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para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

TWENTY-SIXTH REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

Luanda, Angola, 03 – 07 May 2010

SUMMARY REPORT OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF FAO REGIONAL BODIES

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1. REPORT ON THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS (AFCAS)

The Twenty-first Session of the African Commission on Agricultural Statistics (AFCAS) was held in the Conference Hall at the Novotel Hotel in Accra, Ghana, from 28 to 31 October 2009. Delegates from AFCAS member countries as well as representatives from national, regional and international institutions participated

1.1 Goals of the African Commission on Agricultural Statistics

- Study the status of food and agricultural statistics in the region;
- Advice Member countries on the development and harmonization of agricultural statistics in the general context of FAO's statistical activities;
- Organize meetings for study groups or other subsidiary bodies made up of national experts to achieve these goals.

1.2 Key Issues discussed

- FAO activities in food and agricultural statistics relevant to Africa region since the last session of the African Commission on Agricultural Statistics (item 4);
- State of food and agricultural statistics systems in the region countries (item 5);
- Global strategy for improving agricultural statistics (item 6);
- Implementation of the new features of the world programme for census of agriculture 2010 (item 7);
- Collecting and compiling agricultural prices (item 8);
- Approaches and programmes for statistical capacity building (item 9);
- Upgrading human resources skills for agricultural statistics in 21st century (item 10);
- New developments in statistics concerning agricultural sub-sectors (item 11);
- The date, venue and possible topics to be included in the agenda of the twenty-second Session of the Commission.

1.3 Outcomes of the Meeting

The Commission elected the following to its Bureau:

- Chairperson Dr. Grace Bediako – Ghana
- Vice Chairperson Mr. Abner Ingosi - Kenya,
- Rapporteurs:
 - Mr. Ouambi Yameogo - Burkina Faso, and
 - Ms. Elizabeth Bokaako Ntlhonamo - Lesotho

1.4 Main Findings and Recommendations of the 21st Session

The commission:

- **noted** with satisfaction a positive trend in the establishment of statistical systems on food and agriculture in the African countries as well as in the use of statistics despite some observed weaknesses: poor human and financial resources, lack of appropriate methodologies, etc.;
- **stressed that** the report on the state of food and agricultural statistics systems in the region could be used as an advocacy tool for financing agricultural statistics and **encouraged** member countries who have not responded yet to do so urgently in

order to enable sound and reliable analysis of the state of food and agricultural statistics in countries of the region.

- **encouraged** countries to create strategies for establishing efficient links between agricultural census and population census without impacting on their respective quality results;
- **noted** the potential of CountrySTAT for early and wider dissemination of census results and **urged countries** undertaking a census to consider using this platform to disseminate their census results.
- **requested** FAO to pursue its work, through close collaboration with regional and sub regional institutions, on the way of conducting an agricultural census in coordination with a population census;
- **recommended** that FAO and IFPRI work together to prepare an advocacy document showing the benefit of good agriculture statistics for policy making to facilitate the mobilization of funding in support of agriculture statistics at the national and international levels.
- **recognized** that fisheries and aquaculture, especially those conducted in small scale businesses, made important contribution to food security and appreciated that the Global Strategy for Improving Agriculture Statistics appropriately integrated all sub-sectors of agriculture.
- **noted** that the information on cost of production would be essential to assist decision making in marketing and investments and trade negotiations as well as in policy making and poverty reduction strategies.
- **invited FAO and IFPRI** to conduct a study of country experiences in collecting and compiling cost of production statistics and agricultural price statistics and document these experiences.
- **recommended** that FAO and IFPRI organise an expert meeting on cost of production and agricultural prices.
- **invited** interested countries to collaborate with FAO in this study.

1.5 AFCAS MEMBER COUNTRIES

Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

2. SUMMARY REPORT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE 19TH SESSION OF THE FISHERY COMMITTEE FOR THE EASTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC (CECAF)

The 19th Session of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) was held in Cotonou, Benin, from 4 – 6 November 2008.

The Session was attended by 43 delegates representing 19 Members of the Committee and observers from Fishery Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC), Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC), the Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean, the Swedish Board of Fisheries (SWEDMAR) and the World Bank.

The objective of the meeting was: to review and decide on recommendations of the Fifth Session of the CECAF Scientific Sub-Committee and approve its Programme of Work; review proposal for a revision of the CECAF-FAO Fishing Area 34 statistical divisions; decide on Fishery Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS) Data Ownership; review results of the Casablanca Symposium (March 2008) on Management of Shared Small Pelagic Stocks in North West CECAF Region; review project proposal for strengthening CECAF; review global emerging issues in fisheries development and management relevant to the region; be informed of Compliance requirements for the Project Concept Note Cycle for the Strategic Partnership for a Sustainable Fisheries Investment Fund for Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) in Africa and the outcome of the Global Conference on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (Bangkok, 13 – 17 October 2008).

2.1 Outcomes of the meeting

The Committee:

- elected the following countries as office bearers for the 20th Session:
Chairperson: Benin
First Vice – Chairperson: Morocco
Second Vice - Chairperson: Democratic Republic of Congo
- noted the commitment of some Members in collaborating with less endowed countries in strengthening fisheries research capacity and cooperation arrangements in the CECAF region.
- acknowledged that some Members had elaborated national plans of action on combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, revised their fisheries regulations and updated their fisheries policies to take into account IUU fishing.
- recommended for the CECAF Secretariat to facilitate the formulation of Regional Plans of Action on combating IUU fishing.
- noted the activities that were planned for the region within the NORAD funded project on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) and accepted the proposal for Regional EAF Task Groups created in the framework of the EAF Project for the North and South Zones of the CECAF area to report on the activities of the project to the CECAF Scientific Sub-Committee.
- urged its Members to participate in the formulation and implementation of instruments and plans and be active members in sub-regional and regional arrangements that work to implement the international instruments elaborated in the framework of the Code of conduct for Responsible Fisheries.
- noted that the models applied for the assessment of demersals stocks did not provide reliable results with the data available and recommended that Members provide better data on catch and effort for more reliable stock assessment in the region.

- expressed concern that despite the pertinence of the recommendations made by the Scientific Sub-Committee (SSC), their implementation by decision makers still caused some difficulties and that in most cases little or no action is taken to address the recommendations at management level
- reiterated the importance of concerted management for shared stocks and that managers from the different countries concerned should agree on a sharing scheme for these stocks.
- suggested carrying out an analysis on how to improve implementation of the recommendations made in the context of policies for fisheries management.
- encouraged regional and sub-regional fisheries bodies to continue reflecting on harmonizing management and development of shared small pelagic stocks.
- appreciated the relevance of the CECAF strengthening project initiative, which would enable CECAF to better play its role in the region, and recommended for the planned activities to be prioritized, taking into account existing initiatives in the region.
- suggested that regional and sub-regional fisheries bodies should take a stronger stance on climate change as it affects fisheries in the region.
- recommended that the collaboration between CECAF and the regional and sub-regional fisheries bodies in the region be strengthened.

3. SUMMARY REPORT OF THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION (AFWC)

3.1 Introduction

The African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC) held its Seventeenth Session in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, from 22 to 26 February 2010, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Congo. The Session was attended by 183 representatives from 29 member countries and one observer countries, and four representatives of the United Nations system. Observers from 20 intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations also attended.

The 17th Session of the Commission was held together with the first African Forestry and Wildlife Week (AFWW) under the common theme of “*African Forests and Wildlife: Response to the Challenges of Sustainable Livelihood Systems*”. The rationale behind the AFWC and the AFWW theme was to contextualize the important contribution of forests and wildlife in reducing poverty, hunger and malnutrition in Africa and to re-emphasize to policymakers the significance of forests and wildlife in national economies and their potential as viable sectors for the livelihood improvement of their populations.

His Excellency, Henri Djombo, Minister for Sustainable Development, Forest Economy and the Environment of the Republic of Congo, officially opened the 17th Session of the Commission. The Minister of State in-charge of Tourism, Forestry and Achieves of Uganda and the Vice Minister of Agriculture and Forests of Equatorial Guinea attended the sessions.

Some of the issues discussed, which we seek to bring to the attention of the Regional Conference include:

3.2 Forestry and Wildlife in Support of Sustainable livelihood Systems in Africa

Under this agenda item the Commission discussed:

3.2.1 *Protected areas and the livelihoods of local communities*

Noting the important contribution of protected areas to improved livelihoods,

the Commission encouraged governments to involve local communities in the management of protected areas including investment in improved communal infrastructures and to promote the equitable sharing of revenues generated in a transparent way. It further encouraged extending the area of coverage of protected areas, if appropriate.

The Commission noted the need for policy coherence across the spectrum of national legislation impacting on protected areas both directly and indirectly.

3.2.2 *Ecotourism and its potential for conserving forests and wildlife and alleviating poverty*

The Commission encouraged governments to reinvest revenues from ecotourism to the local communities affected to demonstrate the utility and relevance of sustainable management. It recommended that countries exchange information and learn from each other in the development of successful ecotourism.

3.2.3 *The role of non-wood forest products (NWFP) in food security and poverty reduction in Africa*

The Commission acknowledged the importance of NWFP for food security and poverty reduction and its non-inclusion in poverty reduction and food security programmes.

The Commission requested that FAO disseminate widely the methodology on inventories of non-wood forest products to enable its adoption by African countries.

The Commission recommended that technical and entrepreneurial capacities of small and medium enterprises involved in the NWFP value chains be strengthened and experiences shared.

3.2.4 *Bioenergy and forests in Africa*

Acknowledging that bioenergy remains an important part of the continent's energy profile and that it may offer new opportunities for the future, the Commission noted that Africa has a significant potential for the production and supply of bioenergy, although increased bioenergy production will require appropriate planning to avoid conflicts, competition for land use and food insecurity.

The Commission therefore recommended that AFWC member countries work within their governments to support the development and use of alternative sources of energy such as solar energy, waste conversion and other energy production technologies

3.2.5 *Sharing lessons from forestry and wildlife-related activities in Africa* *Integrated management of forests and wildlife for conflict prevention and maximization of benefits*

The Commission was informed of the potential of forests and wildlife to generate revenues that can substantially contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and sustainable development in Africa. It acknowledged the high risk for conflicts over forest and wildlife resources' use and conservation, particularly human-wildlife conflicts (HWC), and the fact that this is an increasing problem in rural Africa. The Commission therefore noted the need for clear policies to engage public and government interest in the integrated and sustainable management of forests, wildlife and protected areas. It also requested the member countries to share experiences on HWC management and invited FAO, together with relevant partners, to facilitate these exchanges.

Invasive species and their economic relevance for and impact on forests and wildlife in Africa

The Commission noted that forest invasive species are gaining ground throughout Africa and are of serious environmental and economic concern and that significant challenges exist for their management. It therefore encouraged member countries to consider cross-border cooperation for the effective control of invasive species.

Wildlife legislation and the legal empowerment of the poor in sub-Saharan Africa

The Commission noted the importance of achieving coherence, common principles and guidelines, permitting diversification in the scope and content of legislation in each country, as appropriate. In view of this, it recommended that countries take into consideration the principles for wildlife law developed by FAO in national processes of legal drafting and the updating of current legal frameworks.

3.3 **African Forestry and Wildlife: Reflections on their Sustainable Management and Benefits** (*Special AFWW day issues*)

The Commission recommended that forestry authorities liaise with the agriculture sector institutions and political leaders to improve the cohesion of land use in a manner to sustain forests and their management.

3.3.1 *Forest resources assessment and monitoring*

The Commission was informed that FAO carries out Global Forest Resources Assessments (FRA) at 5 to 10 year intervals. The last assessment was developed in 2005. FAO is also involved in National Forest Management and Assessments (NFMA) and building forest information systems. The Commission called upon member countries to encourage inter-sectoral participation during the planning phase of NFMA.

3.3.2 *State of forest genetic resources in Africa: capacity development for procuring high-quality and accurate data on forest genetic resources*

Recognizing that the preparation of country reports can serve as a strategic tool for the conservation and management of forest genetic resources, the Commission stressed the importance of the participatory approach promoted by FAO to ensure the effective involvement of all stakeholders. It emphasized the need to adopt a regional approach to define needs and priorities for action.

3.3.3 *National forestry policies, programmes and participatory processes*

The Commission endorsed sustainable forest management as the basis for the forest sector's ability to make a significant contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation. It further recognized that national forest programmes (nfps) constitute an important instrument for achieving SFM, and thereby, mitigating the impacts of climate change. The Commission therefore urged its member countries to develop their nfps into effective platforms for coordination of national and international initiatives related to forests, allowing nfps thus to play their principal role of integrating the interests, needs and initiatives of other sectors in order to better serve society as a whole.

3.3.4 *Regional and country projects*

The forestry-water nexus in Africa: Fouta Djallon and other key water resources contributing to forestry livelihood support on the continent

The Commission noted the importance of the *Fouta Djallon* Highlands – Integrated Natural Resources Management Project (FDH – INRMP) involving eight countries: Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone. It further noted that its implementation requires a complex institutional and financing arrangement that calls for collaboration among the

beneficiary countries and numerous other organizations, including FAO, the African Union, United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), and a series of local partners. Despite this, Commission acknowledged that the approach used in the FDH – INRMP for the management of shared and transboundary water basins has the potential to be replicated in other parts of Africa.

Arid zone forestry in the context of biodiversity conservation, combating desertification and livelihood and food security needs in sub-Saharan Africa

The Commission noted that forests in arid zones are an important but undervalued resource. It acknowledged that the priorities of forestry in dry lands include: addressing climate change adaptation and contributing to mitigation; ensuring an integrated approach for forestry beyond forest boundaries; improving and adapting the technical capacity of practitioners; developing sustainable markets for sub-Saharan forest products, especially NWFPs, for the benefit of local people. In view of this, the Commission noted the utility of FAO's '*Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management Practices in Dry Lands of sub-Saharan Africa*', as a tool to guide forest management practices. It requested that the Guidelines be disseminated to its members for their use.

3.4 Regional Issues that the 26th Regional Conference for Africa may wish to take action on

In Summary, Issues for the Attention of the 26th Regional Conference for Africa (ARC) include:

The Commission:

- i. Encouraged governments to involve local communities in the management of protected areas and to promote the equitable sharing of revenues generated in a transparent way, including investment in improved communal infrastructures. It further encouraged them to extend the area of coverage of protected areas if appropriate.
- ii. Recommended that countries exchange information and learn from each other in the development of successful ecotourism.
- iii. Encouraged governments to reinvest revenues from ecotourism in the local communities affected to demonstrate the utility and relevance of sustainable management.
- iv. Encouraged member countries to consider cross-border cooperation for the effective management of transboundary forest, wildlife and water resources, and the control of invasive species.
- v. Recommended that countries take into consideration the principles for wildlife law developed by FAO in national processes of legal drafting and the updating of current legal frameworks.
- vi. Recommended that forestry authorities liaise with the agriculture sector institutions and the political leaders to improve the cohesion of land use in a manner to sustain forests and their management.

The Commission called upon member countries to encourage inter-sectoral participation during the planning phase of National Forest Monitoring and Assessment (NFMA).

