems transformation and healthy diets across the rural–urban continuum*. Rome, FAO. In: <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc3017en>

¹¹ IPCC. 2023. *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Sixth Assessment Report Working Group II*. In: <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-working-group-ii/>

¹² FAO. 2021. *2021 The impact of disasters and crises on agriculture and food security*.

In: <https://www.fao.org/3/cb3673en/cb3673en.pdf>

¹³ Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) database, EM-DAT: The International Disaster Database, CRED, September 2022.

¹⁴ Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) database, EM-DAT: The International Disaster Database, CRED, September 2022.

Term Plan (Reviewed) 2022–25 and the Programme of Work and Budget 2024–25, and by countries realities and needs.

17. Regional Initiatives approved by the 37th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for LAC are proposed to be adjusted for 2024–2025 to be aligned with the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31. As such, the four Regional Priorities are the mechanism to reach PPAs' outcomes under *better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life*. The following is a description of the most important actions to be undertaken under each RP, PPAs and its SDGs associated targets.

Regional Priority 1
Efficient, inclusive and sustainable production

18. RP 1 is aligned to the five PPAs under *better production*. Outcomes focus on data, evidence, normative and standard setting instruments, knowledge, innovative technologies and good practices and advocacy.

Programme Priority Areas (PPA)	SDGs targets	Areas of work
BP1: Innovation for sustainable agriculture production	2.3, 2.4, 6.4, 9.5, 15.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Strengthen capacities for sustainable and resilient production, including integrated soil and water management, as well as water security and governance. b. Support the effective uptake of technologies and practices for the improvement of crop, livestock and forestry systems. c. Strengthen national capacities for data generation and monitoring to improve decision-making in agriculture. d. Encourage improvements in enabling environments through the update, adaptation and implementation of policies for sustainable agricultural production.
BP2: Blue transformation	2.1, 2.2, 14.2, 14.4, 14.6, 14.7, 14.b, 14.c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Promote sustainable aquaculture intensification and expansion. b. Encourage effective and sustainable management of all fisheries. c. Upgrade aquatic value chains to ensure social, economic and environmental viability, fostering innovative practices.
BP3: One Health	1.5, 3.d, 15.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Strengthen countries capacities for biosecurity management, preparedness and response of significant transboundary pests and diseases. b. Provide assistance for the generation and use of data to assess risk and formulate programmes and policies. c. Improve capacities in antimicrobial resistance risk management.
BP4: Small-scale producers' equitable access to resources	1.4, 2.3, 2.4, 6.b, 9.3, 14.b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Promote evidence-based policies and programmes, and the implementation of information systems, including surveys, censuses and administrative registries. b. Support the development of public policies to enhance access to financial and non-financial services, land access and tenure, and natural resources rights. c. Support an enabling environment to strengthen rural organizations and other forms of collective action.

BP5: Digital agriculture	1.4, 5.b, 9.c, 17.8	a. Support countries to bridge the technology gap for vulnerable rural communities by building digital rural ecosystems. Support the adoption of relevant digital technologies.
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19. FAO acknowledges each subregion's unique challenges and opportunities. In the Caribbean, FAO will support Members to strengthen Blue Transformation as well as productive inclusion of rural youth. In Mesoamerica, special attention will be given to the Dry Corridor, implementing sustainable and resilient practices for agriculture, forestry and land use. In South America the focus will be on sustainable livestock management and nature-based solutions.

Regional Priority 2
End hunger and achieve food security and nutrition

20. RP 2 is aligned to the five PPAs under *better nutrition*. Outcomes focus on data, evidence, normative and standard setting instruments, knowledge and advocacy.

21. Through RP 2, FAO will assist its Members in the review and implementation of the CELAC Plan for Food and Nutrition Security and the Eradication of Hunger 2025 and the coordination of the CELAC FSN Plan Platform.

Programme Priority Areas (PPA)	SDGs targets	Areas of work
BN1: Healthy diets for all	1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 3.4, 12.8	a. Generate evidence on cost and affordability of healthy diets. b. Support policy and legal frameworks to increase physical, economic access and consumption of healthy diets. c. Strengthen technical and policy guidance to encourage healthy food environments including food labelling and marketing frameworks. d. Strengthen capacities to develop policies and instruments such as national dietary guidelines and food and nutrition education.
BN2: Nutrition for the most vulnerable	1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2	a. Strengthen data analysis to support policies and investments that target the most vulnerable population. b. Improve and expand nutrition-sensitive social protection mechanisms and support people in situations of vulnerability. c. Support the expansion of school feeding programmes.
BN3: Safe food for everyone	2.1, 2.2, 3.2	a. Support countries in the implementation of the CODEX Alimentarius standards, improving food safety risk analysis capacity.
BN4: Reducing food loss and waste	2.1, 2.2, 12.3	a. Strengthen national capacity to develop strategies and legal frameworks to address food loss and waste. b. Support collection of data to inform policies and programmes.
BN5: Transparent markets and trade	2.b, 2.c, 10.a, 17.11	a. Establish and maintain market intelligence and early warning systems to cope with rising food prices. b. Develop technical and institutional capacities of Members to improve intra-regional agrifood trade.

		c. Support trade facilitation measures, and transparent and efficient trade policies to enhance market access and value chain development.
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22. In the Caribbean, the emphasis will be on collaboration with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to implement the 25 by 25 strategy, its regional FSN policy and action plans and the strengthening of school feeding programmes (SFP). In Mesoamerica, the focus will be on reducing the prevalence of undernourishment and malnutrition, also strengthening the work with the executive secretariat of the Central America Integration System (SICA) to support its regional FSN policies. In South America, FAO will emphasize reducing the prevalence of moderate and severe food insecurity, overweight and obesity, and micronutrient deficiency in the most vulnerable populations, promoting better access and affordability of a healthy diet.

Regional Priority 3

Sustainable management of natural resources and adaptation to climate change

23. RP 3 is aligned to the four PPAs under *better environment*, focusing on data, evidence, normative and standard setting instruments, knowledge, technologies and good practices, and advocacy.

Programme Priority Areas (PPA)	SDGs targets	Areas of work
BE1: Climate change mitigating and adapted agrifood systems	2.4, 6.4, 13.1, 13.2, 13.b, 14.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Build technical capacities to integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation practices. b. Strengthen countries' capacities to access environmental and climate financing. c. Promote technical collaboration amongst countries for climate action in agriculture through the Platform of LAC for Climate Action on Agriculture (PLACA). d. Support countries to meet international commitments.
BE2: Bioeconomy for sustainable food and agriculture	12.2, 12.4, 12.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Support the development of bio innovations to improve productivity and sustainability. b. Promote evidence-based policies and programmes to harness the potential of bioeconomy.
BE3: Biodiversity and ecosystem services for food and agriculture	2.5, 6.6, 14.4, 15.1, 15.3, 15.4, 15.5, 15.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Foster sustainable management and restoration of landscapes to enhance and protect biodiversity and ecosystem services. b. Support capacity development and knowledge exchange of policies and good practices for natural resources management. c. Mainstream biodiversity in agrifood systems, by fostering sustainable use, protection, restoration and conservation measures.
BE4: Achieving sustainable urban food systems	1.1, 2.1, 11.a, 12.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Support Members to involve the agrifood industry, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and farmers associations to promote access to healthy diets. b. Support countries to design and implement food and nutrition policies and governance mechanisms at local level under the urban food agenda.

24. In the Caribbean, special attention will be given to coastal and marine aquatic ecosystems, fostering their conservation and restoration. In Mesoamerica, restoration in the Dry Corridor together

with the reduction of emissions derived from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) will be a priority. For South America, focus will be given to restoration of ecosystems to protect biodiversity and enhance ecosystem services. FAO will also support the implementation of the Belém Declaration in the Amazon.

Regional priority 4

Reduction of inequalities, poverty and promotion of resilience

25. RP 4 is aligned to the six PPAs under *better life*. outcomes focus on data, evidence, normative and standard setting instruments, knowledge, technologies and good practices, dialogue, and advocacy.

Programme Priority Areas (PPA)	SDGs targets	Areas of work
BL1: Gender equality and rural women's empowerment	2.3, 5.4, 5.a, 5.c	a. Promote economic inclusion policies with a transformative gender approach to strengthen rural women's empowerment.
BL2: Inclusive rural transformation	1.1, 8.3, 8.5, 10.1, 10.2, 10.7	a. Strengthen national technical capacities to design and implement policies and legal frameworks that enhance the inclusion of rural women, youth, Indigenous and African descent populations. b. Support the assessment of rural development policies and legal frameworks. c. Strengthen the coverage and targeting of national social protection systems and comprehensive insurance mechanisms in rural areas. d. Foster the adoption of inclusive rural governance mechanisms.
BL3: Agriculture and food emergencies	1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 16.1	a. Support the development of early-warning systems for multiple hazards and sectors with standards for effective national, local- and community-based, inclusive anticipatory action and preparedness. b. Provide assistance to restore and recover rural livelihoods, food security, agriculture assets and production in disaster, socioeconomic crises and conflict contexts. c. Support governments to adopt a humanitarian-development nexus integrating the "building back better" principles into their emergency response strategies strengthening connections with climate change adaptation programmes.
BL4: Resilient agrifood systems	1.3, 1.5, 2.4	a. Improve methods and access to data, information and knowledge to inform risk transfer and planning and investment decisions. b. Support Members in scaling up vulnerability and risk reduction measures at field level. c. Improve the coherence and coordination between social, economic, environmental and climate policies, strategies, plans and instruments

BL5: Hand-in-Hand (HIH) Initiative	1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.a, 10.1, 10.2	(i) Implement the Hand-in-Hand Initiative
BL6: Scaling up investment	1.b, 2.a, 10.1, 10.2, 10.b, 17.5	a. Assist with the development of high-impact investment strategies and agreements. b. Support the assessment, definition, and implementation of public and private investments. c. Provide investment and finance solutions through collaboration with international and national financing institutions and other stakeholders.

26. In the Caribbean FAO will support Members to enhance the resilience of their agrifood systems, including the adoption of early-warning systems associated to natural hazards; in Central and South America, protecting livelihoods through anticipatory action, specifically against extreme climate events (El Niño and La Niña phenomenon), will be a priority.

III.2. Accelerators and cross-cutting themes

27. In order to accelerate progress and maximize efforts in meeting the SDGs and *the four betters*, FAO will apply four cross-cutting accelerators in all programmatic interventions:

Accelerators

- (i) *Innovation*: Promote investments in research and development by developing tools to assess the status of agrifood innovation systems and identifying promising investment opportunities. FAO will pursue multi-prong strategies to shift from science outputs into innovative products and services.
- (ii) *Technology*: Pursue strategic analyses and programmes seeking to enable smallholders' technology uptake. FAO will focus on the identification and training of promising rural youth as technological entrepreneurs. Gender will also be taken into account to assure technologies are gender sensitive.
- (iii) *Data*: Assist countries to use proven cost-effective methods for generating timely and detailed agricultural statistics. FAO will take steps to convert the FAO-OEA/CIE-IICA Working Group on Agricultural and Livestock Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean to the Latin American and Caribbean Commission for Agricultural Statistics (LACCAS) in order to clarify its nature as a regional commission.
- (iv) *Complements*:
 - *Governance*: Support countries towards incorporating solutions responding to the context and legislative gaps, including regulatory impact assessment for evidence-based decision-making and for systems approaches.
 - *Institutions*: FAO will promote South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) within regional integration mechanisms¹⁵ and aim for a 20 percent increase in non-governmental partnerships.
 - *Human Capital*: FAO will promote *FAO Campus*, the regional programme for capacity development, innovation and transformation of agrifood systems in LAC.

¹⁵ Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Central American Integration System (SICA), Andean Community (CAN), Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

28. All these accelerators are mainstreamed across all priorities through means of implementation as the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, One Country One Priority Product and 1000 Digital Village Initiative.
29. Partnerships with non-governmental actors in FAO will contribute to achieving the results of the programmatic agenda. SSTC is also relevant to promote the strengthening of institutional capacities in topics such as technology, innovation and data management.

Cross-cutting themes

30. FAO will enhance the inclusion of all rural peoples – especially rural women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and afro-descendants – by increasing rural innovations and strengthening countries' capacities to design and implement policies and legal frameworks.

FAO's corporate strategies and initiatives

31. *Hand-in-Hand (HIH) Initiative*: FAO will continue supporting investment planning for prioritized sectors and territories, including relevant value chains. Dialogue and matchmaking with financial partners and private sector will be fostered. Knowledge and innovation-intensive investments plans for public partners, as well as investment plans with subregional approach, will be proposed.
32. *One Country One Priority Product (OCOP)*: Countries in the region will continue identifying sources of funding, engaging with potential partners and formulating project proposals to enhance the potential of Special Agricultural Products (SAPs).
33. *Digitalization/1 000 Digital Village Initiative*: FAO will continue identifying and facilitating inclusive strategic partnerships with rural digital ecosystem actors to close the technological gap. Success stories of high-impact rural innovations will be identified and disseminated, raising the capacities of actors for their analysis and adaptation to new contexts. A scalable model of digital incubation of rural innovations will be developed and piloted.
34. *FAO Science and Innovation Strategy*: The Regional Action Plan identifies 74 actions exemplifying how science and innovation is implemented in the region's programme of work. Science and evidence-based decision-making, and those supporting innovation are the most represented actions.
35. *FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031*: FAO will continue promoting innovation, scaling up and expanding a wide range of climate solutions. PLACA, as high-level articulation platform to address the contribution of agriculture to the climate agenda, will be strengthened. Access to climate finance and support countries in scaling up anticipatory action, early warning systems, climate and risk sensitive analysis and planning will be enhanced.

IV. ONE FAO

36. FAO will reinforce its programmatic approach by strengthening staff capacities and refining corporate planning and monitoring procedures. Innovative mechanisms will be employed to optimize project approval and monitoring for more efficient, sustainable and impactful implementation.
37. On knowledge management (KM), FAO will advance the creation and implementation of effective information-management mechanisms and new processes for the dissemination of KM products and tools. The recently launched course on methodologies, tools and basic concepts of KM will continue to be disseminated as well as the development of the regional KM strategy to scale up a collaboration network at regional level.
38. The formulation of the new generation of FAO Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs) is based on the Common Country Analysis (CCA) derived from the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). FAO will enhance support to the formulation of planning instruments with sectoral specialized tools and analytical methodologies to propose specific

solutions tailored to the country needs, utilizing FAO`s technical expertise to support agrifood systems transformation.

39. FAO will continue implementing the Resource Mobilization and Investment Strategy 20232030, which focuses on: a) Diversifying resource partners; b) Funding for project development; c) Enhancing project formulation capacity; and d) Improving internal and external communication.