

Report of the

# FIRST FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

---

Lagos, Nigeria, 3-12 November 1960



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS



R E P O R T  
O F T H E

FIRST FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE  
FOR AFRICA

LAGOS, FEDERATION OF NIGERIA  
3-12 November 1960

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
Rome, Italy



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## INTRODUCTION

### Organization of the Conference

The First FAO Regional Conference for Africa was held in Lagos, Federation of Nigeria, from 3 to 12 November 1960. The main objectives of the Conference were to provide an opportunity for an exchange of views and information on food and agricultural policies and programs, and to lay the basis for a better informed review of the food and agricultural situation in the African Region. The Conference was also requested to formulate suggestions concerning the orientation of the Organization's future activities in the African Region, to provide guidance to the Director-General in the preparation of his Program of Work for 1962/63 and thus contribute a useful preparation for the Eleventh Session of the FAO Conference to be held in November 1961.

The Conference was attended by delegations from the following 18 countries:

Belgium	Federation of Nigeria
Cameroun	Portugal
Chad	Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland
France	Senegal
Gabun	Togo
Ghana	Tunisia
Guinea	Union of South Africa
Liberia	United Kingdom
Mali Republic	
Morocco	

Observers were present from the following countries within the African Region:

Central African Republic  
Congo (Brazzaville)  
Dahomey  
Ivory Coast  
Niger  
Upper Volta

From outside the African Region, the United States of America were also represented on observer status.

Observers from the following Organizations were present:

United Nations Organization  
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa  
International Labour Organization  
United Nations Educational, Scientific  
and Cultural Organization  
World Health Organization  
United Nations Children's Fund  
European Economic Community  
Commission for Technical Assistance in Africa  
South of the Sahara

A list of the delegates and observers and of the FAO staff in attendance is given in Annex I to this Report, while Annex II lists the officers of the Conference.

### Opening of the Conference

At the opening ceremony, Alhaji the Honourable Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, Prime Minister of the Federation of Nigeria, welcomed the delegates to the Conference. In his address, the Prime Minister pointed out that the problem of the development of agriculture concerned every one in Africa in varying degrees. However, development of agriculture could not be considered in isolation but had to be viewed against the general background of economic development in Africa. The Prime Minister also stressed the importance of practical cooperation in inter-territorial research, as illustrated by the West African research institutes.

The Director-General of FAO then welcomed the delegations on behalf of the Organization. In expressing his appreciation for the excellent facilities which the Government of the Federation of Nigeria had made available to the Conference, he mentioned that it was most appropriate that this First Regional Conference for Africa should be held in Nigeria, which in many ways epitomized the diversity of the geographical and social patterns prevalent in this Region and the flexibility of approach to political and economic institutions. He stressed that the rate of population growth in the African Region was higher than the world average and yet the per caput food production, instead of advancing steadily, had been falling in recent years and in 1959 had dropped well below the prewar level. This was a situation which should cause concern and called for courageous planning and leadership.

Mr. Mekki Abbas, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, also delivered a message to the Conference from Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld, Secretary-General of the United Nations. Finally, Dr. Louis Maire, Independent Chairman of the FAO Council, welcomed the delegates to the First FAO Regional Conference for Africa.

At its first working session the Conference elected Alhaji the Honourable Shehu Shagari, Federal Minister for Establishments acting on behalf of the Minister of Economic Development and leader of the delegation of the Federation of Nigeria, as Chairman of the Conference. All heads of delegations of Member Countries were elected as Vice-Chairmen.

The Conference adopted the following Agenda.

#### A. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1. Opening of the Conference.
2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen.
3. Adoption of the Agenda.



B. THE WORK OF FAO IN AFRICA AND THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

4. Trends and Objectives of the Work of FAO in Africa.  
Introductory Statement by the Director-General.
5. Review of the Food and Agricultural Situation in the Region.  
Statements by Delegates.

C. GENERAL POLICY QUESTIONS OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION

6. The Orientation of Food and Agricultural Policies, with special reference to:-
  - (a) Nutritional Factors
  - (b) Economic Factors.
7. Technical Aspects of Diversification of Agriculture.
8. The Active Participation of the People in Rural Development.
9. The Conservation and Utilization of Soil, Water and Vegetation in Regional and Farm Planning.
10. Improvement of Marketing Methods, Processing and Storage of Basic Food Crops and Livestock Products.
11. The Place of Fisheries in the Development of Africa.

D. SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES OF FAO IN AFRICA NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE WHICH REQUIRE CONFERENCE GUIDANCE OR GOVERNMENT ACTION

12.
  - (a) Freedom-From-Hunger Campaign.
  - (b) World Seed Campaign.
  - (c) The Development of Agricultural Statistics.
  - (d) Promotion of Food Consumption Surveys.
  - (e) Locust Control.
  - (f) Agricultural Information Services.
  - (g) Policy Implications of Reports of Meetings:-
    - (i) FAO/CCTA Agricultural Extension Development Centre for West Africa, Ibadan, July 1959.
    - (ii) CCTA/FAC Meeting on Weaver Birds, Bamako, May 1960.
    - (iii) Development Centre on Land Policies for East and Central Africa, Fort Portal, Uganda, October 1960.
    - (iv) FAO/CCTA Technical Meeting on Banana Production, Abidjan, October 1960.
    - (v) First FAO Technical Meeting on Coffee Production and Protection, Abidjan, October 1960.
    - (vi) First Session African Forestry Commission, Ibadan, November 1960.

E. CONCLUDING ITEMS

13. The Future Orientation of FAO's Work in the Region.
14. Adoption of the Report.

A list of working papers of the Conference is given in Annex III to this Report. A drafting committee was appointed from the delegations of France, Ghana, Mali Republic and Federation of Nigeria to prepare the final report of the Conference.

Closing Session of the Conference

On 9 November the Director-General, Mr. B.K. Sen, had made a summing-up statement of the Conference proceedings given as Annex IV to this Report, and thanked the Chairman, delegates and observers for their active cooperation and the interest shown in this First Regional Conference for Africa.

At its closing session, the Conference adopted the text of the Report in its present form.

The Chairman thanked the delegates and observers for their attendance and for their valuable contributions to the discussions, and the Director-General and the FAO Secretariat for the careful preparation and arrangements for the Conference.

Mr. Terver, Regional Representative of the Director-General for the African Region, thanked delegates and observers on behalf of the Organization for their participation and expressed his appreciation to the Chairman for his skilful handling of the Conference and to the Government of the Federation of Nigeria for the splendid facilities that had been made available for the Conference. Dr. Louis Mairo, Independent Chairman of the FAO Council, also addressed the Conference.

The heads of the Ghana and Upper Volta delegations, on behalf of all the other delegations attending the Conference, expressed their appreciation of the work performed by the Chairman and the FAC Secretariat, as well as the Drafting Committee and thanked the Government of the Federation of Nigeria for the excellent arrangements and first-class facilities provided for the Conference.

The head of the Moroccan delegation informed the Conference that he had received a telegram from his Government expressing Morocco's desire to act as host to the Second FAO Regional Conference for Africa in 1962.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

A. THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SITUATION AND THE WORK OF FAO IN THE REGION

1. Policy Statement by Mr. B.R. Sen, Director-General

The Director-General gave a review of the position of agriculture in the Region. Agriculture holds a central position in economic development, providing the livelihood of well over three-quarters of the total population, while agricultural exports earn most of the foreign exchange needed to buy imported capital goods for development. Initial industrialization, too, will be based largely on the processing of the products of farms, forests and fisheries.

The recent trends in agricultural production had, however, been unfavourable. In recent years agricultural production had lagged behind the growth of population, and per caput production had fallen sharply in 1959/60 to well below the prewar level. Further, while agricultural exports had been rising steadily in volume, prices had tended downward, so that over the decade export values rose only half as much as export volume.

Little improvement was expected on world markets for Africa's main exports in the near future, as supplies were generally large in relation to the demand at current prices, and because demand shows little further increase when incomes in the main importing countries rise above their already high levels.

The Director-General referred to the most important problem of African agriculture, i.e. the extremely low level of agricultural productivity. Recent increases in agricultural production had come from expansion of cultivated area, rather than increased yields. Other problems were the replacement of shifting cultivation by more permanent and productive systems of agriculture which would safeguard resources of land, water and vegetation, and the establishment of diversified patterns of production, including mixed farming combining crops and livestock. Institutional problems had to be solved, including the organization of effective extension services, the adaptation of traditional land tenure systems and the provision of marketing facilities and adequate credit for farmers. The transition from subsistence to commercial agriculture was perhaps the most basic aspect of economic development in the Region.

Special problems facing newly independent countries were the lack of trained personnel in all fields, the necessity of maintaining existing structures of agricultural services and the transfer of responsibility for research previously carried out on an international basis. There was also need for capital. Governments should not only mobilize all domestic resources,

but should also create a climate favourable for foreign investment. Bilateral and international assistance, both financial and technical, could play a crucial role, supplementing national efforts in long-term investment which could not otherwise be carried out without serious cuts in living standards. Bilateral assistance from principal groups of developed countries to underdeveloped countries in 1954-57 amounted to \$7.8 billion (loans and grants), and multilateral aid amounted to \$1.7 billion. A substantial increase in resources of international financial and technical assistance had been made available through the Expanded Technical Assistance Program, the United Nations Special Fund and the International Development Association. More emphasis was being put on agricultural projects by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development while the European Overseas Development Fund of the European Economic Community had shifted its emphasis from social to economic projects.

An essential condition of success in the use of resources was planning. Development projects must be planned within the framework of an overall development policy, with an established order of priorities. It was of utmost importance that each country take steps to set up a machinery for agricultural and overall economic planning. There was a real difference between project and development planning. The nature of development planning varied from country to country but the key sector was agriculture, although agricultural development should remain in balance with development of other sectors of the economy. FAO was willing to help African countries in program planning for their agricultural development. For example, the Mediterranean Development Study had been carried out to formulate balanced action proposals for the restoration and development of the land and water resources of that region, within a framework of general economic development.

Available statistics on the status of nutrition in Africa were very poor. However, it could be roughly estimated that the calorie intake of the population was usually not far from the estimated requirement, but protein deficiency, especially of animal protein, was considerable. Attempts to improve the nutritional status should therefore be directed towards more protective foods, which should be within the means of the consumer and would not involve revolutionary changes in the diet. The improvement in intakes of animal proteins and other protective foods would involve a tremendous agricultural effort. The present slow trend would need to be greatly accelerated if peoples of the African Region are to secure even a modest improvement in the level of nutrition.

The Director-General then mentioned the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign, launched by FAO in 1960, which aimed at rousing public opinion about the true state of affairs with regard to the world's food problem. This Campaign should provide the framework in which the problem of primary poverty would be studied in all its aspects and adequate measures evolved for its solution. The activities of the Campaign fell under three main heads: (a) information and education, (b) research, and (c) action programs. The Campaign had received strong support from governments, international organizations, private foundations and industry. A large number of Member Governments had established National Campaign Committees and a Campaign Trust Fund had been

opened by FAO. The United Nations General Assembly had also endorsed the Campaign and asked FAO to develop appropriate programs to use surpluses to relieve hunger and assist in the economic development of under-developed countries.

## 2. The Food and Agricultural Situation in the Region

The Conference confirmed the view that despite variations between countries and sub-regions due to historical and natural differences, the state of food and agriculture in the countries of Africa was broadly similar. Practically every country was facing a population growing at an increasing rate, and food supplies barely keeping pace or falling behind. The quantity of food in terms of calories was scarcely sufficient, on the average, for minimum nutrition of the mass of the people, while the quality was unsatisfactory, being generally low in proteins, very low in animal proteins, and also unsatisfactory in the protective substances of minerals and vitamins.

Agriculture was the dominant industry and way of life in the Region. Much, if not all, of the export earnings were obtained from agriculture in most countries. Improvement in both quantity and quality of agricultural production was therefore the first primary necessity in speeding up economic development. Unemployment or under-employment was generally prevalent or chronic so that there was little scope for mechanization. With few exceptions, trained people were acutely short at every level, from skilled farmers or industrial workers, through foremen or vocationally qualified workers, and most acutely for professional workers and leaders, administrators and organizers.

With the emergence to political independence, the expectations among the general population were naturally very high, especially in the least developed countries. The great mass of the people, consciously or unconsciously, associated political freedom with freedom from want - to escape the poverty and misery which had been their lot in the past, and to achieve almost at once higher standards of nutrition, clothing, housing and other conditions of life. It was naturally hard for them to realize that it would take long years or decades of effort, organization, and sacrifice, to fulfil their expectations. Education and understanding in this respect were necessary if real orderly progress was to be made, and this was one of the most difficult but most important tasks that faced the political leaders of countries in the Region.

The problem of economic development was further complicated, for all except a very few countries with rich mineral or forestry resources, by the fact that whereas the main immediate reliance for financing more rapid economic development had to be on increasing agricultural exports, the world demand for almost all agricultural exports of Africa showed little increase as national incomes rose. For most products, prices tended to fall as exports increased so that increases in net earnings from expanding exports were relatively small. Also, African exports competed with those from under-developed countries, similarly trying to expand, in other regions of

the world. At the same time, in the more developed countries which provided markets for African products, import needs were diminishing due to their own increasing farm productivity and production as a result of advancing techniques and greater attention to the living conditions of their farmers.

In varying degrees, and with varying success, every country was aware of these problems and was working on their solution. In some cases more fact-finding was an essential first step. Surveys were being planned or conducted on such questions as the agricultural and other resources available, the actual state of nutrition, the condition of the people, and the possibilities for development. In other cases, specific projects or programs had been selected for development. Efforts were under way to improve agricultural productivity through adoption of improved practices and extension work, supply of better seeds or fertilizers, extension of irrigation or drainage, and training and education of the people required to plan and carry through the tasks. Diversification of farm production, both for better and more varied diets and for a wider range of exports so as to be less vulnerable to sudden market fluctuations, was also being attempted. Similar attention was being given to related industrial development, the improvement of transport, communications and power, and to expanding industrial employment for the excess rural population. The need for effective measures to stabilize prices of export products on international markets was also mentioned.

In a few countries, comprehensive plans for agricultural and general economic development had been established, and efforts were under way to carry these plans into action, but the resources available were insufficient to begin to do what was obviously needed. In many countries, the natural resources and manpower were abundant but the bottlenecks were in the lack of knowledge and skills of the population, and in the finances to pay for the necessary capital formation and investments. Education and training of the people required heavy expenditures, and many years to carry through.

There was general agreement that the resources available to each country should be used to meet the most critical needs at its own state of development, and therefore great care was necessary in planning the programs of development and in ensuring proper balance among the different sectors of the economy. In this connection it was stressed that in order to obtain the greatest possible return from the scarce development resources available adequate program planning should have high priority.

## B. GENERAL POLICY QUESTIONS ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION

### 1. Government Policy and Action

In developing their plans for agriculture Governments had to strike a compromise between three different sets of considerations. From the viewpoint of nutrition, the program would work toward goals which would provide enough food of the right kinds for the entire population. From the viewpoint of technical possibilities, it had to take into account measures for increasing production of crops, livestock, fish and forests,

while at the same time striving for proper soil and water management and conservation, mentioned in subsequent sections of this Report. It also included considerations regarding education of trained personnel, institutional factors and an assessment of the rate of progress which could be attained. From the viewpoint of economics, the limitations of resources for the plans for any period, short or long term, had to be recognized. These included existing resources of trained or skilled manpower, of existing equipment, of savings within the country, of material or financial assistance available from abroad, and how much could be used for agriculture, in the view of development needs of the rest of the economy. Other economic issues which needed consideration were the possibilities of increasing the availability of foreign exchange by expanding exports, in the light of the domestic and foreign market prospects for each product and by the wise and guided limitation of imports of purely consumer goods; the trends in domestic demand which could be expected to develop for each product, in line with the prospective national development and in line with any publicly-supported schemes for supplying food or buying power to under-privileged groups; the expected increase in domestic supplies and the amount of required food to be obtained by import.

Out of these considerations could emerge a goal for the progress in standards of nutrition of the population; a technical program of the improved production practices and patterns to be achieved, and the expenditures to be made in implementing it, and economic balance-sheets covering resources (money and men) available for agriculture and how they would be used. Balance-sheets would also be needed for products entering foreign trade either as imports or exports, and their expected values; and food balance-sheets for domestic consumption in the light of expected production, consumption and foreign trade.

Not all countries would be able to make all the comprehensive calculations when first starting to develop their national policies, and many data at first would be only estimates or approximations, but these were, however, the elements of a rational food and agricultural policy. Unless these were taken account of in thinking about policies and in the formulation of programs, essential facts or limitations might be overlooked, and projects might be started which could not be completed, or resources might be wasted by investment in activities or operations of relatively low importance, while others of much higher priority were neglected.

The Conference adopted the following Resolutions:

Resolution No. 1

Agricultural Programming and Planning

The Conference

Recognizing

- (a) the growing awareness of the usefulness of development planning and programming in the African Region as indicated by the growing number of countries working out definite development plans or programs, (or beginning work to that end)

and the work undertaken by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) on the problems of general economic development,

- (b) the need in countries preparing such plans or programs for developing suitable bodies within their governments to ensure the proper formulation of development programs with the full cooperation of the responsible agencies or offices concerned, and with full recognition of the necessary balance between agriculture and other sectors of the economy, and with a proper distribution of effort within the fields and activities essential in agricultural development,
- (c) the necessity for developing the proper administrative mechanism and arrangements for carrying the development plan or program into effective action and implementation, especially of the agricultural program, and in such a way as to establish and maintain the full participation and support of the farming community, including the actual workers on the land,
- (d) the necessity for a careful choice of planning methods, best suited to local conditions, and ranging from those used in formulating individual projects to comprehensive programs and plans, including agriculture as a whole and its place in the national economy;

Noting

- (a) the efforts of FAO and ECA to assist Member Countries in Africa in the formulation and implementation of their development programs,
- (b) the need for greater attention to general agricultural programs and plans in many countries of the Region;

Recommends that the Director-General, in cooperation with ECA, conduct a seminar for the exchange of information and experience among senior officials on methods for general agricultural development programming and planning, with due regard to national economic development programs or plans, (as one of the projects of the FAO/ECA Joint Agriculture Division) similar to the seminars already conducted in cooperation with ECATE and ECLA;

Further recommends the Director-General, in consultation with ECA and appropriate UN Specialized Agencies concerned:

- (a) to prepare a Plan Framework for Agricultural Development in Africa, taking into due consideration the national development plans which the African countries have developed or have in mind, and in full consultation with them, to be reported to the next African Regional Conference, in 1962,



- (b) to initiate studies on the lines of the Mediterranean Development Project in individual countries or groups of countries in appropriate zones.

Resolution No. 2

Transition from Subsistence to Commercial Agriculture

The Conference

Convinced of the vital and overriding importance of agriculture in the economy of by far the greater part of Africa,

Most concerned that the overwhelming proportion of this agriculture is at subsistence or near subsistence level as a result of which the purchasing power of the people and consequently their standard of living and nutrition is extremely low;

Believes urgent and effective action should be taken by FAO and countries concerned which will change agriculture from a subsistence to a worthwhile cash economy with substantial purchasing power, and that the steps to be taken to achieve this change-over in the shortest possible time are the provision of:

- (a) adequate, inspired, dynamic and effective extension services supported by the necessary experimental/research/specialist services and making the maximum use of community participation and development,
- (b) credit facilities to enable the farming population to acquire, where necessary, the essential means of production such as fertilizers, implements, etc.,
- (c) marketing arrangements at local and international levels to ensure reasonable prices for the commodities produced in under-developed countries;

Requests the Director-General, without prejudice to FAO's existing programs in the Region, to consider the preparation and assistance in implementation of a plan based on the above-mentioned measures, which will bring about a very material improvement in the position of agriculture in Africa over the next five to ten-year period;

Suggests that, as a first step towards the preparation of such a plan, the countries themselves, with the assistance of FAO, carry out individual surveys to ascertain the extent and nature of their need for external assistance;

Recommends to the Director-General to arrange for Member and Associate Member Countries to report progress at future Regional Conferences in Africa on the development and application of the steps recommended

above as well as on the extent to which there has been a change-over in their agriculture from a subsistence to a cash economy during the preceding two years.

## 2. Nutritional Shortcomings, Objectives and Methods

The Conference stressed the inadequate diets of population groups in Africa which resulted in varying degrees of nutritional deficiencies ranging from undernutrition in some areas to sub-clinical or severe malnutrition. The available records from limited areas show that the problem was most serious among infants, children and mothers.

Vitamin A deficiency was common in many countries in the Region and was responsible for a certain amount of blindness or xerophthalmia. Cases of Beri-beri were reported from countries using white rice as a staple food. Ascorbic acid deficiencies existed in the dry areas during the "hungry months". Endemic goiter was reported as a widespread deficiency disease with variable incidences. Rickets did not seem to be common while Riboflavin deficiency appeared to be the most general vitamin deficiency disease recorded.

The inadequacy of the diet was above all due to the large proportion of starchy staple foods or cereals consumed (75 to 95 percent of calories are provided by carbohydrates) and the shortage of protein. The protein intake was only about 70 percent of the requirements without considering its biological value, and the animal protein intake was definitely less than half of the estimated requirements. The scarcity of green vegetables and fruits was responsible for some of the vitamin and mineral deficiencies. The calorie intake generally speaking was close to the requirements, but some seasonal food shortages due to drought, diseases or locust, could still cause danger of famine in some areas unless adequate storage facilities were provided.

The Conference pointed out that knowledge of the requirements for certain nutrients was not adapted to tropical countries, particularly for calcium, and that there was an urgent need to adopt a provisional standard for use in the Region, while an expert committee studied the problem.

Information on food consumption levels was both scarce and insufficient due to shortage of trained personnel to carry out food consumption surveys. Such surveys were necessary to provide data on nutritional, social and economic factors when drawing up development programs. The Conference recommended that FAO should organize a training centre where local key personnel could be adequately trained in the techniques of conducting comprehensive food consumption surveys.

The solution of nutrition problems depended largely on agriculture and economic development but the ignorance on diets needed for health was also a major cause of unsatisfactory nutrition and might hamper efforts to improve both agricultural production and economic development.

The principal means of combatting cultural factors which were detrimental to good nutrition was through education of the public. To change deeply-rooted practices, programs of education in nutrition had to be carefully planned and had to take account of the results of dietary surveys.

Education must be provided through all existing channels: universities (medicine, agriculture, veterinary science, etc.); schools and community development programs. Special emphasis should be given to nutrition education in hospitals, maternal and child welfare services and to supplementary feeding programs which were direct means of improving nutrition. The Conference also underlined the special need for education and extension measures in home economics, school gardening and other activities as a method of teaching better nutrition through practical programs. Because of the great role of women in the production of foodstuffs, special attention should be given to home economics, community development and mass education programs.

While long-term measures would improve nutrition by greater production of food which could provide a satisfactory diet, the immediate problem of malnutrition could be reduced by making available certain suitably processed foods which could be used as a supplement to the diet such as fish flour, groundnut flour, cotton seed flour, etc. The Conference noted that some countries were producing fish products which were under trial to replace imported skim milk. In West Africa a plant produced 10 tons per day of defatted groundnut flour. This product had been recently considered safe and received the approval of an International Committee. In other countries biscuits made of maize and groundnuts would be produced in the near future on an industrial scale. Mention was made of the valuable work carried out by FAO and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) with the assistance of foundations to devise inexpensive high protein foods for the vulnerable groups of the population.

The Conference stressed the use of grain legumes as a most valuable means to balance the diet and recommended that a campaign be undertaken to increase their production with a view to increase consumption.

Planning an agricultural policy in relation to nutrition was a vast and complex problem requiring a coordination of experience from various disciplines of which the most important were agriculture, health and education. A forum needed to be created in every country for top level policy makers in these fields to work out a planned policy for their country to avoid needless waste of personnel and funds. The Conference noted that countries were more and more aware of the importance of food and nutrition problems and that several national food and nutrition committees were already functioning or were to be created. It was strongly stressed that such committees could run into great difficulties if they were formed before an adequately trained executive or responsible unit was in existence in the country. The Conference requested the Director-General to envisage the possibility of organizing in collaboration with other specialized agencies concerned with nutrition, training centres or training courses for both university and auxiliary personnel in the coming years, and of giving assistance in the planning and setting up of food and nutrition institutes.

The need for exchange of technical information between workers actively engaged in nutrition activities and the need for advice on the orientation of their research work within the Region was recognized and it was suggested that the FAO Regional Office in Africa should encourage and contribute to this exchange. The organization of seminars and of nutrition conferences in Africa would also promote contacts between workers in the different countries.

FAO assistance would be required for long-term investigations into food and nutrition problems, particularly in finding ways and means of increasing both quality and quantity of animal and plant foods, as well as the problems of food technology such as processing of local foodstuffs (dry or smoked fish, fermented foods). For the food industries developing in Africa, FAO technical assistance could be of value in advising countries on the suitability of projects under consideration.

The Conference adopted the following Resolution:

Resolution No. 3

Nutritional Problems

The Conference

Recognizing the crucial importance of food and nutrition problems, the prevalence of malnutrition due partly to ignorance and poverty but mainly to the insufficient production and consumption of certain foods, mainly animal protein;

Considering that a good agricultural policy in relation to nutrition cannot be evolved or executed without more knowledge and more technical personnel than are at present available in most African countries;

Recommends the Director-General:

- (a) to provide assistance for the evolution of nutritional requirement standards for the Region and for the planning and execution of more representative food consumption surveys, carried out whenever possible in association with socio-economic and agricultural surveys,
- (b) to provide assistance in long-term investigations into food and nutrition problems, particularly in ways and means of increasing the protein-rich foods, both in quantity and quality,
- (c) to provide advice and guidance on the setting up of Nutrition Councils, Committees or Boards, and to organize short-term training courses and seminars on food and nutrition in the Region;

Recommends that countries develop programs for the speedy eradication of nutritional deficiencies;

Requests the Director-General, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other agencies, to provide advice on an index for measuring the success or failure of such programs;

Further recommends that governments pay immediate attention to providing nutrition education at all levels with priority for training the top level technical executives required for setting up Food Science Institutes keeping in mind however also the need to strengthen nutritional aspects of home economics and teachers' Training Institutes.

### 3. Technical Aspects of Diversification of Agriculture

The Conference noted that agriculture in many areas of Africa is characterised by mono-cultural land use systems for the production of one major crop, such as guinea-corn or sorghums, cotton, sugar cane or other commercial crops including tree crops. Often, such mono-culture had damaging effects on the land as well as on the people because of unbalanced diets, low income due to decreasing yields and under-employment of farm labour during a large part of the year.

Interesting experiences and observations were reported concerning the needs for diversification. Some countries intended to embark on diversification programs or had already started to do so. There was general agreement that well-balanced crop rotations made the best use of soil and water resources and gave higher yields than those obtained from growing the same crop year after year, since various crops differed in their requirements of plant nutrients and water.

Also the soil under a crop which left it unprotected from the eroding forces of water and wind, eventually showed declining yields, which in turn might result in field abandonment and damage to the lower reaches of the watershed. Crop diversification and mixed crop and livestock farming, not only controlled erosion, but improved soil fertility. Some crop diseases and pests could be much better controlled under diversified farming than under mono-culture.

Under mono-culture, the farm labour force was only fully utilized during part of the year, often for not more than four to five months. During the remainder of the year, there was very little opportunity for utilizing farm labour profitably. Diversification could often be so arranged that farmers find productive work during most or all of the year. It was pointed out that by good farm planning and management the income even on a small farm could often be doubled or tripled because all the productive resources available to the farmer, his land and labour, equipment, capital and livestock were more intensively and productively utilized than under many mono-cultural systems of farming.

Human nutrition could be improved by diversification through the integration of vegetable production in the crop system, and the development of livestock or poultry husbandry.

Diversified farming need not reduce the production of the prevailing main crop, because of the beneficial effect upon crop yields of balanced crop rotations and better farming methods. The same or even larger total production of the main crop such as cotton or groundnuts could be obtained from a smaller acreage, so that the production from the acreage diverted to other crops is entirely additional. This was an important consideration in those cases where the main crop was an important export product and source of foreign exchange for the country.

The advantage that could be derived from diversification with respect to export crops was also stressed. A country's dependence on one main export crop rendered it extremely vulnerable to the wide price fluctuations which characterized world markets.

Ecological studies and maps were most useful in determining the kinds of crops and livestock which could be expanded or introduced successfully in a given area and in avoiding the promotion of crops and animals not suited to the area.

Along with diversification should go the development of fertilizer use, better seed and cultural practices, and forage production for livestock to supplement pasture resources during the dry season. Improved adapted small farm equipment and machinery should also be introduced. All this meant a healthy stabilization and intensification of the farming system, which was often the only solution to growing population pressure and deteriorating soil fertility. In particular a systematic and balanced use of fertilizers could revolutionize agriculture in such areas. Research, extension and education, especially of the young people, had to play an increasing role, since agricultural and nutritional traditions were difficult to overcome.

It was stressed that countries in Africa should expand their efforts in this field, particularly through pilot projects in selected areas and in cooperation with experimental stations and extension services, and that FAO should assist Member Governments in this task as much as possible.

The Conference adopted the following Resolutions:

#### Resolution No. 4

##### Technical Aspects of Diversification of Agriculture

##### The Conference

Realizing that in order to ensure the future development of agriculture in Africa and raise the living standards of African farmers it is essential to diversify agriculture within a balanced overall production and, where ecological conditions make it possible, crop cultivation and animal husbandry should be integrated;

Realizing moreover how useful, in this connection, would be a knowledge of the ecology of the various African regions, as also of that of other countries of the world where the same climatic conditions prevailp

Requests the Director-General:

- (a) to make every effort to assemble and distribute, in cooperation with other international organizations, by means of single maps or series of maps, all possible information obtainable through his Organization on the ecology of the various African countries and regions and other countries of the world where the same climatic conditions prevail,
- (b) to assist Member Countries, if and where necessary, with the carrying out of ecological surveys.

#### 4. The Active Participation of the People in Rural Development

The Conference recognized that measures should be taken to stimulate the active participation of the rural people if plans for economic and social development were to succeed. High priority was therefore given to the need for the establishment and improvement of extension services and general community development programs.

Obstacles to participation of the people in development projects included natural conservatism, pressure for conformity, economic factors including small and fragmented holdings, land tenure systems and lack of adequate credit, malnutrition and sickness and the attitude of the people towards government officials, who in the past had frequently performed only regulatory functions. The inertia bred of poverty and the frequently associated disbelief in the possibility of change were recognized as being difficult to overcome.

Despite these obstacles certain incentives existed which had been successfully used in Africa to involve the people. The strongest incentive was to make the action program the people's program; in other words, it should be based on the expressed felt needs of the people. Usually the situation required the combined judgement of the people and of the expert with his scientific and technical knowledge.

Other incentives were simple demonstration, the selection of projects producing results quickly so that a psychology of success was created, and the promotion of village pride and inter-village competition. There was little value in trying to persuade farmers to adopt new methods if they did not have the means at their disposal to carry them out. Therefore provision of credit was considered to be of particular importance. The value of supervised credit programs which linked extension and credit was emphasized, although there had been limited experience with this technique in the Region. The use of grants-in-aid, however, had been used quite successfully in several countries as a powerful stimulant to self-help, but care had to be exercised in its use to avoid the villagers' over-dependence on outside help.

During the discussion four principal lines of action for the promotion of participation amongst the people were stressed. They were: (i) the use of the educational process, including general education, adult education and extension education; (ii) the discovery of and full utilization of the best rural leaders, both men and women; (iii) the use of existing organizations or promotion of new ones; and (iv) the establishment of efficient means to provide communication between the people and their organizations and the government administration.

(i) Education and Extension

The Conference stressed that the educational system should be oriented towards and linked up with the basic requirements for development. While beliefs or traditions in their existing form might be barriers to progress, it was unwise to undermine them before the people were ready to acquire other beliefs or attitudes which equally satisfied social needs. Also the educator should understand local customs and prejudices before trying to change them.

The Conference emphasized the primary role that the extension services should play in improving production, home environment, health and nutrition, by teaching farmers how to do things for themselves. This involved the concept of agricultural extension as an out-of-school educational service.

The prominent role of women in agricultural production in Africa was given full recognition. Agricultural extension programs should take cognizance of this and address themselves, where appropriate, to women as producers. The need for extension education in the field of home economics and nutrition education for women was also endorsed.

(ii) Rural Leaders

The Conference agreed that greater use should be made of both voluntary and paid local leaders. Locating and developing this leadership was recognized to be a problem, although with adequate training in extension education it could be gradually overcome.

(iii) Community Organizations

There is need for groupings of the people, either informal or formal, as a means for discussion, for action on matters of common interest and to improve capacities for self-help. The appropriate forms for the group should, however, differ according to the existing social structures and the objectives in view. Several countries reported a heavy reliance upon the cooperative society as the principal organization for the provision of facilities for credit, processing, marketing or supply, and as a means of involving the participation of the people. It was emphasized that such societies must arise from and come out of the expressed needs of the people, since cooperatives imposed from above invariably failed. Other types of organizations such as women's clubs, youth groups or special farmer associations such as the rural development committees in Senegal, the farmers' committees in Rhodesia and the United Ghana Farmers' Council in Ghana, etc. were mentioned.



(iv) Government Assistance and Relations of the People with the Official Administration

The variety of aspects and problems of rural life and the close inter-relationship amongst the different elements made it necessary to adopt an integrated approach to rural betterment. An integrated attack was possible only through clearly defined responsibilities and the closest coordination of the efforts of the various government ministries and departments concerned. Relations between organizations of the people and the official administration should be such that each supported the other in a form of partnership in which the people progressively assumed greater responsibility as they gained in experience. The means by which this departmental coordination and partnership with the people was maintained varied greatly from country to country, but its basic importance could not be overlooked.

The Conference recognized that the greatest obstacle to rural development in Africa was the lack of personnel trained not only in the various technical fields but also in the techniques of "working with people". The need for continual inservice training including refresher courses in technical subject matter and extension methodology was necessary for workers at all levels to maintain efficiency and enthusiasm.

The Conference appreciated the active assistance of FAO and other agencies in the field of training in Africa given in the past, through regional development and training centres, fellowships and in-country training experts. However, in the light of the great need for extension training in the fields of agriculture, home economics, and nutrition, cooperatives and rural credit, it was strongly recommended that FAO take all possible steps to increase its activity in this field, paying particular attention to assisting governments in the establishment of permanent regional training facilities for the primary purpose of training trainers in extension education. There was also need for a comparative study of the extension methods and organizations in Africa, more frequent visits from FAO regional staff and a greater exchange of extension information among the African countries. The Conference noted with satisfaction the intention of FAO to publish "Extension in Africa" as a medium for exchange of extension information in the Region.

The Conference adopted the following Resolutions:

Resolution No. 5

Provision of Leadership

The Conference

Considering the unquestionable advantages of securing the active participation of the population in working for rural progress;

Stressing the observed lack in many African countries of leaders capable of inducing rural populations to play a willing part in carrying out work for the improvement of their living conditions, and able to educate such populations;

Noting that without leaders it would be risky to undertake the planning and execution of a working program based on the active and willing cooperation of the rural population;

Requests the Director-General to examine means whereby qualified experts in community development could be supplied to the various African countries where this lack is felt, who would:

- (a) assist the governments to train leaders who can convince rural populations of the advantages of communal work and who can follow up the implementation of work programs based on the active and willing participation of these populations,
- (b) assist the national administrative services concerned in drawing up their programs of community development and in following up the implementation of such programs.

#### Resolution No. 6

#### Training of Extension Workers

##### The Conference

##### Recognizing

- (a) that one of the greatest and most urgent needs of Africa is the application by rural peoples of the knowledge gained through research in the fields of agriculture, forestry, fisheries, nutrition and home economics,
- (b) that this can best be achieved through obtaining the active participation of the people, which involves the establishment of well-organized extension services with adequate numbers of well-trained personnel at all levels,
- (c) that one of Africa's greatest shortages is in the field of qualified extension personnel,
- (d) that before staff can be adequately trained in extension education, there must first be personnel trained in the teaching of extension;

Realizing the need for institutions within Africa to conduct training and research in extension education;

Requests the Director-General to take early action to encourage in all possible ways the establishment of, at least in one French-speaking and in one English-speaking educational institution of higher learning within Africa, special training at a post-graduate level in extension

education. The purpose of this training will be to provide for the countries of the Region a nucleus of qualified trainers of extension workers and senior personnel skilled in the educational process required to stimulate rural development.

Resolution No. 7

Rural Communities

The Conference

Recognizing that there are many rural communities in large parts of Africa where the standards of nutrition and living conditions in general can at this stage be raised only by increasing the productivity of the land and of the people, through a better planned use of both the land and of the human resources in each community;

Recommends that Member Governments in the Region:

- (a) undertake a study of such representative rural communities where measures have been taken to improve the productivity and the living conditions of the community as a whole,
- (b) determine the effect, as far as ascertainable, of such measures to increase the production and to raise the level of nutrition and the general standard of living of the people concerned;

Requests the Director-General to assist wherever possible in this work;

Further recommends that this information, when obtained, be made available to Member Governments in such a form that it could serve as a guide to those who wish to obtain the benefit of the experience gained in agricultural and community planning in different parts of Africa.

5. Conservation and Utilization of Soil, Water and Vegetation in Regional and Farm Planning

The Conference emphasized the urgent need for soil and water conservation and land use planning as a basic means for agricultural development in Africa.

There was general agreement that successful land use planning and soil conservation basically meant good farming, controlled grazing, and good forest management. Engineering works such as check-dams, drainage ways, terraces and other structures to control water run-off, were incidental measures of land improvement which in themselves rarely offered a lasting solution. Unless the management of farm land, grazing land and forest land was geared to the preservation of soil productivity and the maintenance of an effective vegetative cover, most types of engineering works for erosion

control would prove ineffective in the long run. On the other hand, the development of good farming, grazing and forest management reduced the need for costly investments in such engineering structures to a minimum. In many areas, forestry surveys and programs had to play an important role in land use planning and conservation.

In planning for better land use and conservation it was most important to keep in mind that the land users, farmers, herdsmen and forest users, depend on the land for a living, and should be helped to make a substantially better living from the land than they had done in the past. This meant in most practical cases accomplishment of soil conservation not by a more extensive land use yielding lower production, but by more intensive land use, application of fertilizers and better farming methods, yielding higher production and economic returns for the area and its people as a whole.

It also meant that land use planning and conservation programs required genuine participation of the farmers concerned. Soil conservation had to be carried out with full participation of the masses and had to result in the increase of their economic and social welfare. Some countries reported outstanding success with local farmer committees or rural community groups carrying the initiative and responsibility for conservation and land use improvement.

The Conference noted that it was often necessary for the government to pay for a part of the costs involved in implementing a conservation program. Some conservation methods temporarily reduced current income of farmers, or required expenditure which could be repaid from increased incomes only several years later, or required the transfer of some farmers from one location to another. Very effective results were reported in cases where grants or subsidies for specific conservation programs had been applied. Such government expenditures were legitimate, and in the long run profitable, as public investment in the future productive capacity of the country and its people. They should be considered of a similar nature as public investment in roads, schools and other infra-structural works.

Shifting cultivation, a type of land use widely spread throughout Africa, was causing serious concern. Various programs had been applied; some attempted to improve shifting cultivation practices; others to transform it into a permanent fixed system of cultivation. In some cases little or no progress had been made and in many others it had been slow. Much more information and experience with experimental pilot projects were needed.

Programs concerning shifting cultivation had to be closely geared not only to the physical characteristics of the area, but also to its economic and social aspects. It was often necessary to develop alternative crops, livestock, forage and forest management systems yielding higher returns to the farmers than did shifting cultivation. However, this took time. Hence, it was felt to be advisable not to implement a program unless adequate financial and local administrative provision had been made to safeguard the welfare of the people.

Systematic planning for better land use and conservation required soil and water resources and ecological surveys, with priority for selected areas where problems were acute. The use of aerial photographs saved much time and increased the accuracy of such surveys. The soil and water surveys should be complemented by studies on agronomy, farm development and management, on the basis of which a sound land use and conservation program could be worked out and implemented. To ensure success, realistic estimates of the economic aspects of cost and returns should be made, as well as adequate provision for administrative and technical services, including roads, marketing facilities and other essential public services. Relatively small pilot and demonstration projects would in most cases prove preferable to large-scale projects, since there was still a lot to be learned in this field under the widely varying physical and social conditions in Africa. Reference was made to various settlement schemes which were serving successfully as spearhead projects in land use planning, conservation and better water use and farming methods. Such pilot and demonstration projects could be established as action projects under the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign, since they would greatly improve food production and the nutrition of the people. They also should be fitted into community development programs wherever possible.

It was recommended that FAO should assist the countries in the Region in the implementation and intensification of their research, education and pilot demonstration programs in land use planning and soil and water conservation, through making available to African countries experience and information from areas with similar problems in other parts of the world, and by arranging for exchange of data, experience and results among the countries of the Region, through regional studies, technical meetings, and other appropriate means. Since several countries and organizations, such as the Commission for Technical Assistance in Africa South of the Sahara (CCTA) had gathered considerable scientific information concerning some of the important problems of land use planning and conservation, FAO and these countries and organizations were urged to cooperate closely in carrying on such work.

The Conference adopted the following Resolution:

#### Resolution No.8

#### The Conservation and Utilization of Soil, Water and Vegetation in Regional and Farm Planning

##### The Conference

Noting the fundamental importance of the problem of water as the determining factor in intensifying agricultural production, particularly in arid and semi-arid zones;

Considering efforts which have already been made in the domain of surveying water resources and run-off control, as well as the magnitude and difficulty of this task;

Recognizing that it is of primary importance to secure with the least possible delay a precise and complete survey of this problem,

Recommends to the Director-General, in cooperation with other interested organizations and especially CCTA, to intensify action in the field of water resources, particularly as regards the survey of surface and underground water which can be used for agricultural, human or pastoral purposes;

Invites Member Governments to pool the experience they have acquired in this field so that their programs may be better coordinated.

## 6. Improvement of Marketing Arrangements

### External Marketing of Agricultural Commodities

The Conference noted the overwhelming importance of agricultural crops in the export trade of most countries of the African Region. In connection with external marketing, special emphasis was placed on the unfavourable trend in the terms of trade for raw material exports compared to prices of manufactured imports, and to the uncertainty and variability of international market prices. The Conference drew attention to the possible effect of organized commodity exchanges in increasing rather than decreasing the fluctuations in such commodity prices.

The current commodity information services of FAO were of importance to the countries of this Region since most of them had not yet been able to develop adequate information services of their own. Furthermore, basic studies on long-term trends in individual commodities, and in inter-commodity relations, were of the greatest importance for planning purposes, particularly to countries exporting mainly tree crops, which required four to eight years from the time of planting until they came into full production and which had a productive life of twenty to thirty years or more.

Appreciation was expressed for the economic information, commodity outlook statements, and long-term projections prepared by FAO, especially the recent studies on cocoa and coffee trends. Increase and improvement in this work was recommended, especially in ensuring prompt dissemination of production and other commodity news to producer countries.

The Conference recognized the value of the work being done by the Committee on Commodity Problems and its commodity sub-groups toward developing better international understanding of commodity situations and prospects, especially through the groups on cocoa, citrus and coconuts, which were of especial interest to African countries. FAO's assistance to specialized international commodity bodies, such as the International Sugar and Wheat Councils, and the Coffee Group was also recognized. It was suggested that FAO continue and intensify its activities in these fields, and do its utmost to try to develop more effective steps and measures for the stabilization of international commodity prices.

Attention was called to the unfavourable effects of the United States Public Law 480 disposals upon the demand and prices of some commodities exported by African countries, notably tobacco. Hope was expressed that

the UN General Assembly Resolution proposing that FAO take more responsibility in planning and arranging the distribution of surplus commodities would result in less displacement of normal commercial exports by surplus disposal, which was contrary to the FAO "Principles of Surplus Disposal".

Improvement of Marketing Methods, Processing and Storage of Basic Food Crops, Livestock and Fisheries Products

The need for improved marketing and distribution methods and facilities, with respect to domestic markets, was stressed. One of the major incentives to accomplish the change-over from a subsistence or near-subsistence to a cash economy was the establishment of improved and adequate marketing and distribution facilities, methods and organization, which would persuade the producer to increase the quantity and quality of his output and raise his income and standard of living. At present inadequate storage, processing and transport facilities, together with poor marketing organization and inadequate information on prices and supplies, were the main causes of irregularity and temporary shortages in supplies to consuming centres. Marketing improvement should proceed along a wide front, from creating greater efficiency at the producer level to the establishment of new and modern distribution facilities in consuming centres and the introduction of market news and information services as well as suitable grades and standards.

Governments had an important role to play in initiating marketing improvement and the training of specialized personnel. The lack of trained specialists and marketing administrators was felt everywhere. The holding of technical meetings and training centres, particularly in the marketing of domestic food crops, would therefore be of great help to countries in the Region. The Conference expressed its appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Chad for acting as host for the forthcoming FAO/BCA Seminar on Livestock and Meat Marketing. There was a general consensus of opinion that in order to implement marketing improvement programs in the Region, specialized technical advice and assistance on a regional basis would be necessary.

The Conference adopted the following Resolutions:

Resolution No. 9

External Marketing of Agricultural Commodities

The Conference

Considering

- (a) the crucial dependence of the countries of the African Region on income from the export of a small number of agricultural commodities which have been subject to frequent and very sharp price fluctuations,

- (b) the importance of long-term planning, since a very large proportion of the Region's exports consists of tree crops which require five years or more before coming into production;

Noting

- (a) the great value of reliable and up-to-date information on commodity situation and outlook supplied by FAO,
- (b) the importance of basic studies on long-term trends in production, trade and prices of individual commodities and of inter-commodity relationships;

Recommends that the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems and the Commodity Study Groups should continue their study of problems of price stabilization;

Requests the Director-General, to the maximum extent permitted by his financial resources:

- (a) to continue his efforts to expand FAO's commodity research and reporting services, both current and long-term trends, and disseminate information on the supply-demand situation and outlook so as to reduce speculative movements,
- (b) to carry out studies on the problems of price stabilization, including the price effects of the operations of international commodity exchanges,
- (c) to carry out a study of the factors which impede trade in agricultural products among the countries of the African Region, and possible ways to overcome these difficulties so as to maximize intra-regional trade.

Resolution No. 10

Improvement of Marketing Methods, Processing and Storage of Basic Food Crops, Livestock and Fisheries Products

The Conference

Recognizing the crucial importance of marketing efficiency in increasing the incomes of producers and in making available increased supplies of better quality food including milk;

Considering the urgent need in many countries in the African Region for the improvement of marketing facilities;

Recommends that Governments, public and other institutions, organizations and enterprises give special attention to the establishment of such basic facilities as storage, preservation, processing and transport, required to satisfy the rapidly increasing needs of internal consumption markets in the Region;



Recommends the Director-General:

- (a) by the provision of a regional marketing specialist to assist countries in the Region in initiating the urgently required improvements in marketing techniques, methods and efficiency,
- (b) to convene a regional governmental and technical meeting on the domestic marketing of food crops.

7. The Place of Fisheries in Africa

The Conference emphasised the importance of the fishery resource in the Region, not only as it was being exploited but also as to how it might be developed and made even more productive. It noted that the total recorded fish production of Africa had increased from 380 thousand metric tons in 1938 to 1,520 thousand tons in 1953 and to 1,800 thousand tons in 1958. This was largely due to the increased production of fish meal in the southern area, the Union of South Africa, South West Africa and, to a smaller extent, in Angola. Some increase in the production of canned fish had also occurred in Morocco. But these increases were not reflected in African consumption since most produce was exported. However, other parts of Africa reported increased landings which found their way into domestic consumption. While this had the effect of raising the earnings of the fishermen engaged, the increased production was so small as to leave the nutrition problem of Africa almost unaffected.

The Conference considered that the large lakes, rivers and artificially impounded waters such as the Kariba reservoir and others created great possibilities for a very large potential fish production but much ecological investigation, study of technological, socio-economic and marketing factors would be necessary before this could be achieved.

The possibility of modern marine fisheries development varied throughout the continent. The continental shelf was in general narrow, which complicated the problem of development of modern fisheries since the trawler fisheries on this shelf would compete with the canoe fishery. However, employment of modern mid-water trawls for pelagic fisheries showed great promise, although they depended on the existence of suitable fish harbours. Such harbours were already under construction in some countries.

Steps were also being taken to modernize traditional methods of fishing, through equipping the canoe fishery with outboard motors and with modern synthetic gear. This had already greatly increased yields.

The importance of fish culture and the introduction of improved methods to inland areas was recognized as was also the fact that this development very largely depended on educational and extension methods. It was quite evident, therefore, that grounds must be laid for the creation of a far more extensive practical educational service, and that some time would have to elapse before these services could result in intensive farming and husbanding of fish.

In connection with the development of fish ponds and river fisheries in certain northern areas the incidence of Bilhartzia on the one hand and "river blindness" on the other prevented fish production. The lack of communications and of storage facilities greatly limited the possibilities of both the development of inland and marine fisheries, and inadequate methods of transportation limited the possibilities of satisfying the demand which already existed. The need for reforming the marketing system itself was obvious.

The Conference recognized the need for increased assistance to develop fisheries in the Region and welcomed the Director-General's statement that endeavours would be made to procure more aid through the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign and other sources.

The Conference, in considering Resolution No. 24/59 of the Tenth Session of the FAO Conference in which the Director-General was requested to explore the possibility of establishing a body in the western part of Africa to serve that area in a manner similar to that in which the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council and the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean serve their areas, noted that apart from purely scientific communications which were satisfactorily looked after by CCTA, there was a need for consideration and consultation with respect to other factors in fisheries development such as the economic and the socio-economic phases of the industry. Should such a consultative body be established by FAO, care should be taken to ensure a close relation with CCTA to avoid duplication of activities.

As a first step towards the formation of such a permanent consultative body, a meeting of government officials and fisheries workers should be held some time before the FAO Council meets in 1961. The Council could then thoroughly explore the matter of establishing a West African Fisheries Commission and discuss its constitution, as well as its terms of reference.

The Conference adopted the following Resolution:

Resolution No. 11

The Place of Fisheries in the Development of Africa

The Conference

Considering the role fisheries can play in improving human diets and in generating income through export of supplies in excess of local requirements in the countries of the African Region;

Considering further the interest of Governments in the Region in the development of fisheries;

Noting that, while trends in production and trade of fish and fishery products are not necessarily the same in all parts of the Region, many problems in connection with fishery development are, nevertheless, common for several clearly distinguishable sub-areas;

Conscious of the benefits that would arise from cooperation in planning and carrying out fishery development activities on a regional or sub-regional basis;

Noting further the resolutions proposing the establishment of regional fisheries bodies adopted by the Tenth Session of the FAO Conference (Resolution No. 24/59) and the Economic Commission for Africa, Second Session (Resolution No. 14 (II));

Recommends that the Director-General, in consultation with CCTA, invite the government officials responsible for fisheries in the countries of Africa, to attend a meeting to consider the structure and form which the proposed regional fishery body (or bodies) should take in order to meet specific sub-regional needs and to prevent overlapping and duplication of effort.

## C. REVIEW OF SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES OF FAO IN THE REGION

### 1. Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign

The aim of the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign was to arouse an informed public opinion throughout the world so that the peoples of all countries would support individual and government action to make more rapid progress in solving problems of hunger and malnutrition.

The campaign was conceived because of concern over the slowness with which, in many parts of the world, the Organization's aims of enabling people to have enough of the right foods and of raising the standard of living of farmers, were being achieved.

In support of the campaign, it was pointed out that there was no doubt but that a large part of the world was malnourished or poorly-fed. This was much more apparent in the less-developed countries than in the more advanced industrialized countries. Some 60 percent of the world's population consumed less than 2,200 calories per day, while in more developed countries the usual intake was about 2,700 to 2,800 calories. The situation was much worse, however, when the balance of the diet and the intake of protective foods and proteins were considered. About 60 percent of the world's population were consuming less than 15 grams of animal protein daily, which was an extremely low level, less than one-half of the intake in most industrialized countries.

In Africa nutritional deficiencies reduced life expectancy to one-half of that in more developed countries, and caused an infant mortality rate five to ten times as high. It also reduced the productive ability of the people.

The campaign consisted of three main sectors: information and education, research, and action. The first included activities to collect, disseminate and discuss widely, basic facts on the causes and possible cures of malnutrition and low levels of living; the second included research into the key problems of applying scientific knowledge and methods to improve production and nutrition; and the third included specific action projects, throughout the five-year period of the campaign, to speed progress in the solution of food problems. The campaign was to culminate in national food congresses and in a World Food Congress in 1963.

Substantial funds had already been contributed to the FAO Campaign Trust Fund, and some action projects were already under way. The world's fertilizer industries had inaugurated a \$ 2 million program of extension, training, and demonstrations in the proper use of fertilizers, as a contribution to the campaign. A manufacturer was contributing \$ 1 million worth of outboard motors for fishing boats. Some Governments had already pledged support and it was hoped that others as well as foundations would also announce contributions.

Governments of the African Region could assist the campaign by establishing National Campaign Committees to arrange for pursuing an educational campaign, disseminating information, and stimulating discussion to arouse public awareness and support, and by planning additional action projects to speed agricultural and general economic development.

Although the emphasis of the campaign was on food and agriculture, it was recognized that the latter was the key sector in all economic development, and that the ultimate goal was to achieve more of the right kind of food for everyone, and an increase in general prosperity, especially in less-developed countries.

The Conference gave enthusiastic support to the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign, and a number of delegates reported that their governments were firmly behind the objectives of the campaign and had pledged to do all possible to make it effective.

The Conference adopted the following Resolutions:

#### Resolution No. 12

#### Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign

##### The Conference

Noting the extent of under-nourishment and malnutrition that still exists in the world today and the possible aggravation of the situation by rapid population growth, especially in developing countries;

Remembering that the Tenth Session of the FAO Conference, through Resolution 13/59, with the unanimous support of all Member Governments, authorized the world Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign under the leadership and general coordination of FAO;

Considering that in the African Region the rate of expansion of agricultural production in recent years has generally lagged behind the rate of growth of the population, and still further behind their needs for an adequate diet; and that the campaign therefore calls for especial attention and support;

Recommends

- (a) that Member Governments in the African Region which have not yet done so, establish national Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign Committees to plan and support action at the national level,
- (b) that Governments in the Region formulate national programs with respect to (i) information and educational activities in cooperation with citizens' groups; (ii) research activities, in cooperation with philanthropic foundations and with other countries facing similar problems, to stimulate the solution of key technical problems important for their development, and (iii) action projects within their own countries. These should be additional projects of high priority selected to meet specific critical needs to speed their development. Where the projects selected cannot be carried into effect from domestic resources, the problem creating the difficulty should be brought to the attention of the Director-General, so that he could determine whether international assistance could be provided to help carry them into effect, either from the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign Trust Fund, or from individual non-governmental organizations (such as religious organizations) prepared to finance selected key projects for individual countries;
- (c) that each Member Government in the Region translate the name of the campaign into an adequate idiomatic equivalent in its own language or languages, and use this or these as a motto on all appropriate correspondence concerning the campaign.
- (d) that the Governments of the countries in the Region authorize the issuance of special postage stamps referring to the campaign, in cooperation with the International Postal Union.

Resolution No. 13

The Use of Fertilizers in the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign

The Conference

Considering the important role fertilizers will have to play in raising agricultural production and living standards in the African countries;

Considering the proposals of FAO for a world-wide Fertilizer Program to be supported with funds under the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign, contributed by the fertilizer industries all over the world;

Recognizing that fertilizers have their greatest efficiency and effectiveness when used in support of and in combination with other improved crop and farm management practices;

Recognizing that economic and social factors can often be great obstacles to increased fertilizer use;

Recommends that the Director-General consider the establishment, in cooperation with CCTA, of an African Fertilizer Working Party which would:

- (a) study on a regional basis the technical and economic problems of soil fertility work in relation to other necessary improved practices,
- (b) study the means to be used for removal of economic and social obstacles to fertilizer use, including the possibility of establishing fertilizer factories at strategic centres in the Region;

Further recommends the formation of national fertilizer advisory groups under the aegis of the National Committees of the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign, and that such groups study the need for action programs in the fertilizer field, make recommendations to their governments and assist in carrying out national activities planned in cooperation with FAO assistance from funds under the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign.

## 2. World Seed Campaign

The Conference showed great interest in the FAO World Seed Campaign, launched by the Ninth Session of the Conference in 1957, and which should reach its climax in 1961 which has been designated as the "World Seed Year". The Conference was also gratified to note the strong support the campaign was receiving from Governments and different organizations.

Programs undertaken in various countries for the fulfilment of the objectives of the campaign were described and information was supplied on further developments planned for the "World Seed Year". Emphasis was placed on the important role of research institutions in providing improved agricultural seed, particularly through plant selection and breeding. Reference was made to the close association between the World Seed Campaign and the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign.

The value of exploration for new germ plasm of crop plants was recognized and also of organizing living collections, to assure the availability of necessary genetic stock for the work of the plant breeders.

The Conference also acknowledged the interdependence of the different factors of agricultural production, as exemplified by the ineffectiveness of the soil cultivation and fertilization practices if the seed planted did not possess the necessary vitality or the required genetic characteristics. On the other hand improved seed alone would not produce satisfactory results if all the other production requirements such as proper soil management and disease control etc., were not adequately met.

As there was a need for a proper balance of the different production factors for efficient crop husbandry, it was also essential to have a harmonic coordination of services and activities such as those of plant breeding, seed propagation and distribution, agricultural extension and training, in order that the proper kind and volume of seed would reach the farmer and be used by him for improved crop production.

### 3. Development of Agricultural Statistics in Africa

The Conference recognized the fundamental importance of collecting reliable basic agricultural statistics for formulating agricultural development plans aimed at providing better nutritional standards to the growing population of the Region. In a number of countries the available agricultural statistics referred only to external trade and to principal cash crops. The need to collect statistics on production of food crops was therefore particularly emphasized.

In reviewing the various activities of FAO for improving agricultural statistics in Africa, particularly in the field of methodology, the Conference mentioned especially the work being carried out in this respect for forecasting cocoa production in West Africa. There was also considerable interest in the increasing use of sampling techniques in censuses and surveys. In this connection many countries in Africa were planning to organize agricultural censuses on a sampling basis. The utility of supplementing these by detailed surveys at the farm level was also mentioned.

Lack of trained personnel for planning and conducting statistical surveys was one of the most important problems facing countries in Africa. The need for training intermediate level field supervisory personnel was recognized. The value of regional training centres and seminars conducted by FAO was appreciated and the plans for the organization of a regional seminar on "Analysis, Evaluation and Uses of Agricultural Census Results" in Nairobi in March 1961 were welcomed.

In view of the predominance of agriculture in the economy of most African countries, high priority was likely to be given to the development of agricultural statistics in the formulation of long-term statistical development plans as recommended by the Economic Commission for Africa.

The importance of using modern statistical techniques in designing and planning agricultural experiments and in the interpretation of results was appreciated and the need of associating a biometrician in this work was also recognized.

The Conference adopted the following Resolution:

Resolution No. 14

The Development of Agricultural Statistics

The Conference

Viewing with concern the fact that in most cases basic agricultural statistics required for better formulation of agricultural development plans and agricultural policies are lacking;

Recognizing that shortage of trained personnel and lack of suitable methodology for collecting statistics under conditions of agriculture peculiar to Africa such as shifting cultivation, continuous and partial harvesting, nomadic livestock keeping, etc., are mainly responsible for this unsatisfactory situation;

Realizing that such statistical methodology can be developed only on the basis of experience and research carried out in Africa;

Recommends that the Director-General, in cooperation with ECA, provide assistance in the planning and execution of appropriate pilot agricultural sample surveys in selected countries with a view to suggesting the most appropriate statistical methodology which can be adopted by the various countries in the Region;

Invites the Director-General to assist Member Governments in the Region, wherever possible, in the training of their staff to carry out statistical surveys.

4. Promotion of Food Consumption Surveys

The Conference emphasized the importance of obtaining accurate statistical information on the quality and quantity of food consumed by various sections of the population within each country. Increasing urbanization, leading to a change in the food consumption habits of former rural populations, gave further impetus to this task of forecasting the likely future consumption of the rapidly increasing and changing population of Africa.

There was a wide range of differences in the per caput food consumption among various sections of the population and among different regions of even a small country, and a danger of over-generalization based on results of surveys carried out in restricted areas or covering small sections of the population or for short periods of time.

The Conference recalled Resolution 34/59 adopted by the Tenth Session of the FAO Conference urging countries to make further efforts to organize comprehensive surveys of food consumption of different sections of their population. It also noted with appreciation the various



steps being undertaken by FAO for assisting countries in this respect, e.g. preparation of a draft program of food consumption surveys, a manual on appropriate statistical methodology for this purpose, etc. Considerable importance was attached to the need of organizing regional training centres for the benefit of food consumption survey personnel.

The possibility of obtaining information on the available food supply for human consumption through the approach of food balance-sheets was also mentioned. In this connection, however, the Conference noted that the data obtained from this approach and from food consumption surveys did not relate to the same thing and were therefore not interchangeable or directly comparable.

The Conference stressed the necessity of associating both statisticians and nutritionists in the planning and execution of food consumption surveys and in the analysis and interpretation of results.

#### 5. Desert Locust Control

The Conference was aware of the intensity of the Desert Locust plague and of the magnitude of the ravages it inflicted on agricultural and pastoral areas of Northern and Eastern Africa as well as of South-Western Asia.

Delegates were informed of the activities of the FAO Technical Advisory Committee on Desert Locust Control and the UN Special Fund project to establish a mechanism for a more fundamental and global approach to the locust problem.

The Conference took note of the agreement on the Plan of Operations and Budget for this project reached in a special meeting of the participating Governments, held in Rome in April 1960. It was also informed of steps already taken towards its implementation and of the activities planned for the immediate future in the four fields of action of the project, namely: ecological surveys, basic research, training, and operational research.

The Conference expressed its great interest in the project which represented an impressive example of the possibilities of inter-governmental cooperation for the solution of important problems of regional and international significance. The migratory and gregarious nature of the Desert Locust and the existence of many breeding places in areas often remote from the regions suffering the devastation caused by the plague, required that the problem be tackled by programs of action undertaken on a global scale, independent of geographic limitations or national boundaries.

Some delegates expressed the view that although past invasions of locust swarms in their countries had not caused serious damage, the plague represented a potential danger to areas not sufficiently removed from centres of breeding.

Even those countries which were not normally subject to the effects of the Desert Locust showed interest in the project in the hope that research and surveys carried out under the project might contribute to a better knowledge of the biology and possibilities of control of allied species attacking agricultural areas in their own territories.

The value of the contribution of other international organizations cooperating with FAO in the implementation of the project was generally appreciated, but it was emphasized that the ultimate success of the project would have to rely heavily on the action to be taken by individual Governments through their research centres, field stations and control campaigns. In this respect, the important work which had already been done towards the study and control of the Desert Locust by national and international organizations, particularly in North Africa, was acknowledged and the hope was also expressed that such work would continue in the future with at least the same intensity.

The Conference adopted the following Resolution:

Resolution No. 15

Locust Control

The Conference

Recognizing that wide-scale action is necessary to control the Desert Locust plague in affected areas in Africa;

Realizing that, owing to the vastness of the area subject to locust attack, the full collaboration and united resources of all interested countries are required;

Noting with satisfaction the launching of the UN Special Fund project for locust control

Recommends that the Governments concerned should maintain and strengthen existing regional organizations and stimulate cooperation with other Governments in the Region;

Requests the Director-General, in implementing the inter-regional locust control project, to seek the collaboration of such organizations and, if possible, give them support.

6. Agricultural Information Services

The Conference recognized the importance of agricultural information services, both in supporting the work of the agricultural extension services and in creating official and public awareness of the importance of agriculture within the general economic framework. It was difficult to make a clear demarcation line between agricultural information and extension, since both leaned on one another and were to a greater or lesser extent interdependent.

An effective information service required skilled staff of professional stature. Several countries had embarked on training programs to build up cadres of trained personnel capable of working through the various media of communication and some had training facilities which could accept candidates from other African countries.

The Conference also recognized the important informational role of FAO publications, which could be adapted to a variety of national uses. While FAO could not attempt to reach directly the masses of the public, it provided prototype material from which national information services could devise appropriate information matter. There was need, however, for FAO assistance in enabling Member Countries to compare their knowledge and experience in this field, and the Conference noted with appreciation that an FAO Information Adviser would soon be stationed at the Regional Office at Accra.

The Conference stressed the importance of rural broadcasting as a means of reaching large masses of the people and remote areas of their countries. The growth of television offered expanding opportunities for increasing public awareness of agricultural problems and methods. Several countries had established mobile film-projection units for use in rural areas, and FAO could assist these programs by providing regular listings of available agricultural films. Some countries were producing their own teaching films.

Posters, photographs, exhibits, images, slides and film strips had been successful in national information/extension programs, and had been used in schools as well as in farming areas. In areas served by newspapers and magazines, these media should be fully exploited.

The Conference invited Member Governments to seek assistance from FAO and other United Nations and bilateral agencies for fellowships and training of personnel for the development of more effective information services in their countries.

## 7. Policy Implications of Reports of Meetings

### (i) FAO/CCTA Agricultural Extension Development Centre for West Africa

In discussing policy questions arising out of the Agricultural Extension Development Centre for West Africa held in Ibadan, Nigeria, 7-17 July 1959, the Conference, which had already stressed the fundamental importance of establishing effective extension organizations for rural development, fully endorsed the recommendations made by the Centre.

### (ii) CCTA/FAO Meeting on Weaver Birds

The Conference noted the report of the Symposium on Weaver Birds (Quelea) held at Bamako, Mali Republic, 17-21 May 1960 and stressed the need for cooperative action by all Governments concerned in their control and, in particular, for coordination of the work of neighbouring states.

There was agreement on the need for speedy exchange of information between workers at technical and policy levels. However, the correct channels should be followed to ensure immediate attention by the appropriate person concerned.

The great losses caused by the Quelea Birds despite present control measures warrant an expansion of research in all its aspects in order to improve control measures; in particular, research on habits and distribution of the birds would be of great value.

The Conference endorsed the recommendation of the CCTA/FAO Symposium requesting international assistance to facilitate exchange of information, the fostering of research and control measures on a regional basis.

(iii) FAO/ECA Development Centre on Land Policy for East and Central Africa

The Conference, while endorsing the summary of conclusions of the FAO/ECA Development Centre on Land Policy for East and Central Africa held at Fort Portal, Uganda, October 1960, suggested that it would be of great value to Member Governments in West Africa if similar development centres could be held for the savanna, arid and semi-arid zones.

(iv) First FAO/CCTA International Meeting on Banana Production

The Conference noted the report of the First FAO/CCTA International Meeting on Banana Production, held in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, 12-19 October 1960, which contained a number of important recommendations of a technical nature.

(v) First FAO Technical Meeting on Coffee Production and Protection

The Conference noted the summary report of this meeting which had been convened with the purpose of discussing the technical problems of coffee production, protection and processing, and had been held in Abidjan from 21 to 29 October 1960. The Conference endorsed the recommendations contained in the report in particular the request that the Director-General take appropriate steps for the establishment of an FAO Technical Working Party on Coffee Production.

(vi) First Session African Forestry Commission

The Conference considered the summary report of the First Session of the African Forestry Commission which met at Ibadan, Nigeria, 31 October - 7 November 1960. The report was presented by its Chairman, Mr. Olu Akpata, Chief Conservator of Forests, Western Region, Nigeria. The Conference was glad to note that the Director-General had been able to convene this meeting so soon after the 1959 FAO Conference had recommended the establishment of the Commission.

The Conference noted the paradox that while the African Region possessed one of the largest reserves of timber of the world and although there was a valuable export trade, the Region as a whole imported very much more wood and wood products than it exported, and this gap would undoubtedly widen unless immediate and far-reaching steps were taken. An increase in forestry production was necessary not only to improve the foreign exchange situation but also to meet the rising needs of the people for wood and wood products. The Conference endorsed the Commission's view that it was essential for each country to make sure that its forest policy was in line with changing economic requirements, to define its forest policy and to lay down plans for implementing it. FAO was asked to advise on this matter.

The Conference welcomed the joint FAO/ECA study on wood resources and requirements. Emphasis was also laid on the importance for every country of establishing forest services with fully trained staff at all levels, provided with the necessary funds to cover a long-term period and not limited by annual budgeting procedures. A comprehensive research program for the Region as a whole was also necessary. The Conference drew attention to the fact that help might be obtained from the UN Special Fund in the field of education and research. Furthermore, a drive for mass education was necessary to ensure having an understanding and cooperative public opinion for forestry.

The Conference noted that the Commission had set up two working parties to deal with subjects to which it attached special importance. The first was to be concerned with the improvement of the savanna area, particularly by the creation of forest plantations. The second working party was to consider the whole question of wild animals and their habitat, and in particular to draft a convention for Africa based on the concept of the conservation of wild life through controlled use. The Conference expressed its thanks to the Nigerian Government for the excellent arrangements made for the session of the Forestry Commission. In view of the importance of forestry for the whole agricultural, economic and social development of the Region, the Conference expressed the hope that Member Governments and the Director-General would do everything possible to help the Commission to carry out the very practical program of work which it had drawn up.

#### D. THE FUTURE ORIENTATION OF FAO'S WORK IN THE REGION

Most of the recommendations of the Conference regarding the future orientation of FAO's work in the African Region are embodied in the preceding chapters of this report.

In a final statement the Director-General summarized the main points in the interventions made by the various delegates. These focussed attention on the most pressing needs of the Region in order to develop agriculture, fisheries and forestry and to improve nutritional levels. The Director-General also gave his views as to how FAO's work would be developed towards assisting the countries in their endeavours. The text of the Director-General's statement is attached to this report as Annex IV.

In further discussing FAO's future work the Conference mentioned that the Organization had already done valuable work in the Region, notwithstanding its restricted budgetary resources. However, in view of the need for urgent action to ensure a rapid improvement in the often unsatisfactory situation of African agriculture, particularly in the newly independent countries, the Director-General in his Program of Work for 1962/63 should endeavour to provide increased allocations for the African Regional Office so as to give it sufficient technical personnel to provide the essential services to the Region. In view of the many French-speaking nations in Africa the Conference also requested that in strengthening the FAO Regional Office for Africa the Director-General should continue to pay due attention to assigning personnel proficient in French as well as in English.

The Conference was gratified to note that increased allocations had been made available under the Expanded Technical Assistance Program for countries in the African Region. Nevertheless, the Conference urged the Director-General to draw the attention of all FAO Member Governments to the inadequacy of FAO funds for meeting requests of assistance from countries in the African Region and to the gross shortage of technicians required for work in Africa.

The Conference recommended that countries when requesting the services of experts under ETAP and other programs should at the same time ensure the availability of suitable counterpart personnel. In this connection the Director-General was requested to ensure that in each country to which such an expert is assigned, the Government give priority to the training of local counterpart personnel so that the development projects for which the expert was requested could continue to be adequately pursued by local personnel after his departure.

During the discussions on the various items of its agenda the Conference repeatedly stressed the importance of timely dissemination of technical and economic information.

The Conference therefore adopted the following Resolution:

#### Resolution No. 16

##### Technical and Economic Information

##### The Conference

Realizing the lack of adequate information in Africa on research and other activities in similar regions;

Noting that as a consequence of this lack, funds are likely to be spent unnecessarily and errors needlessly repeated;

Requests the Director-General to take into account in preparing his future documentation program the need for monographs or bulletins reporting technical and economic information regarding work accomplished in progress or projected in agriculture, fisheries, forestry and nutrition.

The Conference also stressed once again the importance of grain production in arid and semi-arid zones of the African continent south of the Sahara belt. It therefore adopted the following Resolution:

Resolution No. 17

The Improvement of Millet and Sorghum Production

The Conference

Recognizing that efficient action depends upon cooperation in solving common problems;

Noting the results obtained by the International Rice Commission;

Requests the Director-General to consider holding regional meetings for countries with a similar ecology and similar problems and particularly that a regional meeting be held for the Sahelian (arid) and sub-Sahelian (semi-arid zones) at which questions of improvement of millet and sorghum production would be mainly dealt with, and that this meeting should include working parties composed of cereals breeding and fertilizer specialists,

Further requests that FAO, in collaboration with CCTA, should consider publishing a catalogue of genetic strains of millet and sorghum.

During the Conference discussions the need to make effective use of trained personnel, particularly for research, was stressed and as a consequence the following Resolution was adopted:

Resolution No. 18

Research Institutes, Stations and Laboratories

The Conference

Realizing the importance of the part that could be played by research institutes, stations and laboratories working in Africa in the various fields of nutrition and agriculture (using the term agriculture in its broadest sense, including fisheries, forestry etc.);

Conscious of the need to avoid dispersion of efforts through duplication of work which might otherwise be performed more effectively and at less cost through better liaison and closer international cooperation;

Convinced moreover that some concentration of resources, apart from the fact that it would increase efficiency, might release funds, personnel, equipment and facilities for additional tasks which otherwise could not have been undertaken;

Considering the magnitude of the work to be accomplished and in order to make the best possible use of the activities of those various institutes;

Recommends that Member Governments provide the Director-General with as detailed information as possible on their research institutes, stations and laboratories which might assist other countries by providing facilities for research workers and trainees and by making available equipment, supplies or other services;

Invites the Director-General, in cooperation with CCTA, to make the above information available to Member Countries in the Region;

Recommends to the various countries of the Region to take advantage of these facilities and, where feasible, to give their cooperation and support to these institutes;

Further recommends to the Director-General to assist Member Governments, when they so request, by providing research experts to initiate and help carry out research programs until such time as these duties can be taken over by adequately trained local staff. Such staff will become available if research training institutes are established in this Region by FAO, in collaboration with CCTA.



SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE

(a) Resolutions recommending action by Governments

Transition from Subsistence to Commercial Agriculture (Res. No. 2)

- to carry out individual surveys to assess their needs for external assistance in the improvement of agriculture.

pp. 11-12

Nutritional Problems (Res. No. 3)

- to develop programs for speedy eradication of nutritional deficiencies
- to pay immediate attention to nutrition education at all levels

pp. 14-15

Rural Communities (Res. No. 7)

- to undertake study of representative rural communities where community development has been successful and determine effects of specific measures taken in this respect

p. 21

Conservation and Utilization of Soil, Water and Vegetation in Regional and Farm Planning (Res. No. 8)

- to pool experience in field of survey of water resources so that programs may be better coordinated

pp. 23-24

Improvement of Marketing Methods, Processing and Storage of Basic Food Crops, Livestock and Fisheries Products (Res. No. 10)

- to give special attention to establishment of basic marketing facilities

pp. 26-27

Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign (Res. No. 12)

- to establish national Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign Committees
- to formulate national programs with respect to information and educational activities, research and action projects
- to translate the name of the campaign into idiomatic equivalent in own language
- to authorize issuance of special stamps referring to the campaign

pp. 30-31

Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign (Res. No. 13)

- to form national fertilizer advisory groups under the national Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign Committees to study need for action programs in fertilizer field

pp. 31-32

Locust Control (Res. No. 15)

- to maintain and strengthen existing regional organizations and stimulate cooperation with other governments of the Region in the field of locust control

p. 36

Research Institutes, Stations and Laboratories (Res. No. 18)

- to provide the Director-General with information on research institutes, stations and laboratories able to provide research and training facilities for trainees from other countries
- to take advantage of the facilities available in Africa and give their cooperation and support to such institutes

pp. 41-42

(b) Resolutions recommending action by the Director-General

Agricultural Programming and Planning (Res. No. 1)

- in cooperation with ECA to conduct a seminar on methods of agricultural development programming
- to prepare a Plan Framework for Agricultural Development in Africa
- to initiate studies in individual countries on the lines of the Mediterranean Development Project

pp. 9-10

Transition from Subsistence to Commercial Agriculture (Res. No. 2)

- to prepare and assist in implementation of plan to bring about material improvement of agriculture over next 5-10 years
- to arrange for Member Governments to report progress on steps taken to improve agriculture and on change-over from subsistence to cash agriculture

pp. 11-12

Nutritional Problems (Res. No. 3)

- to provide assistance for developing nutritional requirements standards; for planning and execution of food consumption surveys; for long-term investigations into food and nutrition problems
- to provide guidance on the setting up of Nutrition Councils
- in cooperation with WHO to advise on an index for measuring progress on national programs of eradication of nutritional deficiencies.

pp. 14-15

Technical Aspects of Diversification of Agriculture (Res. No. 4)

- to assemble and distribute, in cooperation with other international agencies, information on the ecology of African countries and countries with similar climatic conditions outside Africa
- to assist in carrying out of ecological surveys

pp. 16-17

Provision of Leadership (Res. No. 5)

- to assist Governments to train leaders
- to assist national administrative services in drawing up programs of community development and their implementation

pp. 19-20

- Training of Extension Workers (Res. No.6)  
- to encourage the establishment of special training at post-graduate level in extension education pp. 20-21
- Rural Communities (Res. No. 7)  
- to assist in obtaining information on successful cases of community development and to make available such information to other Member Governments p. 21
- Conservation and Utilization of Soil, Water and Vegetation in Regional and Farm Planning (Res. No.8)  
- in cooperation with other agencies, particularly CCTA, to intensify action in field of water resources, particularly surveys pp. 23-24
- External Marketing of Agricultural Commodities (Res.No. 9)  
- to expand FAO's commodity research and reporting services  
- to carry out studies on problems of price stabilization and of factors which impede intra-regional trade in agricultural products in Africa pp. 25-26
- Improvement of Marketing Methods, Processing and Storage of Basic Food Crops, Livestock and Fisheries Products (Res. No. 10)  
- to assist countries in the Region by provision of a marketing specialist  
- to convene a regional meeting on domestic marketing of food crops pp. 26-27
- Place of Fisheries in the Development of Africa (Res. No. 11)  
- in consultation with CCTA, to convene a meeting to consider the structure and form of the proposed regional fisheries body pp. 28-29
- Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign (Res. No. 13)  
- to establish an African Fertilizer Working Party, in cooperation with CCTA pp. 31-32
- Development of Agricultural Statistics (Res. No. 14)  
- in cooperation with ECA to provide assistance in planning and execution of pilot agricultural sample surveys  
- to assist Member Governments in training their staff to carry out statistical surveys p. 34
- Locust Control (Res. No. 15)  
- to seek collaboration of existing regional organizations for implementing the inter-regional locust control project p. 36

Technical and Economic Information (Res. No. 16)

- to take into account need for monographs or bulletins reporting technical and economic information regarding work in agriculture, fisheries, forestry or nutrition

p. 40

Improvement of Millet and Sorghum Production (Res. No. 17)

- to convene regional meetings for countries with similar ecology and problems, particularly a regional meeting for the Sahelian (arid) and sub-Saharan (semi-arid) zones to study improvement of millet and sorghum production
- in collaboration with CCTA to publish catalogue of genetic strains of millet and sorghum

p. 41

Research Institutes, Stations and Laboratories (Res. No. 18)

- to assist Member Governments by providing research experts to carry out research programs
- to establish a research training institute for the Africa Region in collaboration with CCTA
- to make information on research institutes and facilities in African countries available to other Member Countries in the Region.

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OFFICERS OF THE CONFERENCE

Alhaji the Honourable Shehu Shagari (Federation of Nigeria) presided over the Conference.

Messrs. A. Chaval (Belgium), F. Eko Ebongué (Cameroon), M. Euré (France), K. Botsio (Ghana), M. Touré (Guinea), J.T. Phillips Jr. (Liberia), H. Zemmouri (Morocco), L.P. Coutinho (Portugal), E. Chilloh (Togo), Zaanouni (Tunisia), S.J.J. de Swardt (Union of South Africa), D.W.S. Hunt (United Kingdom) were Vice-Chairmen of the Conference.

Dr. A.M. Acock, Chief of the FAO/ECA Joint Agriculture Division, Addis Ababa, was Secretary to the Conference. Miss A. Bid, Economist, Economic Analysis Division, FAO Headquarters, Mr. S. Easton, Regional Administrative Officer, Accra, and Mr. H.J. Louwes, Regional Marketing Economist, Cairo, acted as Assistant Secretaries. Mr. J.P. Huyser was Rapporteur and Mr. N. Michie, Information and Press Officer.

LIST OF WORKING PAPERS

ARC	60/1	Provisional Agenda
	60/1(a)	Provisional Annotated Agenda
	60/2(a)	Review of the Food and Agricultural Situation in the Region
	60/2(b)	Trends and Outlook for Selected Agricultural Commodities of Interest to the Region
	60/3	The Orientation of Food and Agricultural Policies with Special Reference to Nutritional and Economic Factors
	60/4	Technical Aspects of Diversification of Agriculture
	60/5	The Active Participation of the People in Rural Development
	60/6	The Conservation and Utilization of Soil, Water and Vegetation in Regional and Farm Planning
	60/7	Improvement of Marketing Methods, Processing and Storage of Basic Food Crops and Livestock Products
	60/8	The Place of Fisheries in the Development of Africa
	60/9	Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign
	60/9(a)	The Use of Fertilizers for Increasing Production
	60/10	World Seed Campaign
	60/11	Development of Agricultural Statistics in Africa
	60/12	Promotion of Food Consumption Surveys
	60/13	Desert Locust Control
	60/14	Agricultural Information Services
	60/15	The FAO/CCTA Agricultural Extension Development Centre for West Africa, held at Ibadan, Nigeria, 7-17 July 1959
	60/16	CCTA/FAO Meeting on Weaver Birds
	60/17	FAO/CCTA Development Centre on Land Policies for East and Central Africa, held at Fort Portal, Uganda, October 1960
	60/119	First Session of the African Forestry Commission
	60/120	First FAO/CCTA International Meeting on Banana Production
	60/121	First FAO Technical Meeting on Coffee Production and Protection

DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S SUMMING-UP STATEMENT

Delivered on 9 November 1960

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

I feel sorry that other pressing duties compel me to leave Lagos today, but Dr. Ezekiel, the Head of our Economics Department, and Mr. Pierre Terver, my Regional Representative, together with my other colleagues here, will remain to continue to assist you in the conduct of your business. Before leaving, however, I wish on this occasion to express my feelings of deep gratitude to you, Mr. Chairman, and through you to all the delegates for the active cooperation and interest they have shown in this First FAO Regional Conference for Africa.

As you know, the Regional Conferences which FAO organizes every two years in its five regions of the world have a twofold purpose: first they provide an opportunity for a discussion on a regional basis of the main problems of agricultural development - and by this I mean not just farming, but food, forestry and fisheries as well - and in this way help in laying a foundation for cooperation among the countries concerned in their endeavour to solve these problems. Secondly, through such a Conference, the countries can give guidance to the Director-General in the preparation of the program of work and budget for the ensuing biennium for the Organization as a whole for which he is responsible.

In the light of this, I would summarize the trend of your discussions and state what I consider to be the most important conclusions and recommendations you have reached. I realize, of course, that there are still some items of your agenda to be dealt with. In particular, it is not until Thursday that you will have an opportunity of discussing the work of the newly created African Forestry Commission, which you, Mr. Chairman, opened last week. I understand that the first session of the Commission was most successful, and has made a number of important recommendations concerning both forestry and wild life management. But I feel that you have advanced far enough at this Conference for me to identify some of the most important issues that have come to the fore.

We first made a review of the food and agricultural situation in Africa. In a statement I made on Monday, I highlighted the main points stressed by the delegations: the population growing at an unprecedented rate and food supplies barely keeping pace or even falling behind; the low nutritional value of the African diet, insufficient in calories and very low in animal proteins; the inelasticity of world markets for African exports meeting growing competition from other regions and from the developed countries themselves increasing their own production; finally, the lack of knowledge and skills of the population and of finances to pay for the necessary capital formation and investments.



These trends naturally induced the delegates to think in terms of proper planning in order to obtain the greatest possible return from the scarce resources available: a development plan for Africa as a whole and studies for groups of countries with a view to develop integrated proposals for planned development. On the basis of these discussions, I outlined certain possible lines of planning and I understand that a resolution has since been submitted by the Moroccan delegation crystallising the idea expressed.

The second group of subjects we dealt with related to the orientation of food and agricultural policies in Africa with special reference to (a) nutritional factors and (b) economic factors. In this connection we also discussed the technical aspects of diversification of agriculture, the problems connected with people's participation in rural development, the conservation and utilization of soil, water and vegetation in regional and farm planning, and the improvement of marketing methods, processing and storage of basic food crops and livestock products. The place of fisheries in African development has found specific mention in our Agenda, though the debate has not yet been concluded.

Speaking on the nutritional situation, the delegates of Nigeria, South Africa, Central African Republic, the Ivory Coast and others all confirmed, from their own experience, that while the average calorie intake of the African population is mostly within 10% of the estimated requirements, in many countries there is a great protein deficiency in the diet, particularly in animal proteins, and there is a lack of vitamins and minerals in many cases. I was gratified to note that the need for increased attention to nutritional questions so as to create a greater awareness of nutritional factors is so widely recognized. Several delegates referred to the work in this field that FAO has already been doing. FAO is now planning to strengthen its work further and intends to organize jointly with the Member Countries in this Region a number of training courses and seminars in future years in this Region. The organization of these seminars is one of the main tasks of the nutrition officer whom I have outposted to the FAO Regional Office for Africa.

The most important problem in nutrition, however, is the animal protein content in the diet in several countries. Efforts should therefore be made to increase the availability of these proteins. Action in this regard should be carried out on two fronts, namely in the field of animal husbandry and in the development of inland and marine fisheries industries. The animal husbandry field, while showing great promise for development, is beset with great difficulties, due to special health problems. Apart from the tse-tse fly, there are other problems such as parasitic diseases which have a serious debilitating effect. Also there are as yet unsolved problems relating to pasture management under tropical conditions. A dairy industry can only develop when special precautions are taken in the handling and transporting of milk in hot climates. The first priority here therefore is the strengthening and building up in individual countries

of a well functioning and adequately staffed veterinary service. Once a farmer knows that he can get help and advice from a competent veterinary service to keep his animals healthy, he will show more interest in animal husbandry, particularly when he has an assured outlet and can obtain reasonable prices for his products. The possibilities of increased production through improved poultry husbandry are also considerable and already schemes for improved poultry production have started in several countries.

In the search for a greater supply of protein, the possibility should not be forgotten of bringing into greater use Africa's great heritage of wild life. This is of value not only from a scientific and tourist point of view, but can yield, under wise management, a significant amount of food and other animal products. The last FAO Conference asked me to include wild life in my program of work, and I hope to give particular attention to this question in Africa.

Development of the fisheries industry has different problems, although they may not be as great for the immediate future as those which beset animal husbandry. Many delegates indicated the importance that they attach to this resource, not only as it is now being exploited but also as to how it may be developed and made even more productive. It is gratifying to learn that in many cases comprehensive programs for fisheries development have been planned and that FAO experts contributed to these and assisted in their implementation.

It is clear, however, that more help is needed. Requests for assistance in certain cases have already been included in the Technical Assistance Program for 1961/62. I regret that some requests reached us too late to be included in that program. However, while the amount of money that FAO has at its command is very limited, I will take steps to see what can be done. In addition to this, I am making arrangements under the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign to secure certain contributions from manufacturers of equipment which, under a properly operated scheme, administered by governments, may be made available to fishermen so that they can produce more protein food.

One of the things which strike me, after having listened to the debate, is the necessity for more and better communication between governments in matters regarding their various schemes for fisheries development. I note that under Item 11 of the Agenda there has been a request for the summoning of a meeting of government officials responsible for fisheries which is to consider and lay the ground for a permanent body which would secure this consultation. I think this marks a step forward in the achievement of the programs which all of us wish to see.

Many delegates referred to the need for proper land and water utilization and the improvement of farm techniques. During the general discussion, several delegates, particularly the delegates of Upper Volta and Chad, rightly pointed out that in a very large part of the African continent the main limiting factor to agricultural development is the inadequacy of rainfall. For many years FAO has been assisting in a large number of water development schemes in arid countries all over the world. In Africa such action has already started under the Expanded Technical Assistance Program. But I was equally pleased to note the interest of some

delegates from more humid countries in water control and development. In this connection I would refer to the statement of the delegate from Guinea who mentioned that soil conservation measures cannot be considered separately from water problems, and, I would add, the protective value of forests. If these have to be accepted by the population, measures in the headwaters have to be incorporated in a general plan for agricultural intensification, where the reclamation of marshy lowlands is often a pre-requisite to soil conservation on the slopes. In fact the existence of over-populated and over-exploited mountain slopes in the vicinity of uninhabited plains, where agriculture is hampered by floods alternating with long dry periods, is one of the most widespread and serious concerns in Africa. Another very interesting aspect in this connection was mentioned by the representative of the United Nations when he stressed the need of international river basin development. In Africa many of the major water courses are international, and while the supply of water, now largely unharnessed, seems at present inexhaustible, with agricultural and industrial development there will be increasing demands on them and it will be necessary for the interested countries to pool their efforts in order to make the best possible use of them. FAO will be ready to cooperate in such international undertakings, bringing its wide experience in similar projects carried out in other parts of the world.

Several delegates mentioned the need of modernization of agricultural practices through the introduction of improved implements, the introduction of animals for draft purposes and the introduction of tractor-powered equipment. There is no doubt that a tremendous scope exists for improved tools and other equipment on the farms. The delegates of Upper Volta, Togo and Guinea mentioned their efforts to introduce animals for draft power. For some reasons the farmers seem to dislike the use of animals for draft, even in areas where the tse-tse fly does not occur. This problem should be further studied and greater efforts made to persuade the farmers to use animals. It is, of course, natural to think that it might be better to take a short cut and introduce tractor-powered equipment straight away instead of first trying animal power. For the very small holdings with low productivity and low priced products, however, it is difficult for the farmer to pay for the cost of tractors and their servicing. Before introducing machinery, it is therefore necessary to take into account all relevant considerations, including such problems as might be created through displacement of labour by machinery. Most delegates intervening on this subject mentioned that tractor-powered equipment should be made available to farmers through cooperatives. But whatever form of joint use is envisaged, it will be wise to calculate that the government in those instances should be prepared, at least at the earlier stage, to subsidize the small farmer for the use of tractors.

A subject related to farm tools and agriculture implements is the small-scale equipment to be used at the farm and village level for processing of agricultural products. Reference was made to such equipment for the processing and milling of rice. In the years to come, much can be done to improve, at the farm and village level, the processing, storage and preservation of food for local consumption. Also, together with an intensification of animal husbandry, by-products such as hides

and skins can well be processed within the country, the leather utilized and the final product exported instead of relying on the export of cured hides, often of inferior quality. I am mentioning this, Mr. Chairman, because FAO has given extensive assistance on projects such as hides and skins and leather utilization which have proved to be of very great value to the rural people.

Many delegates have mentioned the work to be done on the improvement of the techniques of crop production, particularly for cereals such as rice, sorghum, maize, and for grain legumes, root crops and others. This work covers not only plant breeding for the purpose of obtaining improved crop varieties capable of giving high yields and products of better quality, and plant protection through the control of diseases, insect pests and the defence against other predatory animals, but in fact all work in agriculture such as the improvement of physical soil conditions, enrichment of the soil in mineral nutrients, and the maintenance of an adequate water balance aimed at providing a proper physical and biological environment for better plant performance.

FAO has given assistance to individual countries in the solution of plant production and protection problems, and it is in a position to give further assistance if suitable requests are made through the Expanded Technical Assistance Program.

In the field of crop protection on a regional level, I would like to make reference to the work of FAO in the surveys and other biological studies towards the control of the migratory desert locust. This work has been considerably expanded since the recent approval of the UN Special Fund Desert Locust Project, in which seven African countries are participating.

The vital importance of sound extension work is well recognized. Several delegates stressed that the establishment of an effective extension organization with adequately trained personnel should receive high priority in the countries of Africa. We are also all in agreement, I think, that apart from the question of a functional organization of extension service, manned with competent personnel, the basic problem is how to motivate the mass of the African cultivators who, as all farmers in the world, will only be persuaded to adopt better techniques when they trust the extension worker and the advice he gives. That this has always been very much in my mind will be clear from the fact that one of the first regional agricultural officers I appointed for this region was a specialist in the field of agricultural extension and education. Also, last year FAO organized an agricultural extension development centre for West Africa, in Nigeria, which proved to be of considerable value judging from the reports I received from the participants. Several of the more important recommendations arising from that Centre will be before you for your consideration before the conclusion of this Conference. A similar centre for East, Central and Southern Africa is being planned early in 1962, for which the Government of Tanganyika has already indicated its willingness to act as host. FAO is also planning to start in early 1961 a publication which will be known as "Extension in Africa".

This semi-annual information paper has proved to be very popular among extension workers in Asia and the Near East, for which separate editions are prepared, and I hope that the special edition for Africa, which will be provided in French and English, will fill a real need in this Region. Member Governments will very shortly be requested to nominate an officer to serve as a correspondent who will be required to provide suitable material and information on extension activities in his country.

Mr. Chairman, as I said before, it is necessary to increase factual knowledge about the Region's resources through the collection of data. Throughout the discussions of this Conference, the problem of the lack of available agricultural statistics has been brought up repeatedly. This is indeed a serious problem. Reliable information on the agricultural resources of a country is essential for realistic development planning. Statistics on production and consumption of food crops are particularly needed when many countries in the Region are moving from subsistence economy to a market form of economy. Under Item 12 you will have an opportunity to suggest ways and means through which FAO can render the desired assistance for the improvement of national agricultural statistics. You will also be able to discuss the promotion of food consumption surveys, to obtain statistical information on the food consumption patterns of different socio-economic groups in various occupation classes of the population. It is sufficient for me to state that at this stage of Africa's development the shortage of trained personnel and the lack of suitable statistical methodology are perhaps more important limiting factors in developing statistical services than financial resources at the disposal of governments for this work.

Mr. Chairman, I have so far dealt with problems connected with agricultural production for local consumption. The African countries, however, rely heavily on the export of agricultural products, which though small in number, are a most important source of cash income to farmers and revenue to governments, and are therefore extremely important for economic development. The improvement of the production and the marketing of export crops therefore found special mention by several delegates. This gives me an opportunity to refer to some important extensions of work which we are contemplating. Among them is the expansion, for the information of governments and farmers, of the current and medium term information on the production, trade and prices of agricultural commodities, and prospects for future production and demand. We are also undertaking studies on long term trends to enable governments to plan the most effective use of their resources. Several delegates referred to the problem of low prices for export crops and to the need to help stabilizing them. This is a most difficult problem as well all know, and there is no simple formula which we can apply. FAO is already working on these problems through the deliberations of the Committee on Commodity Problems and its sub-groups, as well as through the studies which are carried out by the FAO technical staff. Under the Committee on Commodity Problems the commodity study groups bring together the producing and consuming countries. Such groups exist for cocoa, rice, coarse grains, coconuts and citrus. I was gratified to hear the delegate of the Federation of Nigeria on the work of the cocoa group, of which he is now Chairman.

Much interest was shown by delegates in the improvement of domestic marketing, and distribution methods and practices. Particularly in countries with high population, the gradual change-over from subsistence to market economies, and the problem of urbanization combine to make traditional and existing marketing and transport arrangements inadequate. The role that marketing plays in creating the necessary incentive for the producer to increase his marketable output and the quality of production need hardly be emphasised. The establishment of the basic marketing facilities to satisfy the rapidly increasing needs of internal consumption markets deserves, therefore, special attention. An outstanding need in the Region is the training of personnel to administer and manage marketing facilities and carry out basic research and surveys. Here training centres and technical meetings of the type which will soon take place in Fort Lamy should make an important contribution, as the delegate from Chad said.

Mr. Chairman, I have given you a brief summary of what I consider the salient features of this Conference, but I have omitted so far to stress one important aspect which has a bearing on all phases of agricultural development, namely education and training. On Monday morning I mentioned in a special meeting of Heads of delegations the attention that is currently being given in the General Assembly of the United Nations to technical education in developing countries, and it appears that a resolution may be adopted calling for a study of education needs in these countries, which would then enable the members of the United Nations to see what special measures can be taken to support the developing countries in their task. Although FAO's knowledge of education facilities and plans of governments to strengthen them is as yet inadequate we have already started to make enquiries through questionnaires on facilities for veterinary education and fishery schools. The information which you will supply within the next weeks will supplement our knowledge and will enable us jointly to establish a program of intensified agricultural education based on priority needs.

Mr. Chairman, this morning we have discussed the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign. I would like to repeat that the campaign is not intended to confine itself to problems of undernutrition and malnutrition only. It is intended to provide a framework in which primary poverty can be studied in all its aspects and adequate measures evolved for its solution. It aims at breaking the vicious circle of poverty, malnutrition and low productivity. It concentrates on the problem of increasing agricultural productivity as the key to economic development of under-developed countries. The campaign might be described as FAO's rededication to the objectives laid down in its Charter.

I may say that when I first placed this proposal before the governing bodies of FAO, there was much discussion as to the title of the campaign which would best cover its full implications. Finally it was decided to call it by this name, as Freedom from Hunger is one of man's basic freedoms, but leaving it to Member Countries to express the idea in the idiom of their own language as they wished, as the delegate from Ghana mentioned.

As has been explained, African countries can share in this campaign in two ways. By setting up their own campaign committees and through them cooperating with all their interested citizens' organizations, they can stimulate educational and informational activities among their people which will clarify and deepen their understanding of the causes of want and malnourishment and of the things that can be done to correct that situation and to make faster progress in the future. Out of that discussion and understanding can come a heightened determination to support governments in more active and powerful development activities, and a readiness and willingness to support more vigorous development programs, agricultural and industrial, even at the cost of additional effort and sacrifice.

The importance of the research and action phases for Africa must also be apparent. In either case, FAO will need to know of key research or development projects in individual countries, which would fill critical gaps in their development programs, and which they cannot finance with the existing resources. While funds which may become available from Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign collections are likely to be small compared to those available from other forms of economic aid, they may still enable some key projects to be added where most needed.

I hope the African countries will place their full weight behind this campaign. Properly understood and directed, the campaign can give better meaning and purpose to all the efforts that the African Governments will be making for a better and fuller life for their people.

Mr. Chairman, I could continue to dwell on the problems facing the countries in Africa and the measures needed to cope with them. My statement has been long already, however, and I shall therefore conclude. The problems in Africa are manifold and complicated and we know that there is a difficult period ahead before there can be a break-through in economic development. I will not be one to make easy promises. African leaders are strong enough to face the problems boldly. The tasks will no doubt call for the highest qualities of leadership - I would not say blood, sweat and tears, it is a different kind of war that we are waging - but patience, understanding and determination. We know the Africans do not lack these qualities. FAO will be proud if it can do its share in assisting them; a share which may be small quantitatively, but which I shall endeavour to make qualitatively greater, so that when developed in strategic areas it may have a maximum impact.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, I leave Lagos today in great hopes. I have met, at this Conference and outside, Africans who by their personal dignity, their intelligence, their dedication, prove that Africans are equal to all that is before them. May you succeed in your great endeavour.







