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**Report of the**

**TENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE  
FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST**

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**Canberra, Australia, 27 August-8 September 1970**



**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS**



R E P O R T

of the

TENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE

for

ASIA AND THE FAR EAST

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Rome, 1970





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INTRODUCTION

1. The Tenth FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East was held in Canberra, Australia from 27 August to 8 September 1970. Member Governments participating were:

Australia	Malaysia
Burma	Nepal
Ceylon	New Zealand
France	Pakistan
India	Philippines
Indonesia	Thailand
Japan	United States of America
Korea (Republic of)	Vietnam (Republic of)
Laos	

2. The United Nations system were represented as follows:

United Nations  
United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East  
United Nations Development Programme  
Asian Institute for Economic Development and Planning  
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development  
World Food Programme  
International Labour Organization  
World Health Organization

and the following were represented by Observers:

Israel  
United Kingdom  
Holy See  
Asian Productivity Organization  
Council for Technical Co-operation in South and Southeast Asia  
(Colombo Plan)  
South Pacific Commission  
International Co-operative Alliance  
International Federation of Agricultural Producers  
World Federation of United Nations Associations  
World University Service  
World Veterans Federation

3. A full list of participants is contained in Appendix I of this report, and a List of Documents is included in Appendix II.

4. At the Inaugural Ceremony at the Canberra Rex Hotel, Canberra, the Deputy Director-General, Mr. Oris V. Wells, called to order the Tenth FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East. He welcomed the Right Honourable J.G. Gorton, M.P., the Prime Minister of Australia, to the Inauguration on behalf of the Director-General who could not be present. He spoke of the high appreciation of FAO, its Member Nations, and the Director-General of the substantial role of Australia in FAO's work - all the way from the policy-making councils and conferences to the grass-roots operations in the field. He then requested the Honourable, the Minister for Primary Industry, Mr. J.D. Anthony, to inaugurate the Tenth FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East.

5. Inaugurating the Conference the Minister for Primary Industry extended a warm welcome to all participants on his own behalf and on behalf of his colleagues and expressed high appreciation of the very valuable role of FAO in the Region in the collection of statistics and the preparation of economic studies and technical reports; in promoting cooperation between countries in fighting pests and plant and animal diseases; in undertaking joint programmes of research; in setting standards for agricultural products; and in world trade. These were but a few examples of FAO's work, he said, which must be continued and strengthened in the coming years.

6. The Right Honourable J.G. Gorton, the Prime Minister of Australia, giving his Inaugural Address extended a warm welcome on behalf of his Government and the people of Australia to all participants in the Regional Conference and said that the participants had one common objective in view, namely the eventual elimination of hunger and the improvement of the health and well-being of mankind throughout the world. To this end, he stressed the importance of communication, partnership and participation among countries and peoples in achieving their objectives, and said that in this space age isolation was dead and partnership and participation should be the key notes in the Second Development Decade. Australia and its people would be happy, he said, to continue to participate actively in the development of the Region and in tackling the world food problem through expanding programmes of economic assistance and contributions to the Freedom from Hunger Campaign.

7. The Prime Minister then referred to the "Green Revolution" which was taking place in many countries of the Region and said that success in increased production in response to applied skills had brought its own problems. The world prices of basic foods were falling; export markets were shrinking; and there were surpluses in some countries. And this was happening while millions still went hungry. He stressed the need of a better balance in agricultural economies in the Region and increased emphasis on industrial crops, forest products and agro-industries to provide work for the people and new products to export.

8. The Regional Representative for Asia and the Far East, Mr. Ahsan-ud-Din, expressed his deep gratitude to the Prime Minister for his gracious and enlightening words and to the Minister for Primary Industry for his warm welcome. He referred to Australia's long history of striking individual contribution in the whole field of food and agricultural development by eminent Australians like Lord Bruce and Mr. Frank MacDougall. FAO had benefited greatly over the twenty-five years of its existence, he said, from generous and energetic Australian participation at headquarters and in the field in its policy-making conferences and technical committees. And Australia's flourishing and vigorous development had become a matter of partnership, not merely with the United Nations family but with many individual nations, particularly the nations of this Region on a bilateral basis.

9. At the first working session of the Conference, the leader of the Australian Delegation, the Honourable Mr. J.D. Anthony, the Minister for Primary Industry, was unanimously elected Chairman. The Conference also nominated all heads of delegations as vice-chairmen.

10. The Chairman expressed his thanks for the honour done to him in electing him to the Chair and called for Conference consideration of the Agenda (reproduced in Appendix III) and Timetable. The Agenda and Timetable were adopted unanimously. The Chairman then invited the Deputy Director-General to make the Introductory Statement on behalf of the Director-General.

### DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

11. Presenting the statement on behalf of the Director-General, Mr. Wells observed that the nations and regions of the world were becoming more and more inter-dependent, and so also the problems they faced. In devising policies to meet even such seemingly specialised problems as those connected with agricultural production, it would be necessary, therefore, to take into account a whole range of economic and social factors affecting people in all parts of this planet. It was natural that the Regional Conference should focus attention on the special problems of the Region, but considering the continuous widening of the gap between most of the developed and developing nations, the spread of technology and intensification of the struggle for international markets in primary products it became essential to take a global view of the situation in the deliberations on the issues facing this Conference.

#### Medium-Term Programme:

12. The most pressing issue before the Conference was that of the medium-term programme. The principle of medium-term programming was approved by the FAO Conference at its Fifteenth Session and, following its recommendations, a detailed statement on medium-term programming was prepared. The medium-term paper was basically built around the five areas of concentration. It also listed a sixth area - concurrent with the others - which dealt with agricultural development planning as such. The fact that these areas of concentration proved to be a suitable design for medium-term programming, emphasized their real vitality and validity as a means for tackling problems relating to agricultural development and it was the Director-General's strong hope that countries themselves, in drawing up their own agricultural development plans should do so, as far as possible, with an eye to the Areas of Concentration.

#### Unemployment:

13. The medium-term programme also dealt with certain special problems. The first and most urgent of these was unemployment. There was no doubt - especially with the rising flood of population in the developing countries - that, unless urgent steps were taken to create employment opportunities on a scale hitherto barely envisaged, a situation might arise which could lead to the breakdown of whole societies.

#### Environment:

14. The second special problem was concerned with the conservation of the environment. Although the developing countries generally faced different problems from those in the advanced ones, they would need to take steps to ensure that they did not repeat the mistakes made in the developed world. In this connection, Mr. Wells drew attention of the Member Governments of the Region to the request made by the Secretariat of the Conference on the Human Environment to be held in Stockholm in 1972 for the preparation of national reports, which, he said, should provide an excellent opportunity for countries of the Region to identify their own environmental problem and make specific recommendations for their solution.

#### Research:

15. The third special problem highlighted in the medium-term paper was that of research, and the Regional Conference had been asked to identify clearly the major problems on which more research was needed, to assess the order of priority in which they should be solved, and to indicate whether these research problems could best be dealt with at national, regional or international levels.

Programme Budgeting:

16. Mr. Wells then referred to the new system of programme budgeting and said that the Programme of Work and Budget for 1972/73 would be constructed on this basis. He stressed that this new system would provide potentially an extremely valuable instrument, both for Member Countries and for the Director-General, in assessing FAO's programmes and the Organization's efficiency in carrying them out.

Development Support Communications:

17. Mr. Wells emphasized the need to strengthen the relatively new programme of Development Support Communications in order to promote rural development in general and to bring home to rural populations the importance and relevance of the projects that were being designed for their welfare and to involve them more actively in making these projects succeed.

High Yielding Varieties:

18. The most important aspect of medium-term programming to this Region, which was dealt with in the supplementary paper, was the use of the so-called high yielding varieties and their further development. Due to the spread of the high yielding varieties of cereal crops, the prospects for agriculture were now much better, so as to warrant the feeling of "realistic" or "cautious" optimism. It was natural therefore that the supplementary paper for the medium-term programme in this Region should concentrate on how to sustain this momentum and how to prepare for the next stage when it should become possible to release land and other resources for alternative uses, taking into account the need to correct or avoid any dangerous economic or social imbalances that might result.

Perspective Study of World Agricultural Development:

19. Mr. Wells then drew attention to the unanimous recommendation of the Fifteenth Session of the Conference that the Indicative World Plan should be evolved into a Perspective Study of World Agricultural Development. This work was to be carried out in close cooperation with national authorities responsible for the planning of agricultural policies and with bodies concerned with integration at regional and subregional levels. The object was to prepare a series of policy papers, as part of the combined effort of the United Nations family for the Second Development Decade, in addition to a document on global agricultural development policies. Policy papers would be prepared for each of the developing regions.

20. Mr. Wells then referred to the Indicative World Plan's coverage and said that the biggest gaps in the Plan's coverage were in Asia and the Far East. The IWP was unable to cover Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Eastern Malaysia, Nepal and Vietnam, which represented twenty per cent of the population of the Region. Immediately following the Conference, an FAO team would be visiting Indonesia for discussions and it should become possible to include Indonesia in the analysis for the Second Development Decade. The process of updating the base period to 1964-66 for the countries previously covered (including Indonesia) had been finished. This material would be sent to all the countries concerned for comments. He informed the Conference that the work of the new demand projections would be run very soon and the supply analysis would begin in the autumn.

Pearson and Jackson Reports:

21. As regards the Pearson report, FAO had broadly agreed with its philosophy, its analysis of the present crises in development and its targets. Mr. Wells expressed the hope that the richer countries of the world would move as rapidly as possible to meet those targets, particularly in matters of aid and trade.

22. In regard to the Jackson report, he said, FAO had stressed, in its paper presented to the Inter-Agency Consultative Board, the constructive elements in the Jackson proposals, while at the same time emphasizing that the aim should be to improve what was working well rather than to start completely anew and to develop close working relations or in effect, full partnership between the specialized agencies and the UNDP. The study was discussed extensively and the conclusions reached at the governmental level in the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) were embodied in a lengthy "consensus" which would be submitted for approval by the General Assembly. He reminded the Conference that the kind of increase in field work envisaged in the Jackson report would mean at least a doubling of the resources allotted to it over the next few years. FAO could undoubtedly handle the additional work but to do so effectively it would be necessary to make a concomitant increase in the Regular Programme, which provided the technical underpinning for the field operations.

Second World Food Congress:

23. Referring to the Second World Food Congress Mr. Wells said that the strongest theme to come out of the Congress was the emphasis constantly laid on the humanization of the development process. The problems relating to food and agriculture were considered within the setting of overall development. The Director-General was certain that the discussions at the Congress would exert a beneficial influence on FAO's activities.

State of Food and Agriculture:

24. The increase in food production for the last few years, mainly due to the high yielding varieties, indicated that a turning point might have been reached, with increases in basic food production overtaking the rate of population increase and thus holding the prospect of self-sufficiency in cereals for several of the main countries in the Region by 1975-80. However welcome this might be, he said, it posed potentially very serious problems in terms of international trade. Indeed, it was the trade, rather than the production situation that increasingly gave cause for concern in the developing countries of this Region. The relatively poor performance of agricultural exports in 1969 again underlined the persistent vulnerability of many economies which were heavily dependent on primary exports as a source of foreign exchange. This had caused a worsening in the balance of payments position for many of them, and this general tightness in the balance of payments had been aggravated by the steeply rising debt service obligations of most developing countries in the Region.

FAO's Field Activities:

25. In conclusion, Mr. Wells referred to the moves made by FAO over the last two years towards a strengthening of the field activities, at both the regional and the country levels, and said that nearly all the fifty-five Country Representatives/Senior Agricultural Advisers provided for in the agreement with UNDP were already in place. The Director-General felt very strongly that the organization needed Country Representatives in as many developing countries as possible. Mr. Wells further pointed out that a proportion of funds in the total budget allocated directly to the regions rose from 7.2 per cent in 1968/69 biennium to 14.5 per cent in the current one. The strengthening of the regional and country offices was a process which must evolve naturally out of the field needs. It was from the identification of major field problems - in consultation with the countries themselves and with Regional Representatives - that the need for further strengthening of the Regional and Country offices would become apparent and be met as best as possible.

Permanent Government Representatives at FAO Headquarters:

26. The Director-General was also anxious that as many countries as possible should have fully qualified permanent representatives at Headquarters to follow the work of FAO closely and consistently and to advise their governments on the various kinds of assistance FAO could provide in helping to accelerate the agricultural development of their countries.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY THE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

27. Introducing the "Regional Representative's Review of FAO's Activities in the Region", Mr. Ahsan-ud-Din said that the Review was not included as a separate Agenda item for discussion this year, as was the case at the last Conference, but it was meant to serve as a background paper. This arrangement was in accordance with the deliberations at the informal meetings of the delegations of Member Countries of the Region, held during the 15th FAO Conference in Rome in November last year. Unlike the previous one, this Review had been prepared, as far as possible, within the framework of the Five Areas of Concentration. It included, however, a brief summary of the recommendations of the regional technical bodies of FAO which held their sessions after the last Regional Conference.

28. The Regional Representative further added that in accordance with the recommendations of the last Regional Conference, the Director-General had allotted a sum of \$200,000 out of his Consultancy Fund for the use of the Regional Office for Asia and the Far East. Fifty per cent of this amount was set aside chiefly for work with the Asian Development Bank, and the remaining fifty per cent was to be used to strengthen the services of the Regional Office in the interest of the Member Countries for short-term and urgent missions. Twelve projects, he added, had been approved by the Director-General for the current year, two of them had been completed and the rest were either in operation or under preparation.

29. Mr. Ahsan-ud-Din also drew attention to the brief summary included in the Review, of the actions taken by the Organization on the recommendations of the last Regional Conference which were addressed to the Director-General. He invited the delegates to mention if possible in the Country Statements the action taken by the countries on the recommendations of the last Regional Conference which were addressed to Member Governments for their consideration and follow-up action.



COUNTRY STATEMENTS

30. In the course of review at country level, the Conference noted with satisfaction that the upward trend in agricultural production which had developed in 1966-67 had generally been maintained. In many countries a break-through had been achieved in respect of several food crops. In Pakistan, the output of wheat had increased from 4 million tons in 1966-67 to 7.2 million tons in 1969-70; in India, compared to the highest level of 12.3 million tons in 1964-65, the production of wheat for 1969-70 was estimated at around 20 million tons. There were substantial increases in the output of rice as well, particularly in the traditionally deficit areas. In Indonesia, it increased by 6 per cent; and in Malaysia, by 11 per cent. The Philippines had attained self-sufficiency in 1968. In India too, there were substantial increases in the output of rice, though a major break-through had been inhibited due to the higher susceptibility of high yielding varieties to pests and diseases, unsuitability of initially introduced new varieties in areas of heavy and concentrated rainfall prone to water logging, and the consumer resistance. Intensive research was being done in India to solve these problems for both rice and the hybrid food grains like maize and sorghum. Burma, Ceylon, Nepal and the Republic of Vietnam also reported significant increases.

31. In the sector of agricultural export commodities of rubber, palm oil, coconut, sugar and tobacco, remarkable increases were reported from Indonesia and the Philippines. In Malaysia, the rubber output had reached a new high of 1.3 million tons, reflecting an increase of 15 per cent; and the output of oil palm and oil palm kernel increased by 24 per cent, which had made Malaysia the largest producer and exporter of palm oil in the world. Many developing countries had thus entered the 1970's in an atmosphere of new promises and new challenges.

32. There was growing appreciation of the strategic role of agriculture in economic development. The financial outlays for the programmes of agricultural development had been substantially stepped up. The successes of the past few years had widened horizons and encouraged several Member Governments to raise their targets for the future. India aimed at a compound growth rate of 5 per cent a year which meant an increase in the level of annual output from 98 million tons reached last year to 129 million tons by 1973-74. In Pakistan, wheat production was expected to increase from 7.2 million tons in 1969-70 to 9.5 million tons in 1974-75. The Philippines Four-Year Development Plan (1971-74) visualized a growth rate of 6.1 per cent.

33. The contributory factors for increased output were many and varied. Most countries of the Region were subject to the vagaries of the monsoon, which fortunately continued to be favourable for excellent harvests during 1968-69; there was a substantial extension of the productive base with increases in the area under irrigation, particularly through exploitation of groundwater resources, as in India and Pakistan, and the area under cultivation through reclamation of new lands and rehabilitation of irrigation works as in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. The multiple cropping on areas with adequate and controlled water supply, the expanded institutionalized arrangements for credit and supply of inputs, improvements in the measures for control of pests and diseases and the application of improved technology transmitted through intensified extension services were some of the factors which contributed to higher production. The most important contributory factor, however, was the rapidly expanding areas under high yielding varieties. In this connection, special emphasis was laid on breeding varieties which were resistant to disease and enjoyed higher consumer acceptability: in Ceylon, a new hybrid strain of rice had been developed (BG 11-11); in India, new varieties (Jamma and Sabarmati) had been developed recently and their performances were being watched; and in Thailand, with recently developed HYVs of rice and corn, double or even triple the traditional yield could be obtained.

34. Above all, the human factor had played the key role in this upsurge in production. There were indications that many farmers now regard agriculture, not as a traditional way of life or a means of subsistence, but, like industry and business, as a productive investment of resources. Perhaps never before in the agricultural history of the developing countries of the Region was there such a rapid and marked shift towards new technology as during the last few years - a demonstration of an unsuspected resilience in the mind and attitude of millions of simple, traditional farmers.

35. It was recognized, however, that in agriculture there was no room for complacency. It called for continuous and relentless efforts for maintaining the tempo. There were still several hurdles. The advances in the development of high yielding varieties (HYV) of maize, sorghum and bajra (millet) were still in the transitional phase and little work had been done to evolve HYVs of oil seeds, pulses and fodder crops, which occupied substantial areas. The need for active cooperation and collaboration among Member Governments in research in these fields was emphasized and some suggestions were made for setting up regional research institutes for the purpose. It was also stressed that FAO should assume the role of a 'clearing house' for collecting and disseminating the knowledge attained by Member Countries for the benefit of others; and assist in setting up seed banks, organizing studies on fertilizer prices, studying problems of development of dry farming areas and the action programmes necessary for the active involvement in the 'Green Revolution' of the small farmers, the tenants and the landless labour, whose capacity to play an effective role in agricultural development had been crippled due to inequalities, handicaps and poverty of resources from which they suffered.

36. Great concern was expressed in the Conference on the large increases in the number of people seeking employment in agriculture, since job opportunities in non-agricultural sectors were not expanding fast enough. It was feared that this trend was likely to continue in the Second Development Decade. Thus though the spectre of hunger might have been halted, yet that of unemployment was ever present in areas with large populations. This had posed the most urgent social and economic problems. The urgent need for undertaking surveys and studies to seek solutions to this most difficult problem of mobilizing the rapidly increasing human resource for development was stressed.

37. The Conference noted the land reform and land settlement programmes underway in some of the countries of the Region - land redistribution in India, land settlement and transmigration in Indonesia and Malaysia, tenancy reform in Malaysia and the Philippines and the land-to-the-tiller programme in the Republic of Vietnam. Recognizing the importance of agrarian reforms and land settlement projects in mobilizing human resources for social and economic development, it stressed the need for early and expeditious measures for the effective implementation of these programmes.

38. The upswing in agricultural production had enabled several countries to cut down their imports of foodgrains considerably - in India to about a third and in Malaysia by about 19 per cent. Virtually all countries of the Region aimed at self-sufficiency by the middle of the Second Development Decade. The Conference welcomed this development as it enabled the developing countries to save on foreign exchange and step up the rate of social and economic development. At the same time it drew attention to the problem, which some of the developing countries were now facing due to the shrinking demand for their surpluses in the developing countries on the one hand and the unequal competition which they had to meet with the developed countries who had the advantage of long established research, mechanization, storage, marketing and other facilities and were in a position to afford a high export subsidy for their exports and offer foodgrains in foreign aid on easy instalments or as gifts. This was seriously affecting the foreign exchange earnings of the developing countries and impeding their economic development. It was

recognized that in the long run, solution to the problem would need to be found in the diversification of agriculture and the economy as a whole; but it would take some time to implement it. To enable the developing countries to solve their more pressing economic and social problems, many delegates urged the need for some immediate steps to work out and agree upon arrangements whereby the developing countries were assured opportunities for the export of their surplus foodgrains. In their opinion this would call for adjustments in the trade and pricing policies of developed countries, complementary planning of economic objectives and the refashioning of some of the industries in developed countries in a way so as to utilize the surpluses from the developing countries. The Conference views in this regard are given in subsequent sections of this report.

39. The role of fisheries in filling the protein gap and in the economic development of the Region was stressed and reference was made to the plans underway in several countries for the expansion of the fishing industry--the Fisheries Training Institute established in Malaysia under UNDP/Special Fund; the Off-shore Fishing Research Institute in the Republic of Vietnam; the Fisheries Training Centre (being organized) and the Commercial Fishing Operation Project (financed with a loan from World Bank) in Indonesia; and a number of pre-investment surveys of marine fisheries resources, operational or under preparation in India, Korea, Pakistan and the Philippines. Shortage of capital, equipment, trained manpower, transportation and refrigeration, inadequacy of harbour complexes and marketing facilities, and the lack of purchasing power among the masses were listed as some of the major obstacles to the development of this sector of the agricultural economy. It was also noted that as projects for deep sea fishing in the oceans surrounding the developing countries of this Region were slow in maturing for lack of assistance from international and bilateral sources, the developing countries were not able to exploit these resources expeditiously. In the meanwhile, commercial agencies from distant, advanced countries were rapidly expanding the exploitation of fisheries wealth of these oceans. The Conference recommended that FAO should initiate urgent action to safeguard the interests of the developing countries of the Region in this regard.

40. In regard to livestock and dairy development, there were greater possibilities in some of the countries, due to the increased availability of fodder resources and the new possibilities arising from the recent break-through in production, for the diversion of some of the area from foodgrains to fodder crops, while these were now being examined in other countries. Emphasis was also laid on the development of livestock, milk production, poultry farming and pig rearing as part of mixed farming on small holdings to supplement the income of small farmers.

41. The importance of vegetable proteins in the diet of the people of several countries of this Region was stressed and high priority in research was recommended to evolve suitable strains of food grains with high protein content.

42. It was felt that the agenda item "War on Waste" should receive special consideration of the Conference and it was decided to constitute a panel under the Chairmanship of Australia (Dr. Kesteven) to go into the whole question of Waste in different sectors, examine the suggestions made in this regards and report to the Conference.

43. The Conference stressed the role of forestry development as an important element in three out of the Five Areas of Concentration, namely, the development of human resources, War on Waste, and Earning and Saving Foreign Exchange, as well as in the sixth major segment of FAO's programme - agricultural development planning. More adequate development of the Region's forest resources could result in a sizeable industry, provide many jobs for people in urban and rural communities, offer opportunities for earning foreign exchange, contribute to erosion control and protection of the environment generally and ensure proper management of land. It was suggested that the "Role of Forestry in the Economic and Social Development of the Region" might be included as an agenda item for the next Regional Conference.

44. The Conference noted with regret that the funds allocated from the United Nations Development Programme of Technical Assistance (TA) and Special Fund (SF) to the Region of Asia and the Far East did not reflect the major role and importance of this Region in terms of its population as well as agricultural potential. In 1969 while TA and SF expenditures of FAO/UNDP projects in Africa and Latin America, which had only a fraction of the population of this Region, amounted to US\$25.75 million and US\$15.71 million respectively, in Asia and the Far East it was only US\$11.66 million. It was urged that the matter be brought to the attention of the FAO Council and Conference, so that remedial measures might be taken aimed at bringing about a more balanced distribution of resources.

45. The Conference welcomed the steps taken by the Director-General to strengthen the Field Programme of the Organization; to create a corps of Country Representatives who would be of invaluable assistance to the Member Governments and the UNDP Resident Representatives in the formulation of country programmes; and to bestow greater responsibilities on the Regional Office in matters concerning the Region. The positive impact of this strengthening process was already beginning to be felt in the Region, and there was a growing awareness of the need of more and closer regional cooperation. With the emerging patterns of agricultural production in the Region, the developing countries of the Region had a special responsibility to promote cooperation in research and other developmental activities and intra-regional trade in agricultural and industrial products in the Region. There was a strong expression of views in the Conference that it was highly desirable to initiate early action for strengthening the Regional Office further to enable it to undertake these increasingly complex and onerous tasks. In recognition of the increased responsibilities associated with the complexities of the problems of the Region, it was considered necessary that the status of the Regional Representative should be raised to that of Assistant Director-General (a status already enjoyed by the Regional Representatives in some other Regions), and the posts of Regional Officers, in sectors where consultations and services were most needed by Member Countries, be upgraded to make their status commensurate with their increased responsibilities. Many delegates also considered it desirable that in tune with the spirit of reorganization and in the light of special regional needs, FAO should provide to the Regional Office some funds out of the Regular Budget, in addition to consultancy funds, to be used for small, pilot projects recommended by this Conference to supplement the resources provided by the participating institutions, agencies and governments in the Region.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF THE INDICATIVE WORLD PLAN REGIONAL AND WORLD  
STUDIES FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST

Impact of the High-Yielding Varieties on the Cereal and Livestock Economy

46. The Conference noted that despite encouraging progress in the Region towards the achievement of national objectives for cereal production, there were still significant gaps between promise and performance in a number of countries, particularly in respect of rice. It felt that while careful monitoring of the drive towards self-sufficiency was essential to give early warning of the emergence of unmanageable surpluses, there were as yet no grounds for relaxing efforts to push foodgrain production. The faster growth rates achieved in recent years were the result of the impact of science on raising cereal yields, and of national action to provide economic incentives. The first priority was to ensure that this momentum could be sustained, and until this was done, talk of a "Green Revolution" was somewhat premature.

47. In view of this the majority of delegates did not feel that internal support prices for cereals could be reduced in the short run, since these provided one of the main stimuli for the millions of small producers in the Region to adopt yield-increasing practices. The Conference, nevertheless, recognized the necessity to maintain flexibility in respect of prices, and noted the suggestions made in the document before it for possible shifts in emphasis to meet other food needs over a period of time as foodgrain supplies became more plentiful. The Conference recommended that FAO strengthen its assistance to Member Countries in evaluation of progress in HYV programmes and practical problems in their implementation, and suggested a periodical review of the problems and progress by an ad hoc group of officers responsible for implementation of the programmes in different countries of the Region.

48. A major problem facing all developing countries of the Region was the purchase or manufacture and distribution, of the production inputs on which progress, not only in increasing output of cereals, but also that of other crops and of livestock, largely depended. Measures leading to improved input:output ratios to lower prices of inputs, and possibly to reduce subsidies on inputs, were considered to be of greater immediate benefit than reducing prices of staple crops. Careful study was, therefore, required of the possibilities of achieving economies by intra-regional cooperation in their manufacture.

49. The Conference noted with concern the difficulties encountered by most countries in finding the foreign exchange needed for the purchase of inputs and/or raw materials and plants for their local manufacture. These were particularly acute in countries whose export earnings depended mainly on agricultural commodities; and unstable prices of the traditional export crops were now being compounded for the rice-exporting countries of Asia by weakening rice prices as a result of competition from developed countries and the rising self-sufficiency within the Region itself. Rising transport costs were also a source of concern.

50. Irrigation and drainage was recognized as the key to the adoption of high-yielding varieties of cereals and more intensive cropping systems. It could also play an important role in providing additional employment; both directly in relation to construction, maintenance, and operation of works and through raising labour requirements within agriculture and agro-allied industry related to irrigated areas. However some countries reported that the availability of technology for increasing production was ahead of that of properly-equipped irrigated land on which to apply it. The Conference, therefore, recommended continued FAO assistance in developing surface and groundwater resources in Asia, as well as in programmes to ensure efficient water use and management in existing or new projects. FAO, through its Regional Office, should also act as an information centre on progress in the Region, as well as on experimental work and other new technical developments.

51. The Conference emphasized the heightened importance of providing adequate storage and drying facilities as a result of the increased availability of grain in the rural areas. One delegate drew attention to the importance of buffer stocks as a means of cushioning sudden fluctuations in supply and helping to stabilize prices. A further and related need was to improve milling facilities, especially for rice, and delegates drew attention to measures which their countries were adopting to tackle this problem. The Conference welcomed the Australian initiative in bringing FAO's War on Waste to the forefront of discussion, and requested FAO to devote special attention to problems of storage, drying, and milling, including design of equipment suitable for use in the Region.

52. A number of countries indicated the need for flexibility in development planning, and outlined plans for diversification from foodgrains to feed and other crops, or into livestock enterprises, as they attained self-sufficiency in staple cereals. In order to ensure that timely measures could be taken to encourage diversification, there was a need for careful studies on consumption and demand patterns for cereals and other crops, on price responses and price relationships (particularly between grains and livestock), and on appropriate incentives to bring about the required changes. FAO should cooperate closely with national planners in the Region in this work.

53. The Conference endorsed the IWP emphasis on employment as the great challenge of the future but recognized that there was no single or simple solution. It noted with satisfaction that FAO was actively cooperating with ILO in developing a major study of this complex problem, since the impact of new techniques in agriculture on employment in developing countries was as yet unclear, and there was need to study appropriate technology both for the rural and urban measures in relation to absorbing the increments to the labour force and reducing existing under-employment.

54. The Conference recognized two outstanding problems in trying to increase employment and improve income distribution in agriculture. The first was the gap between large and small farmers and the closer involvement of the latter in the development process. The second lay in the gap between areas of high and low potential, where existing disparities were being widened by the inability of farmers in the latter to reap the benefits of high-yielding varieties and other intensive techniques.

55. Although problems relating to small farm size existed throughout the Region they were most widespread in irrigated and more fertile areas which could support a high population density. The Conference stressed the need to involve these small farmers more closely in high-yielding varieties programmes and other measures to increase farm income and employment. In practice, many tended to remain on the fringe of progress and there were serious defects in organization which led to bottlenecks in credit, supplies of inputs, and marketing. Special multi-disciplinary programmes - both on a commodity and on an area basis were therefore necessary to bring them into the orbit of modern agriculture. In this connection the Conference noted with interest the pilot projects launched in India for small and marginal farmers and landless labourers. Such efforts should have a strong practical emphasis and be aimed at transmitting knowledge to the producer in his own environment, removing socio-economic obstacles, mobilizing credit and production requisites and developing outlets for produce.

56. Some delegates pointed out that in the past, most donor countries had shown reluctance to assist in developing programmes or projects along the above lines. The Conference therefore urged that consideration be given by donor countries to channelling additional technical and financial resources on favourable terms for their promotion. The Conference recommended that FAO should help both by arranging regional meetings to discuss ongoing efforts, methodology and results in (or applicable to) the Region, and by cooperating with other international organizations and national planners in developing such projects.

57. While pilot projects and regional development programmes could also be envisaged for the disadvantaged areas of Asia, the research base was much weaker there than in high potential areas, and there were serious difficulties in finding economic crop or livestock enterprises even where good land was available for settlement. The introduction this year of a research-cum-development programme in rain-fed agriculture covering several districts of India should be of interest to other countries of the Region. The Conference noted these problems with concern and recommended that FAO should give increasing attention to develop suitable enterprises and systems for rain-fed agriculture as appropriate to the different ecological zones of the Region. As a starting point special studies should be undertaken in individual countries under the leadership of the Regional Office, which should also promote exchanges of experience and information between countries on this problem through an appropriate consultation body. The identification of areas suitable to new land development schemes, and of enterprises suitable to such schemes, having good market prospects, should be a particular objective of such studies.

58. The Conference recognized that research, provided it was aimed at solving specific problems and was not conducted in an 'Ivory Tower', was fundamental to continued progress in the agriculture of the Region, and particularly to finding solutions to improving conditions of rain-fed farming. It welcomed the increasing involvement of international and bilateral agencies in multidisciplinary research programmes of a global and regional nature, and noted with satisfaction FAO's intention to play a leading role in guiding such research. It also stressed the need for unremitting efforts to strengthen and coordinate national research programmes and for continued development assistance to such programmes.

Prospects for Main Export Commodities of the Region in the Light of the Overall Trade Analysis and Opportunities for Intra-regional Trade Cooperation

59. The Conference reviewed the prospects for the main export commodities of the Region and the opportunities for intra-regional trade cooperation in the light of Trade Analysis of the Indicative World Plan Regional and World Studies for Asia and the Far East.

60. It noted with concern that the overall picture of export prospects for some of the major products of the Region was less optimistic than that of the production potential envisaged in the Provisional Regional Study. The longer-term outlook for most of the Region's traditional exports was for exportable supplies to exceed effective import demand and for price pressures in international markets to be downward, in line with the conclusions reached in FAO Commodity Projections Study in 1967. A particular cause for concern was the competition from synthetics, which increasingly affected some of the major export commodities of the Region, as well as a possibility of accumulation of surplus stocks of rice and of a declining trend in its prices combined with a diminishing share of world trade of developing exporting countries heavily dependent on rice export.

61. It was considered that this situation called for intensified efforts at the national and international levels to improve efficiency of production, marketing and processing of traditional export commodities so as to reduce their unit production costs and, thus, to meet the challenge of synthetics. There was need for an aggressive search for new export products and markets; for an expansion of research into new end-uses and of promotional activities, possibly to be undertaken through multilateral bodies, modelled on those in existence for cotton and wool; for lessening price fluctuations through the adoption, where feasible, of international commodity arrangements of a formal or informal character; and for the exploitation of regional trade possibilities arising from the expansion of demand in the developing countries of the Region, due to the growth of industrialization and urbanization.



62. The Conference felt that the realization of the potential expansion of intra-regional trade would be fostered by increased cooperation among the countries of the Region in planning production and harmonization of trade policies at the regional and, where appropriate, sub-regional levels. It was informed of the ECAFE's work in this direction, in cooperation with FAO. It noted that ECAFE had identified about twenty areas and projects offering scope for such cooperation, amongst which high priority was allotted to joint action on coconuts and other oilseeds, rice, rubber and tea. This had so far led to the establishment of the Asian Coconut Community in 1969, with which FAO is closely associated, and to the initiation, with FAO's assistance of inter-governmental consultations on regional problems of rice within the ECAFE's trade liberalization and development programme. Next on the list of commodity studies to be undertaken by ECAFE in the regional context were oilseeds and rubber, while more general studies were in progress concerning possibilities of greater trade liberalization and monetary cooperation within the Region. At the sub-regional level, a UN sponsored study was under way, involving experts from UN, ECAFE, UNCTAD and FAO to assist the Member Countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

63. While welcoming recent experiments in sub-regional cooperation, some delegates pointed out that many major problems of agricultural development were common to all the developing countries of the Region, because of the similarity of ecological conditions throughout the monsoon area. They emphasized, therefore, that the cooperative efforts and resources of the Region should not be fragmented unduly among sub-regional groupings, but should rather be concentrated on undertakings involving all the developing countries of the Region.

64. The Conference expressed its support for the work of FAO in the field of international commodity trade, and welcomed in particular the shift of emphasis in some of its standing commodity bodies, from analysis and study to development of international policies and concrete action, aimed at stabilization of commodity markets. It considered that while no effort should be spared in seeking remedies for the trade problems of the Region at the country and regional levels, most of these problems could be dealt with effectively only on a commodity by commodity or commodity group basis through close cooperation between major exporters and importers in a world-wide framework. The Conference noted that among the five major export commodities of the Region, four, i.e. rice; jute, kenaf and allied fibers; tea and vegetable oils were subject to intensive inter-governmental consultations and activity under FAO auspices, and that for two of these, i.e. jute and tea, FAO was actually operating international commodity arrangements of an informal character.

65. Keen interest was expressed in the possibilities of diversification suggested by the Provisional Regional Study, primarily towards livestock production, both for domestic consumption and, whenever feasible, for export, but also towards the development and more efficient utilization of the tropical forest and fishery resources of the Region, as well as towards production of certain fruits and vegetables and some other products, such as sorghum, maize, peanuts, and protein rich soybeans.

66. While several delegates referred to the diversification efforts successfully initiated in their countries, the Conference recognized that diversification was no easy task in the light of climatic conditions prevailing in many areas of the Region and the problems of marketing, both domestically and internationally. It was generally felt that to carry out wide ranging diversification programmes would require research in production, processing and marketing, and substantial investments in plant, equipment and infrastructure. They would also require FAO's commodity expertise and advice to individual countries in selecting specific export opportunities.



67. Some delegates expressed concern that the burden of adjustments in world agricultural trade would fall mainly on the developing countries. It was therefore suggested that FAO should extend, within the agreed objectives as expressed at the 15th FAO Conference, the analytical coverage of the Perspective Study for World Agricultural Development to include industrialized countries, with a view to assessing comparative advantages in production of various commodities in different areas, and thus to examine general criteria which might contribute in the near future to a better distribution of world agricultural production and trade as between the developed and developing countries.

68. The Conference also recommended that FAO, possibly in cooperation with UNCTAD, and with the assistance of suitably qualified consultants undertake a study of the various aspects of agricultural marketing, including shipping arrangements, freight rates, auction systems, and their effects on international commodity prices as a means of assisting the developing countries of the Region in a better assessment of their export prospects. It was understood that any Conference requests for studies in the field of international commodity trade would be examined by the Committee on Commodity Problems with a view to decisions as to methods of implementation.

69. Some delegations expressed their hope for a successful outcome of proposals for the establishment of an international buffer reserve as a means of stabilizing the world jute market, now under consideration by the Consultative Committee on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres. They also hoped that the proposed feasibility study for a possible International Centre for Jute, to be financed by UNDP, which had been proposed by the Government of Pakistan on the initiative of the Consultative Committee, could be implemented as soon as possible in view of the critical situation facing jute.

70. The Conference noted the current consultations between the representatives of the Director-General of FAO and of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on the one hand, and of the governments of the tea-producing countries on the other, with a view to preparing the ground for a possible conclusion of a long-term arrangement for tea.

71. The Conference expressed its support for the work of the Study Group on Rice and of its recently established ad hoc working party which was to examine the various proposals for national and international action to solve or mitigate the problems confronting the world rice trade. The progress made by the Study Group on Oilseeds, Oils and Fats in developing a programme of action and studies was also welcomed.

72. Some delegates felt there was a need for appropriate international measures to provide greater price stability and assured outlets for natural rubber.

73. The delegations from the pepper-producing countries referred to the recent consultations held between the three main exporters, and noted that the report of the consultation had been forwarded to the Director-General of FAO for consideration by the forthcoming session of Committee on Commodity Problems.

#### Requirements of Manufactured Inputs, and Scope for Production in the Region

74. The Conference considered that the supply, distribution, and effective use by farmers of an appropriate "package" of production inputs was critical to maintaining an adequate growth of the agricultural sector in the Region, as well as to meeting food requirements. It endorsed the priority placed by the IWP on this.

75. It was concerned, however, that despite substantial increases in domestic manufacture of certain inputs within the Region, the supply situation in many countries was still precarious. As emphasized repeatedly in earlier discussions, the major bottleneck lay in the high foreign exchange requirements for imported inputs or raw materials when set against

the difficulties of developing countries maintaining export earnings. The Conference suggested that FAO should assist the countries in overcoming these bottlenecks through pre-investment studies and institutional investment.

76. The majority of the delegates suggested that donor countries should re-examine the possibilities of supplying part of their aid in the form of production requisites. Such aid might be in kind, or in the form of cash for purchase from other developing countries with surplus manufacturing capacity. The Conference noted that the World Food Congress had strongly urged the revival of the proposal for a Food Production Resources Programme. The recent Regional FFHC Meeting had endorsed this proposal and had further suggested that the 'pool' of such resources should be utilized to support small scale agricultural field projects to be undertaken by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in the developing countries, additional to bilateral government aid and to any resources raised by NGOs in the developed countries. The majority of the delegates further felt that FAO should take appropriate initiatives to establish a Food Production Resources Programme along these lines.

77. The Conference noted that although the paper before it did not cover seed production, the establishment of strong seed industries throughout the Region had been given high priority in the IWP Asian Study, and that FAO had not altered its position in this respect. Several delegations had referred to difficulties in producing adequate supplies of quality seed as a major obstacle to foster spread of the High-Yielding Varieties. Good seed was the foundation of healthy crops and FAO was actively assisting with such problems in most countries of the Region and was anxious to extend its activities in this field.

78. The Conference recognized that the application of an input did not occur in isolation; it involved a complex of factors, including inter-relationship with the environment and inter-action with other inputs, and these factors as well as the human resource, had all to be taken into account in planning successful supply and utilization.

79. The Conference identified inadequate credit as a major obstacle to the wider and more effective utilization of inputs. A number of delegations reported difficulties in mobilizing credit. Public institutions often failed to penetrate to the smaller farmers, private banks were often reluctant to lend to them (particularly if they were tenants), and other private sources were often unreliable or usurious. Credit and distribution of inputs were closely linked and a possible solution being adopted on an increasing scale in the Region was the formation of farmers associations which could both mobilize resources from within their members and obtain supplementary credit from Banks more easily for input purchase. Some countries were also examining means of utilization of short-term private credit, such as that extended by dealers or merchants, more effectively. The Conference recommended that FAO should promote further exchanges of information between its members on methods of organizing the purchase and distribution of inputs to the smaller farmers.

80. Although the Conference reported a substantial expansion of manufacturing capacity for fertilizers in most countries, it noted with concern that despite this, present self-sufficiency ratio for the Region had fallen slightly from 47 to 46 per cent in recent years: in other words, growth of domestic production was barely keeping pace with the growth of consumption. One delegate emphasized that demand had recently been projected to grow at around 9.5 per cent compound over the next decade if food supplies were to match demand, an even higher figure than that postulated by the IWP. There was need for further refinement of the methodology of projections to guide countries in manufacturing policy and to avoid under or over supply.

81. The Conference emphasized the need for balanced application of fertilizers and micronutrients in relation to the plant-soil-water environment. Research and more effective methods of soil and plant analysis and extensive fertilizer experiments on farmers' fields, would be required to achieve this objective, as well as demonstrations at the farm level. Beside organizing special demonstrations on the balanced use of fertilizers

throughout the country, India had decided to set up a Fertilizer Promotion Council to coordinate all promotional activities, both by government and by private manufacturers. The Conference noted with satisfaction the beneficial results of fertilizer demonstration work in a number of countries under the FAO-FFHC Fertilizer Programme. It recommended that FAO should strengthen its technical assistance in the field of soil-water-fertilizer-crop relations as an activity likely to yield early and significant benefits.

82. It was apparent from discussion that while some countries had fewer worries concerning internal distribution of fertilizers than in the past, this was still a major problem to others. It had been shown that a well organized and efficient distribution system could operate on relatively low margins, but there was need for study in depth of existing public and private channels for distribution of fertilizer and other inputs and how these might be improved. Such studies should be undertaken under the auspices of or with the help of FAO. The Conference noted that the United States also would gladly assist developing countries in more effective use of fertilizer, and was engaged in research and training programmes on their behalf through the special staff of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

83. The Conference considered that high costs of fertilizer were often traceable to costs of raw material inputs. It believed that the regional potential had been inadequately explored in respect of mineral resources, and requested that FAO should draw the attention of the appropriate UN agency to the need to discover and develop domestic sources of sulphur, potash, phosphate and other essential plant nutrients.

84. Although most countries now depended largely on imported chemicals for crop protection, several reported plans for domestic manufacture. There were, however, a wide range of permutations of products and end-uses for such chemicals which made it difficult for smaller consumers to manufacture them economically. Some delegates therefore saw merit in the IWP suggestion that at least for the medium-term, many Asian countries might continue to import the active ingredients, concentrating on formulating and packaging these chemicals in a way appropriate to their use by farmers. This would provide employment and the basis for a future domestic industry without the risks of manufacture, and would allow importers to benefit from the latest technical advances in the developed countries. Expert guidance would nevertheless be required from FAO or other sources in the initial stages of formulation and packaging. The Conference noted that Australia, which had developed special programmes to ensure proper and careful use of agricultural chemicals, would be willing to share its experiences with other countries of the Region. It also noted that India had developed capacity for the production of a number of essential pesticides in sizeable quantities and if necessary, could step up production further to meet the increasing demand within the Region.

85. A number of delegates stressed the increasing importance of mechanization in modernizing agriculture. Mechanization could also be looked on as a means of up-grading the status of agricultural workers, who were now pressing for better working hours and conditions, and had shown themselves willing and able to take to modern agricultural techniques, given the right training and incentives. Mechanization also provided a basis for wider application of mechanical skills to irrigation, transportation, marketing and processing industries (such as rice milling). While recognizing the need for balance between the extreme views now being expressed by certain opponents of mechanization and the excessive enthusiasm of some of its proponents, the Conference concluded that a degree of mechanization was essential to foster agricultural progress in the Region. It therefore supported the selective role envisaged for mechanization in the IWP analysis.

86. In discussing their own experiences several countries reported that they had studies underway to evaluate the need for and approaches to mechanization most suited to their conditions, as well as to examine the impact of existing use of machinery on employment. Rapid increases were evident in demand for tractors in the Region, and this must clearly not be allowed to lead to widespread labour displacement; but mechanization of one operation did not necessarily lead to an overall reduction in labour requirements within the farming system, nor were tractors and ancillary equipment the only devices which could save labour. The problem, therefore, needed to be studied comprehensively at the individual country level, and the effects of mechanization on reducing or creating work opportunities had to be reviewed both within and outside agriculture. The Conference welcomed the cooperation of FAO and ILO in such studies.

87. However, the pace of technical development was outrunning the capacity of many governments to build up services to the farmers. This was holding back progress both in agriculture, and in other sectors of rural life and employment which benefitted from the 'spin-off' effects of new knowledge. In particular, training was needed for middle-level field staff, and India offered to assist other countries, in respect of mechanization and pesticide use. The Conference recommended that FAO should undertake a special study of the training facilities available in the Region for the benefit of all Asian countries.

88. The Conference emphasized the need for machinery (including pumps and sprayers) to be adapted to conditions in the Region, as well as for the development of systems of its operation appropriate to the smaller farmers. Custom hire services might be one solution, and India reported that it had established a number of strategically-situated custom machinery centres. Malaysia stressed that there was a need not only for suitable machines and appropriate systems of operation, but also for training of operators and mechanics. This might also be a function of centres along the lines of those being established in India. Pilot projects were needed on an area basis, particularly where double or multiple cropping was an important objective and seasonal work bottlenecks such as land preparation and threshing had to be broken to facilitate intensive land use.

89. The Conference saw considerable opportunities in the Region for improvements to animal draft equipment, a relatively neglected subject on which strengthened research and development should prove beneficial. It was pointed out, however, that such work might be fruitless if farmers did not improve feeding, health, and management of their animals; and any government action to launch improved equipment should be supported by parallel action in the husbandry of draft animals.

90. Some delegates felt that any consideration of mechanization should not overlook marine fisheries. This required heavy capital investment, not only in fishing equipment and vessels, but also in ports, storage, and other supporting services. However, planning for projects in this area required careful evaluation of the resources available and the existing levels of exploitation.

91. Overall, the Conference considered that a thorough study was required of the present, planned, and potential capacity for production of inputs amongst the countries of the Region, the types of products, prices, and all other relevant information. Only thus could complementarities be developed, and the full manufacturing capabilities of Asian countries for inputs utilized most effectively and economically. The Conference noted with satisfaction that the FAO/ECAFE Agricultural Division was engaged on a study of requirements for agricultural inputs for Ceylon, India and Pakistan; and also that ECAFE's Division of Natural Resources and Industries had completed a broader survey of production capacities for agricultural chemicals, and had also undertaken studies on rice processing machinery, and on small engines for agricultural purposes. Further possibilities for cooperation in the manufacture of agricultural inputs would be discussed at the Second

Session of the Asian Conference on Industrialization to be held shortly. It was recognized that the promotion of trade of manufactured inputs among the developing countries of this Region would not only reduce the cost to the users but would also be consistent with the recent attempt of ECAFE to work out inter-regional cooperation in trading and monetary arrangements. The Conference suggested that FAO should review these issues to see what further needed to be done.

#### Agricultural Targets for the Second Development Decade

92. The Conference noted with satisfaction that (taking into account the different time horizons), the objectives proposed in the IWP corresponded well to the growth targets now being postulated by the U.N. for the Second Development Decade. Discussion on the latter should focus on how to raise agricultural and overall economic growth from historical levels to meet the aspirations of developing countries: in this process the quantitative targets of the IWP should not be reduced. Major aims of policy should be to enable the developing countries to improve their food supplies, to regain their position as exporters of primary commodities, to raise purchasing power, and to provide employment to the massive increase which was inevitable in the rural population. The fact that in the developed countries the rural population was now only around 10 per cent overall should make it easier for them to adjust production to assist the developing world.

93. The Conference was informed that sector and country targets were now being agreed on with the U.N. FAO recognized the need to maintain flexibility and realism in this respect, as emphasized by Australia. The agricultural growth rates of around 4 per cent required to meet the DD II objectives would not be easy to attain and although it was not proposed to repeat the IWP exercise in full, FAO would review some of the main supply and trade parameters to see how those objectives could be achieved without conflicting with employment objectives. In doing so revisions would have to be made of the input and investment requirements. Work on this had already begun and the need to look carefully at the size, content, foreign exchange component, and phasing of investment programmes was recognized. Indeed the IWP Regional and World Studies had already gone some way towards this. A major problem was likely to be the mobilization of savings from the expanding agricultural sector for re-investment in agriculture, and the Conference stressed that it would be difficult to support the high targets proposed by the U.N. if such investment was not forthcoming or if it were largely diverted to other sectors. FAO would need to study carefully the methods by which rural savings could be increased.

94. Several delegates observed that the paper before the Conference did not deal with protein requirements for the Second Development Decade, although this was included in the original title. The Conference noted that revised objectives for demand and supply of protein-rich commodities to meet the DD II planning horizons of 1970-1980 could not be made in time for the Conference, and that discussion of these had therefore been excluded from the paper. This in no way meant that FAO attached any less importance to improving the quality of the diet, and in particular to protein. This was one of the Organization's Five Areas of Concentration; it had been given great prominence in the IWP; and the stress laid on cereal-livestock relationship and on diversification in the Conference papers and in Director-General's introductory statement were meant to reflect the continuing weight attached by FAO to finding solutions to the protein problem. In this connection, it was intended to examine further livestock prospects for the Region, and in particular for milk production in India and Pakistan as part of the work on DD II.

95. The Conference also urged FAO to pay special attention to disparities between areas of high and lower potential in the work on DD II and the Perspective Plan for World Agricultural Development. These disparities were being widened by the concentration of high-yielding varieties, research, and other resources on the better areas. Specific policy measures were needed for 'by passed' areas; these might require multi-disciplinary action involving both agriculture and other sectors; and it was to be hoped that FAO would cooperate closely with other U.N. agencies in such planning.

96. Several delegates stressed the need to refine the methodology of demand projections so as to take into account nutritional as well as economic factors, and the effects of income distribution as well as of income growth studies on consumption patterns and differences in distribution between ethnic and income groups, effects of urbanization, and the impact of consumer education were needed in order to permit more effective estimation of future demand. The Conference noted that FAO would keep these matters very much in mind in making its revised Commodity Projections, as well as in its future development planning activities. However, as in the case of employment, and requests for studies in depth on comparative advantages for production, on which the Fifteenth Conference had also laid stress, such work had to be considered in relation to FAO's resources, and could not be completed within the current biennium.

97. The Conference recommended that, in addition to its long-term activities in development planning, FAO should also strengthen its assistance to country planners, including measures to improve national statistics and statistical services.

MOBILIZING HUMAN RESOURCES FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

98. The Conference noted that the objective of the programme of Mobilizing Human Resources for Agricultural Development was to promote and support programmes which made it possible for the masses of rural people to become involved in and benefit from development. It decided that the discussion on the agenda item be organized under the following selected aspects of this broad area of work:

- (1) Agricultural Education and Training in the Light of Manpower Needs
- (2) Development Support Communications
- (3) Involving Youth in Rural Development
- (4) Women in Rural Development
- (5) Organizing Farmers for Rural Development
- (6) An Integrated Institutional Approach to Rural Development.

99. In addition, the Conference gave some consideration to other aspects of the programme and in particular to employment and agrarian reform.

Agricultural Education and Training in the Light of Manpower Needs

(a) Formal Education and Training

100. The Conference noted with approval FAO's emphasis on: strengthening the agricultural manpower planning mechanism at national levels; improving coordination between programmes of agricultural education and training institutions and of the manpower requirements at all levels; and on measures for improving the quality of personnel.

101. The Conference recognized the difficulties of accurately determining agricultural manpower requirements in the rapidly developing countries of Asia and asked FAO to continue its collaboration with ILO in this important task. It was felt that the preparation of country manpower planning models would be helpful to several countries in the Region.

102. The need for agricultural education and training institutions to constantly adjust to the rapidly changing personnel demands of a dynamic society through greater emphasis on specific programmes and job oriented training received special mention. FAO was asked to give particular attention to programmes for improving the quality and quantity of middle level agricultural technicians. The past efforts of FAO in the organization and conduct of national level agricultural education problem-solving workshops and teacher training courses were strongly commended as having made a significant impact at the field level and delegates requested the FAO Regional Office to continue and intensify this valuable regular programme service to Member Governments in the Region.

103. The Conference recognized the need for a more careful selection of agricultural trainees with the necessary attitudes and aptitude for a vocation in agriculture and related fields.

104. The Conference noted that in many countries of this Region the traditional artisans were still a part of the agricultural economy and could well become a helpful factor in modernization, if trained. It recommended, therefore, that their training in the repair, maintenance and fabrication of improved implements should receive urgent attention of both FAO and Member Countries.

105. In recognition of the importance of the social sciences in helping to solve the second generation problems resulting from the successful implementation of the HYV Programme, the Conference endorsed the need to give greater attention to training of agricultural technicians in rural sociology, group dynamics and principles of communication and requested FAO to encourage the training of trainers in these disciplines within the Region.

106. To improve the quality of teaching in agricultural education institutions within the Region, the Conference requested FAO to develop a coordinated project for training of trainers in various subject matter fields of agriculture based on the strengthening of national institutions of excellence to perform ad hoc regional training functions.

107. FAO was urged to play a more significant role in higher agricultural education, encourage links with research, promote a contribution to extension by universities and ensure an appropriate link between curricula and employment opportunities. Regular consultation between higher agricultural education institutions in the Region could be most helpful in strengthening those institutions and FAO was requested to organize such consultation.

(b) Farmer Education

108. The Conference stressed that farmers' training, in order to be effective in the new agricultural break-through, should be organized as part and parcel of production programmes of crops, animal products or fisheries and the organization of farmers' groups or associations at village level were an essential element of farmers' training. Recognizing the value of visits by groups of progressive farmers to other countries in the Region, it recommended that FAO should take the initiative in organizing such tours.

109. The Conference recognized the primary role of the agricultural extension service in the education and training of farmers, including farm women and rural youth through well planned extension education programmes. The need for farmer training to be production oriented, organized on a continuing basis and made available to all levels of the farming sector was stressed. In this connection, the Conference was informed of the experience of one country regarding the reluctance of progressive farmers to share their new knowledge and skills regarding HYV's with their less progressive neighbours.

110. The Conference took note of the general low status of agricultural extension workers in the Region, relative to workers in other agricultural professions, as reflected in their levels of remuneration. Member Governments were requested to give due attention to raising their status, particularly in the eyes of the farmer, and through appropriate training to improve technical competence and thereby performance as agents of change. For reasons of both economy and effectiveness, it was agreed that much greater emphasis needed to be given to training in the social sciences, including rural sociology group dynamics, leadership development, farmer organizations and techniques of problem-solving. In this connection, the Conference noted with approval the efforts of the Regional Office to assist Member Governments in the organization and conduct of national agricultural extension problem-solving workshops, including farm women and rural youth extension. Further, it requested FAO to continue and expand this service to the Region as a proven and practical means for improving the level of technical competence and the attitudes towards rural development of the large numbers of middle level agricultural extension staff, through which all agricultural development programmes must pass.

111. The Conference noted the possible role of extension programme planning as a technique for ensuring the active participation of farmers and government extension and support staff at local level in agricultural planning, and approved FAO's interest in further development of this planning concept as a practical means towards mobilizing human resources for rural development.



### Development Support Communications

112. The Conference noted that 'Development Support Communications' programme was a comparatively new and unmapped activity, which had grown, somewhat haphazardly, out of concrete experiences with individual field projects - projects as might reach a high level of technical presence in the field but did little to stir the imaginations and redirect the energies of rural people on a rewarding scale. Agriculture in Asia was passing through a highly dynamic stage. Such dynamism might appear to the farmer and his family as a rampaging flood tumbling him along to ends he could neither foresee nor evaluate. Development support communications sought to use the whole multiplying range of mass-media resources to clarify for the farmer, his wife, his children, what the apparent flood was about, what it could mean in human as well as technical and monetary terms, and how the farm family could make itself a conscious and willing participant in it.

113. On the ideal, comprehensive level, development support communications meant two things: firstly, as trying to give to rural life the wholeness, the dignity, the confidence in its place in the sun it usually lacked; secondly and crucially, as the awakening and education of nationwide public opinion to the national imperatives and rewards of balanced rural development. It might also be seen as a UN family effort, involving most or all of the sister Agencies in approaches that really were integrated multi-level responses to government needs.

114. Several delegates outlined the experience of their countries in the field of agricultural communications work. Reference was made to the experience of the Philippines and to the newly established Department of Communications at the Pant Nagar Agricultural University in India, which would be glad to provide training facilities for personnel from Member Countries. The shortage of trained personnel, and the need of FAO's assistance in training personnel was emphasized.

115. The Conference recognized that trained personnel were the key to full and effective use of agricultural communications possibilities, and emphasized that the integrated use of media should be made for instructional rather than motivational purposes. A suggestion was made for a workshop or seminar to consider various aspects of development support communications and the experience gained in the Region in this regard. The Conference recommended that FAO should collect information on the use of media in the rural communications field and put it out as a document. It was further recommended that a regional pilot project on development support communications should be organized for coordinated action by the existing national institutions such as those in India and the Philippines.

### Involving Youth in Rural Development

116. The Conference unanimously acknowledged the urgent need for Member Governments to develop comprehensive plans and programmes for increasing the involvement of youth in all rural and agricultural development projects and programmes and requested FAO to continue their leadership in this field.

117. The Conference considered possible programmes for each of the following groups, classified according to their distinctive needs and interests:

- a) Rural youth attending school (generally up to 12 yrs.);
- b) Rural youth on home farms as restless family labour (12-17 years);
- c) Rural youth seriously seeking future vocation and livelihood - young adult rural youth (18-28 years).

118. While recognizing the importance of distinctive programmes for each of the above groups, delegates agreed that the young adult rural youth (18-28 yrs.) sector of society demanded immediate and special attention in view of their serious employment situation in most countries of the Region.

119. The Conference reviewed experience in the Region as to training and field programmes for the older youth group and considered in particular the "on farm - within community" training programme initially pioneered in Ceylon and Indonesia. While some reservations were expressed regarding the suitability of this type of training, particularly in countries of low population density, the majority of delegates enthusiastically endorsed the new system as a practical answer to the troublesome problem of vocational training in farming. FAO was requested to initiate pilot projects in interested countries of the Region and to establish, in at least one of these project areas, a regional training centre for producing the new type of instructors required to conduct such farm based agricultural education.

120. Experience in youth land settlement schemes in helping to solve the young adult employment problem was reported by several delegates and FAO was requested to offer all possible assistance in improving their operation and design.

121. The importance of project oriented rural youth club programmes as highly suitable vehicles for training, educating and involving massive numbers of teenage out-of-school rural youth, at a unit cost which most developing countries could afford, was recognized by the Conference and FAO was requested to continue to strengthen existing programmes through the organization and conduct of additional national seminar-cum-workshops on rural youth extension. The need for agricultural and home economic extension staff to receive special training and experience in rural youth extension was recognized and endorsed.

122. The Conference discussed the negative image which most youth had concerning agriculture and farming in particular and the long term effect this would have on agricultural and rural development in the Region. The meeting recognized the key role which teachers play in transmitting this image and urged agricultural ministries and departments, with FAO assistance where possible, to take the initiative to plan a programme aimed at developing positive attitudes amongst teachers in rural and urban schools at all levels towards agriculture and scientific farming as a profitable and satisfying way of life. In this regards, the importance of the small group discussion as a technique for effecting attitudinal changes was recognized.

123. The Conference was informed of the increasing tempo of agro-business in areas where HYV's had caught on, yet on the difficulties of rural youth securing employment in the resulting agro-industries due to lack of education and training opportunities. Additionally, as the agro-industries were frequently located in or near larger cities for reason of available infra-structure, the rural youth could not avail of the resulting employment opportunities. The Conference suggested that FAO, in collaboration with other appropriate international agencies, should initiate studies of these problems.

124. While the discussion of the Conference centered primarily on the problem of involving out-of-school rural youth in rural development, delegates were also informed of several successful national projects in the Region where educated youth, both rural and urban, were actively involved in agricultural and rural development schemes. The value of these projects in terms both of training and attitudinal development was fully recognized and the Conference urged their expansion throughout the Region.

### Women in Rural Development

125. The vast numbers of women and girls living in rural communities in Asia and their vital role in the home and field demanded that measures should be taken to offer them education and greater opportunities for participation in activities both within and outside the home, if the goal of a better living for the masses of rural people were to be achieved. Traditional roles of women must undergo progressive change within the context of community and national social structures. In bringing about enhanced utilization of human resources special emphasis should be placed on national programming and assistance for education and training of girls and women in all aspects of home economics and better family living. The Conference recognized that it was through family and community approaches that the participation of women in programmes of development could best be enhanced.

126. The Conference recommended that home economics should become an integral and dynamic part of all national agricultural extension services, particularly in view of the increasing shift of emphasis to the farm family unit in promoting economic and social progress for Asia.

127. Pilot projects based on farm and home units including aspects of home food production, storage, processing and nutritional utilization were recommended as an effective method in promoting home economics extension. The Conference took note of a great variety of rural women's programmes and training projects which were being tried in the Region, and requested FAO to assist in their rationalization and in development of guidelines for appropriate training programmes. In this connection, the importance of home economics extension and the role of applied nutrition programmes within total rural development programmes was emphasized.

### Organizing Farmers for Rural Development

128. The Conference recognized the economic, sociological and political justification for governments to deliberately encourage and assist in the development of farmers' organizations as part of efforts to mobilize human resources for rural development. FAO was asked to provide greater leadership in this area through the organization of national seminars and workshops, regional studies, seminars and study tours.

129. The value of farmers' organization as a basic unit for planning, implementation and evaluation of area development programmes, in cooperation with governments, was stressed by several delegates.

130. While recognizing the role of farmers' organization in involving local people in planning, provision of services, inputs, and consumer goods and in leadership development, the Conference noted that farmers' organization also provided a mechanism for carrying out the following additional functions:

- a) implementing the area development concept,
- b) identification of rural manpower needs at field level,
- c) mobilization of rural savings,
- d) encouragement and support of agro-industries,
- e) evaluation of socio-economic activity in its area of operation, and
- f) developing expertise and technical competence at farm level.

131. The Conference considered the potential problem of the gradual transfer of leadership of farmers' organization from government to the farmers themselves and recommended that FAO should undertake a regional study of the problem and the experience gained in this field. The Government of Malaysia would be glad to consider hosting a seminar-cum-study tour on farmers' organization if FAO were to organize it.

132. In view of the great importance attached to the systematic development of farmers' organizations in the Region as a means to mobilize human resources for rural development, the Conference recommended that FAO assist in the development of a regional farmers exchange programme whereby farm leaders could study agricultural and rural development and farmers' organizations in other countries of the Region.

#### An Integrated Institutional Approach to Rural Development

133. The Conference review of the experience in the Region of the integrated institutional approach to rural development, advocated in the Indicative World Plan and endorsed by the Ninth FAO Regional Conference and the Fifteenth FAO Conference, had demonstrated the validity of this approach. It had indicated that, in the absence of a minimum set of coordinated institutional services at the field level - credit, marketing, farm supply, extension, etc. - farmers lacked either or both the possibility and incentive to adopt high-yielding varieties and other innovations.

134. While agreeing on the integrated approach, delegates emphasized that the mechanism for achieving it will necessarily vary according to local conditions and needs. In some countries, farmers' organizations, either on their own or supplemented by government facilities and services, were well suited for the task. Except in newly developed areas, improvement and supplementing of existing institutions and services, rather than establishment of a new set, was called for. In all cases there was a need to ensure horizontal integration of the essential institutional services at the field level as well as vertical integration in the administrative chain from field, through intermediate, to the central level. This integration should apply to both planning and implementation and ensure effective linkage between governmental and people's efforts.

135. While the Conference welcomed the recent experiments in area development through the intensive application of resources, it stressed the need of providing some minimum acceptable level of services on a nation-wide basis. Once this had been achieved, pilot area development projects were likely to become more readily acceptable. As regards the question of whether areas of high production potential (usually irrigated) or poorer ones should be selected for pilot projects, there was a tendency to favour the former. It was recognized, however, that if the situation of the masses of poorer farmers were to be improved, projects would have to be undertaken in the less favoured areas as well; and at least one country had a programme of this type.

136. To provide guidance to countries in the Region, FAO was requested to undertake comparative studies of projects designed to achieve the integrated approach. The suggestion to have national seminars to examine the status of development of institutions and their integration for effective action, was endorsed. In this connection the desirability of a Regional Seminar was suggested and the delegate of India reiterated his Government's invitation to host it.

137. The Conference also gave consideration to several other elements in FAO's programme of Mobilization of Human Resources, not specifically included in the agenda. Major stress was placed on the seriousness of the unemployment problem and both governments and FAO were urged to take measures which would contribute to its solution. The Conference noted with appreciation FAO's cooperation with ILO in this field, and, in particular, in the planning of joint studies. FAO was called upon to undertake studies of the employment potential which might arise from:

- a) new agricultural break-throughs such as high-yielding varieties;
- b) planned rural works programmes in flood and drought prone areas;
- c) industrialization directly related to agricultural development, and the siting of such industries in medium sized towns; and
- d) land reform.

138. It was suggested that the Regional Office be provided with the resources to follow-up these studies with pilot demonstration projects.

139. The Conference recognized the vital role of agrarian reform in achieving the goal of enhanced welfare of large numbers of rural people. The Conference welcomed the establishment of FAO's Special Committee on Agrarian Reform to provide guidance for programmes in the Second Development Decade, and emphasized that the Committee should give special attention to problems of small farmers in relation to the adoption of high-yielding varieties. In the closely related area of land settlement, the Conference drew attention to its potential for employment expansion and called for strengthening of the Regional Office's capacity to render assistance to Member Governments in the planning and development of land settlement projects.

140. The Representative of the United Nations Development Programme expressed the interest of his Organization in the integrated approach to rural development and in some of its components. Some work had already been done but much remained to be done and requests were now under consideration in such fields as research on the social aspects of adoption of high-yielding varieties, an integrated approach to land reform, development administration, the Asian Manpower Plan, and youth service/employment.

STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME  
AND WFP ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION

141. In making the statement on behalf of the Executive Director, Mr. Thomas C.K. Robinson, Deputy Executive Director, expressed appreciation for the opportunity to speak briefly on the contribution which the WFP should be able to make to the agricultural development of the Region during the Second Development Decade. He said that, whereas the Inter-Governmental Committee of the WFP, meeting twice a year, thoroughly examined the operations of WFP, laid down policy guidelines, and made specific decisions in regard to the future operations of the Programme, this Conference would undoubtedly wish to concentrate its discussion on the ways in which the Programme could be most helpful to the countries of the Region in the field with which it was concerned, namely agricultural development, which was the most important, of several fields in which WFP was active.

142. This Programme of the United Nations System was aimed at receiving voluntary donations of food, animal feeding stuffs, shipping services and cash from Member Countries of U.N. or FAO and using them either for emergency feeding operations or to finance part of the cost of economic and social development projects in the fields of human resources development, agricultural development, the development of infra-structure, or the development of industry and of mineral resources. WFP's inputs of food or feeding stuffs were in all cases to be associated with such other inputs as management, technical advice, local transport, and storage facilities supplied either by the host government, other U.N. programmes or agencies, bilateral donors or voluntary agencies. To ensure an optimum allocation of these inputs, as well as of its resources, WFP would participate in the country programming exercise being contemplated by the UNDP.

143. The initiation of an emergency feeding operation approved by the Director-General of FAO involved a simple exchange of letters between the Programme and the requesting country, but development projects were expected only after a formal agreement, normally a plan of operations, setting forth the obligations assumed by the Programme and the host government, had been signed. Such an agreement might cover a period as long as five years.

144. After a modest beginning with about \$90,000,000 in resources during the 1963/65 experimental period, the Programme grew rapidly, even spectacularly, and by the end of July 1970 had carried out 113 emergency feeding operations worth almost \$90,000,000 in 66 different countries and had undertaken 453 development projects, with a total cost to the Programme of almost \$950,000,000 in 83 different countries. In this Region of Asia and the Far East it had undertaken 122 projects in 14 countries, committing WFP resources of about \$275,000,000. The largest single country programme was in this Region, as were two of the five largest and seven of the twenty largest.

145. Over two-thirds of WFP commitments to projects in the Region were for projects in the agricultural field, including animal production and dairy development, land development and improvement, land settlement and agrarian reform, forestry, crop diversification, and fisheries.

146. Total worldwide disbursements of food, services and cash during 1970 would be well in excess of \$100,000,000, the tonnage of food shipped would rise from 550,000 m.t. in 1969 to 700,000 m.t. in 1970, and the number of shipments would be correspondingly higher than 1969's monthly average of 300 on 140 different ships.

147. The most worrisome current problem was the scarcity of a number of commodities including rice, pulses, sugar, cheese, meat and fish to be associated with adequate supplies of other cereals, dried skim milk, butter oil and vegetable oil. While some types of projects, including dairy schemes, maternal and infant feeding programmes, and even work projects could be satisfactorily operated mainly with commodities which were in plentiful supply, others, where a complete diet was required, as in the case of resettlement schemes and school feeding programmes, were difficult to initiate without additional supplies of the scarce commodities.

148. While it was recognized that the supply position of individual commodities largely determined each country's decision in regard to the composition of its pledge, the Deputy Executive Director expressed the hope that donor countries would give increased consideration to the possibility of either supplemental pledges or shifts within already announced pledges in order to make more of the relatively scarce commodities available.

149. The total pledges from countries in the Region amounting to about \$21,000,000 (out of a worldwide total of \$770,000,000) included all of the tea and milk biscuits, most of the dried fruits and rice, and a considerable fraction of the cheese and sugar pledged this far.

150. So far as the need for food aid in the Region throughout the Second Development Decade was concerned, it would persist in many countries in spite of the degree of success achieved in raising food production; for income distribution would continue to be such that many people will continue to be under-nourished despite adequate overall food supplies, and the developing countries in the Region might well be unable to finance the subsidization of food supplies to such people.

151. In the discussion which followed, a number of delegations expressed the hope that the Programme would be able to do more purchasing of commodities for cash in the developing countries. Delegates from several developing countries urged a relaxation of the general policy ban which operated even on sales through fair price shops of a part of the commodities, while some other Delegates expressed strong opposition to such sales. Similarly opposing views were expressed in regard to the desirability of adding non-food items to the list of commodities which WFP was authorized to accept and distribute.

152. One delegation gave notice that it intended to bring to the attention of the next session of the Inter-Governmental Committee a number of WFP policies and practices which, in its opinion, were severely restricting the scope of WFP assistance in its country and to ask for this revision.

#### WAR ON WASTE

153. The Conference was gratified to note the efforts made by Member Governments in reducing losses in agricultural production due to misuse or inadequate utilization of land, water, fishery and forestry resources; plant pests and diseases, animal diseases and parasites; and improper handling, storage, marketing and processing. The Conference was highly appreciative of the role of FAO and its regional bodies in the 'war on waste'. Recognizing that waste still continued in considerable proportions, the Conference urged for concerted action in arresting these losses, and stressed that while developing and instituting necessary preventive measures, the economic aspects of waging a war on waste should not be lost sight of.

154. In view of the importance and the complexity and enormity of the problem of waste, the Conference established a Panel under the Chairmanship of Australia (Dr. K.V.L. Kesteven) to consider the whole question of waste in different sections of agriculture and recommend priority, viable programmes in this regard. The report of the Panel was considered in the Conference and generally approved. The following conclusions emerged in the course of discussions.

155. The Conference recommended that in formulating their proposals and programmes of War on Waste, Member Governments and FAO should assign high priority to problems of an irreversible nature as well as to those where an immediate impact could be obtained.

156. The Conference noted that while some estimates of losses had been worked out in respect of certain commodities, on the whole there was a woeful lack of dependable data which could be used for planning measures to reduce wastage levels. The Conference, therefore, recommended that systematic surveys of losses occurring in different sectors of agriculture should be undertaken by FAO and the Member Governments, and a suitable statistical methodology for estimating losses should be developed.

#### Plant Protection

157. The Conference noted with satisfaction the activities of the Plant Protection Committee for the South East Asia and Pacific Region and endorsed the recommendation of the Committee for strengthening the regional staff for rendering effective assistance to Member Governments in this important field. This had become all the more necessary in view of the enlarged coverage of the Committee and expanded and continuing activities of the Regional Office as visualized by this Conference. The Conference recommended that the existing post of the regional plant protection expert should be placed on a permanent basis and that an additional regional expert provided under TA programme; and that Member Governments should support appropriately such strengthening of the regional staff. It also recommended that the Director-General should investigate the possibility of securing the services of an Associate Expert to assist the existing expert in Bangkok.

158. Losses caused by rodents were of continuing concern in the Region. The Ninth FAO Regional Conference had urged that determined efforts be made in designing and implementing measures for rodent control. It had also suggested the establishment of a Regional Rodent Research and Control Institute. The Conference noted that a request for assistance in the establishment of a rodent control and research institute in Pakistan had been evaluated by both FAO and UNDP/SF, and it was agreed that the request should receive high priority for inclusion on the agenda of the January 1971 Session of the Governing Council. Additionally, UNDP/SF assisted projects for strengthening plant protection services, including rodent control and research had recently become operational in Thailand and Taiwan and a similar project in Korea was expected to be approved at the January Session of the Governing Council.



The Conference recommended that other countries of the Region should evaluate their programmes in rodent research and control with a view to strengthening their work. The Pakistan rodent control and research project might assume a coordinating role in the Region. In this connection the Conference called attention to the research and training in rodent control which had been conducted in India for some years at the Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore and the Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur, and in the Philippines at the Rodent Research Centre at Los Banos.

159. The need for paying increased attention to losses in cereals and fruits from birds was also emphasized. In this context the Conference was informed that the FAO Regular Programme activities in the field of rodent and bird control had recently been strengthened by the establishment of a Regular Programme post at Headquarters and the recruitment of an appropriate expert.

160. The necessity for strengthening national efforts in plant pest and disease control had been the subject of continuing concern in the Region. In this connection, the Conference recognized that the use of agricultural pesticides would be essential for the foreseeable future. The Conference, however, expressed concern about the rapidly increasing resistance in some insects and the growing public and official concern with the possible hazards to man, livestock and fishery and the environmental contamination associated with the use of pesticides, particularly, the more dangerous ones. The Conference, therefore, recommended that Member Governments and FAO should pay greater attention to the safe and efficient use of pesticides.

161. Some delegates stated that the trend in many European and North American countries to legislate against the importation of food and feed commodities containing pesticide residues at levels which did not constitute a hazard to the health of consumers, but were in excess of their own national requirements, posed a serious threat to exports from the Region. The Conference supported the efforts of the Codex Alimentarius Commission to recognize the special needs of the Region while establishing standards for pesticide residues in food commodities, including residues in animal products resulting from the use of animal feeds containing unavoidable residues of persistent pesticides.

162. The Conference was informed of the two draft requests which had been prepared by FAO for UNDP assistance to Member Governments for global research on agricultural pesticides and the development and utilization of integrated pest control techniques. The Conference recommended that the governments, after appropriate study at the national level, should submit Letters of Intent to UNDP in support of these proposals. Such Letters of Intent would not involve any financial commitment by governments at this stage but would be the subject of future negotiations if the projects were approved and activities undertaken in particular countries.

163. Recognizing the urgent necessity for developing integrated pest and disease control programmes which would minimize the use of agricultural pesticides and their undesirable side-effects, not only in the Region but also throughout the world, the Conference strongly endorsed the recommendation of the 15th Session of the FAO Conference for establishing a Headquarters post to deal with problems concerning resistance of agricultural pests to pesticides and integrated control, and requested the Director-General to establish the proposed post in the 1970-71 biennium within the approved budget level.

164. The Conference recognized that the Region was still free from many dangerous pests and diseases such as cotton boll weevil and South American leaf blight of rubber, which caused alarming losses in other countries, and recommended that Member Governments should strengthen the national plant quarantine services by providing suitable facilities and by appropriate legislation. The Conference also stressed that the post-entry quarantine and the export phytosanitary certification facilities needed special attention.

165. The Conference noted that so far the emphasis in the Region had been on the study of important pests and diseases of rice and a few high value crops and urged Member Governments and FAO to devote more attention to the study of pests, diseases and weeds of other cereals, legumes, vegetables, fruits and commercial crops.

166. Realizing the great loss to agriculture from weeds, the Conference stressed the need for providing adequate research facilities and trained personnel and for intensifying studies on weeds, particularly their ecology and control. Some weeds, such as water hyacinth, covered large areas in the Region and could most effectively be tackled by cooperative action at regional or sub-regional levels.

167. The Conference noted that the high-yielding varieties had intensified the existing plant protection problems and created new ones such as bacterial leaf blight of rice, rice gall midge, orange yellow leaf virus, leaf and plant hoppers and stem borers. It urged Member Countries and FAO to give immediate attention to research in tackling these problems. Because of the severity and suddenness of some of the pests and diseases occurring in these crops, the Conference recommended that Member Governments should institute and strengthen surveillance and forecasting services.

168. Although considerable efforts had been made in developing measures to combat pests and diseases, there was a continuing need for intensifying research, particularly the multi-disciplinary coordinated approach to tackle some of the most difficult and urgent problems, both at national and regional levels. The Conference urged that Member Governments and FAO should direct immediate attention to the establishment of coordinated regional research programmes in the Region on specific problems, such as weed control, integrated control, pesticide research, at the same time utilizing the facilities available in Member Countries.

169. In view of the increasing adoption of exotic and quick growing species in the development of forestry in the Region, the Conference recommended that the Regional Plant Protection Committee should give due attention to the measures necessary for excluding the introduction of exotic pests and diseases of forest trees.

170. While some countries in the Region had developed capacities for the manufacture and formulation of some pesticides and plant protection equipment, others still imported their requirements from outside the Region, which often inflicted severe strain on their scarce foreign exchange resources as well as involved high cost on transport. The Conference felt that as reasonable possibilities existed in the Region for local formulation of plant protection materials, a study of the production capacity of the plant protection materials industry in the Region should be undertaken, so as to assist the Member Governments in the development of their production programmes - particularly in the formulation of pesticides - and to promote cooperation among them in the most economic use of the regional resources.

#### Animal Protection

171. The Conference reviewed the general problem of livestock diseases in the Region, and concluded that national facilities for diagnosis, vaccine production and training were inadequate to deal with current problems. Studies in the field of epidemiology should receive high priority. The situation was exemplified by the recent experience in Malaysia, where great difficulty was encountered in obtaining a satisfactory vaccine for rabies in the face of conflicting advice from possible suppliers.

172. The Conference recommended that the Regional Office should provide the services of a short-term consultant to conduct a survey of the status and capabilities of national veterinary laboratories, with a view to preparing a request for UNDP assistance in the establishment of a Far East Animal Health Institute following the pattern of the UNDP/FAO Near East Animal Health Institute. The Member Governments were urged to express their support for this regional project to UNDP.

173. Recognizing the need for coordination and cooperation in animal health planning, research, training, development of regional projects, and the dissemination of information, the Conference recommended the immediate establishment of a Regional Commission on Animal Health for Asia and the Far East. It further recommended that adequate finance should be provided for the activities of the Commission.

174. The Conference strongly urged the establishment and strengthening of animal quarantine service in Member Countries and suggested that the exchange of information on the occurrence of epizootic and communicable diseases should be promoted through the facilities of Regional Office.

175. Noting that the existing knowledge and information on animal disease control was not available to most rural stock-owners, even in countries with strong veterinary services, the Conference urged Member Countries to strengthen the livestock extension service for providing an effective livestock diseases control programme.

176. The Conference suggested that further attention should be paid to the possibilities of economic utilization of fish-meal and slaughter-house and milling by-products as animal feeds, since in many areas, the use of these materials was not being adequately exploited.

177. The water buffalo is an animal of notable value in most countries in the Region, and a source of protein and power for rural population. With the changing pattern of agricultural practices, the buffalo should be given increased attention with a view to improving the output of meat, milk and work. The Conference expressed its concern in the matter and suggested that the Member Governments should study the situation and take steps for the conservation and rehabilitation of buffalo with a view to improving it for milk and meat production, and current efforts of FAO in this field should be strengthened.

178. Considering the large wastage of animal by-products occurring in the slaughtering of animal, both in the rural areas as well as in abattoirs, due to lack of adequate facilities for slaughtering and processing of by-products, the Conference stressed the need for establishment of abattoirs with proper facilities.

179. The continued existence of rinderpest in South Asia posed a great threat to livestock development activities throughout the Region. Great success had been achieved in the control of the disease in Africa by using quality vaccines and organizing control campaigns, involving several countries. The Conference recommended that a similar approach to eradicate the disease in India, Nepal and Afghanistan with the active cooperation of Pakistan, should be made. FAO should take initiative in this matter and secure assistance from bilateral and multilateral sources.

180. The Conference noted with concern the losses occurring in hides and skins in most countries of the Region. Studies had been made of such losses in Latin America, Africa and Middle East with FAO assistance. The Conference recommended that FAO should look into the possibility of providing the services of a TA expert to survey the extent of losses occurring in hides and skins in the Region with a view to suggesting measures to Member Governments for preventing such losses.

Improved Handling, Storage and Processing of Food Products

181. Losses in storage of cereals and other crops at times reached astronomical proportions. Besides, lack of storage facilities to accommodate the increased yields resulting from the introduction of high-yielding varieties was a major problem in many areas. The Conference felt that increased attention should be paid to the conduct of training courses for medium level personnel in proper storage methods and storage pest control, and every opportunity sought to establish pilot demonstration and training projects at the farm and village level under the auspices of FFHC and the various bilateral sources of aid administered by FAO. Attention should also be given to training courses concerned with the storage and processing of fresh fruits and vegetables, together with training in methods of harvesting, handling and grading, to ensure that products entered storage in the best possible condition. It was pointed out that technical assistance in the conduct of such courses might be obtained from the Tropical Products Research Institute, United Kingdom, the Central Food Technological Research Institute, India, and the Central National Français D'Etudes D'Agronomie Tropicale and Institut Français De Recherches Fruitieres Outre Mer.

182. The Conference also noted with interest the availability of a comprehensive training manual on crop storage prepared by Australia which, with suitable editing, could be reproduced by FAO and utilized in appropriate training courses, if desired. In this connection, the Conference was informed that FAO was giving increased attention to these problems under its Regular Programme.

183. It was agreed that lack of processing facilities in many areas resulted in great losses, and it was suggested that governments should increase their efforts to provide satisfactory facilities utilizing both internal and external sources of assistance.

184. Recognizing the urgent need to develop products which could be made from fish, not presently utilized, the Conference suggested that there should be more emphasis on product development in the FAO Regular Programme, and that Member Countries should examine their own capabilities in fish processing and product development and, where appropriate, request assistance and advice in improving their utilization of this most important resource.

185. The Conference drew attention to the loss of nutrients in the processing of food and stressed the need of including nutrition in the syllabus for training in food technology, and vice versa, particularly at the technician level. The importance of demonstration projects in food processing techniques to stimulate a private sector support for the development of new products utilizing presently available sources of food, was emphasized. Attention was also drawn to the problem of aflatoxin in groundnut, maize and rice and the need for suitable measures to prevent contamination of these commodities.

186. Referring to the losses occurring in the milling of rice and other grains due to inefficient and inadequate mills, the Conference took note of the UNDP-IBRD assisted 'Grains Industries Development Programme' approved last June for the Philippines, designed to upgrade post harvesting practices and to introduce improved rice milling facilities, and urged Member Governments to improve and modernize mills and also provide necessary facilities for grading, drying, and storage. Evaluation studies should also be undertaken of the factors which influenced the milling quality and recovery.

Conservation of Land and Water and Naturally Renewable Resources

187. The efficient management of soil and water resources at the national level is dependent upon a comprehensive inventory of these resources, and the results of such surveys, if they included productivity assessments, would have particular value in expressing the characteristics of total landscapes of interest to many different disciplines. The Conference recommended that Member Governments should undertake such integrated resource surveys, which were more valuable and expeditious, and less expensive as well, and stressed that training in integrated resource surveys under arid, rain-fed and monsoon conditions was essential to the provision of data which could be effectively used in national level planning. Such training should also provide for the collection of data on the extent of flood damages, seasonal water shortages, silting of streams and reservoirs due to erosion, acreages taken out of production by erosion and shifting agriculture, salinization of soils and losses in productivity, which would bring out the extent of the damage and waste caused by the use of non-conservation land use measures. Reference was made to the training centre in Western Europe, and FAO was asked to take the lead in establishing such a training centre in the Region, giving due consideration to providing training in environments representative of the Region as a whole.

188. The Conference further suggested that FAO should take initiative in promoting regional or sub-regional studies on silting and associated problems, particularly with regard to the silting of some vast water reservoirs in the Region, the capacities of which were fast diminishing.

189. Reference was made to the work of the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council and the Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (both of which were concerned with the identification of new fishery stock and their exploitation in the Region), the proposed meetings of the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission in Rome in October 1970 and of the Indo-Pacific Fishery Council in Bangkok in November 1970, and to the preliminary assistance furnished by UNDP to the Indian Ocean Fisheries Project, and it was suggested that Member Governments should consider requesting assistance for similar projects in other areas, especially in the South China Sea, keeping in view such suggestions as might emerge from the deliberations of the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission and the Indo-Pacific Commission.

190. Reference was also made to the problems of water-shed management. The gradual extension of farming to higher altitudes forced the marginal farmer into shifting cultivation which, under many conditions - particularly monsoon conditions - led to destruction of forests followed by extensive erosion. This very serious problem could be solved only when public officials, farmers and foresters became convinced that the proper utilization of forest resources was more profitable than the transitory benefits obtained from shifting cultivation. As a first step, the Conference agreed that the TA forestry experts in the Region should prepare manuals on water-shed management, first priority being given to monsoon conditions. These should be followed by a series of training seminars and pilot projects and demonstration units at the farm level, thus stimulating public and private interest necessary to the implementation of a national water-shed management programme.

EFFICIENT DOMESTIC MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE AND INPUTS

191. The Conference identified the principal constraints to the efficient marketing of agricultural commodities to be the limitations in market research, price and market information, marketing extension and training, introduction of standards and grades and in the marketing of farm inputs. There was general agreement that the private sector could assist significantly in overcoming these problems. Shortage of trained and experienced personnel at all levels, constituted a major bottleneck in the provision of these services, both in the public and the private sectors. This was being increasingly recognized in many developing countries. FAO's assistance in overcoming these shortages through establishing specialized marketing research and training institutes, introducing and improving marketing training in existing institutions and arranging facilities for training abroad, were welcomed. It was, however, stressed that, as far as possible, the training should be organized within the country and in practical marketing situations.

192. The Conference recommended that FAO should undertake comparative studies of institutional systems and marketing channels for agricultural produce and inputs, and into the future place of village level markets in the overall marketing structure, which had special importance in relation to HYV programme. It further recommended that arrangements be made for the exchange of information through FAO on marketing development programmes, including those implemented with bilateral and multilateral assistances.

193. The Conference noted that presently FAO assistance for marketing improvement programmes in the Region had tended to concentrate on the institutional aspects, and stressed the need for expanding the assistance to cover specialized marketing facilities and services for individual commodities, including end-uses of such commodities.

194. The Conference recognized the importance of grades and standards in efficient marketing and recommended that FAO should take steps to bring the developing countries more fully into its Codex Alimentarius Commission programme.

195. Recognizing the special importance of marketing programmes in agricultural development, the delegates from some of the developed countries and the representative of the International Cooperative Alliance offered their cooperation in providing assistance for marketing programmes, especially for training in technical and managerial fields.

196. The Conference drew attention to the problem of marketing of agricultural inputs and emphasized the need, especially in servicing the smaller farmers, to link up marketing with arrangements for the provision of credit and farm supplies.

RESEARCH FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION

197. The Conference noted with satisfaction the progress made by the countries of the Region in organizing national research activities to cope with the multiplicity of problems arising from changes from the development of subsistent to market oriented agriculture; and expressed its appreciation of FAO's important role in assisting Member Governments in strengthening their national research and training programmes, as well as in guiding and promoting regional and global research.

198. It was recognized, however, that a great deal remained to be done in several important sectors of agricultural research. In view of the shortage of technical personnel, it was essential to identify areas of priority and work out a programme of problem-oriented research. Attention was drawn to the need for further work on legumes, fodder and plantation crops, fruits and vegetables, ornamental plants, particularly those meant for export, pest and disease control methods, soil fertility, crop rotation, weed control and utilization of un-cultivated lands. Special emphasis was laid on the need for research into problems of areas of dry farming, unirrigated but assured rain-fall areas and of those prone to floods, whose early development was essential for several social and economic considerations, and in particular for mitigating regional disparities.

199. A major hurdle in developing programmes of research was the lack of trained personnel at all levels. The Conference stressed the need of adequate arrangements for training. It was emphasized that the training should be provided, as far as possible, in the environment in which the researcher is to work. A link should be established between research personnel, extension workers and the farmers, which was essential to ensure that research should be problem-oriented and the farmers might take full advantage of the findings of the research as early as possible to improve their productivity and welfare.

200. The use of remote sensing technique in the field of food and natural resources was mentioned by some of the delegates and it was suggested that FAO should look into the possibilities of using this technique in the development of agriculture, fisheries and forestry in the countries of the Region.

201. The problems of research were becoming increasingly complex and required technical personnel of high level of competence, which would take time to develop. Technical personnel thus constituted a scarce resource and it was necessary to ensure that this scarce resource was utilized fully and efficiently. A coordinated approach to research development was therefore essential. In this connection, reference was made to the measures adopted in India for planning, coordinating, programming and implementing programmes of research through the national organization of Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

202. The need of regional cooperation in research was strongly stressed at the Conference. It was felt that as similar agro-ecological conditions obtained in several countries of the Region, there was considerable scope for cooperative action at regional and sub-regional levels in regard to several problems of research.

203. Reference was made to the proposed regional meeting to identify critical areas of research, and how best this could be done at national, sub-regional and regional level. The delegate from Malaysia expressed his Government's willingness to consider the hosting of such a meeting.

204. A suggestion was also made that universities should be increasingly involved in agricultural research and training. In this connection, some delegates suggested that the possibilities of contracts with universities for specific research tasks should be explored. Besides, it was also suggested that an association of research institutions and the universities engaged in research should be formed. This should assist in the exchange of information among them and help to promote coordinated research in important fields.

205. The Conference recommended that the FAO Regional Office should become a Centre for collection, collation and dissemination of information on research facilities and research findings in the Region.

206. Several delegates pointed out that some of the problems could be solved through Inter-Governmental cooperation without the necessity of establishing a regional institute or centre. Some others suggested the widening of activities of the already established international institutes to undertake broader and wider research activities. It was also emphasized that some of the existing national research institutes should be strengthened to undertake research on selected regional problems. A suggestion was made that a sub-regional approach to some of the problems of research could also be considered; for instance, the Region could be divided into two eco-climatological zones, wet monsoon zone and the dry regions, which would lend themselves to such an approach.

207. The Conference supported the suggestion for a regional approach to solving some of the common problems through the establishment of regional institutes or centres. It cautioned, however, that due to the complexity of the matter, which involved finance, administrative and technical problems, it would be necessary to make a careful study thereof before embarking on regional projects. It was accepted, however, that the adoption of a problem-oriented approach should make the financing of a regional centre more easily manageable.



MOBILIZING DOMESTIC AND EXTERNAL RESOURCES REQUIRED FOR AGRICULTURAL  
DEVELOPMENT IN THE SECOND DEVELOPMENT DECADE

208. The Conference recognized that though the external resources made available by FAO through its Regular Programme would essentially be limited, yet, considering the resources which were being mobilized through UNDP, FAO's advice and cooperation with the voluntary funds (WFP, FFHC and UNICEF), bilateral programmes in cooperation with some of the countries (Denmark, Germany, Norway, Sweden, USA, etc.), and through working arrangements with investment agencies (FAO - IBRD, FAO - ADB and FAO - Industry), FAO's activities did add up to a sizeable effort and offered a series of opportunities or channels for mobilizing external resources. The external assistance, through these programmes, was expected to amount to \$650-700 millions during 1970-1971.

209. The Conference appreciated the aid available to the developing countries through these multilateral arrangements. There was, however, a general expression of concern that the Region was not receiving its due share of assistance from the Organizations in the United Nations Family, and the Conference called attention to the need for increasing aid and for greater attention to the Asian problems within the UN system.

210. Reference was made by several delegates to the UNDP insistence that a Special Fund project should necessarily comprise a package of several elements - expertise, fellowships, equipment and supplies. This had discouraged some of the developing countries, which could obtain some of these services from within the country at a comparatively lesser cost, from securing required assistance through SF projects. It was suggested that there should be greater flexibility about the SF projects so as to permit requests based on one or more elements as would meet the needs of a country, and to allow for the purchase of such services from within the country.

211. The Conference stressed that the inflow of external assistance on easy terms would quicken the process of development in the Region. There was also the need for structural changes to make the aid programmes of the multilateral agencies follow the priorities of individual countries. It was further emphasized that it was necessary for the countries of the Region to work together for securing greater regional balance in the development and utilization of available resources.

212. The delegates from Australia, France and Japan referred to the external aid programmes of their countries, and expressed their keenness to continue to assist the developing countries increasingly in their agricultural development programmes. It was necessary, however, to promote measures for the effective utilization of external aid, and it would be useful if the FAO Regional Office could undertake studies of aid utilization.

213. Several countries expressed the hope that ADB and other regional institutions should play an increasing role in the agricultural development of the Region. The Conference recommended that FAO should strengthen its arrangements for collaborating with the regional agencies, especially ADB, to bring about their increased involvement in agricultural development. It further recommended that Member Countries should study the proposed UNDP country programming recommendations in detail and ensure increasingly close cooperation between bilateral and multilateral agencies so that the external aid should be utilized more effectively.

214. The Conference recognized that the mobilization of external aid by itself could meet only a portion of the needs of development. In fact, the unfavourable terms of trade and the increasing burden of servicing external loans on the internal resources of developing countries had already limited severely their ability to raise further loans from abroad. Thus, the developing countries will have to carry the major burden of development themselves. This called for proper national planning. In this regard, the Conference welcomed the addition of 'Development Planning' to the Five Areas of Concentration in FAO's programme of work.

215. The Delegates from several countries referred to the increased participation of the countries in their development programmes through mobilization of internal resources. In this connection, reference was made to the findings of the Pearson Commission's Report that 85% of the investment on development had so far been provided by the developing countries themselves. This clearly indicated the great sacrifices on the part of developing countries in denying to the present generation even the scanty necessities of life. Several Delegates then referred to the measures adopted in their countries for the mobilization of resources for agricultural development, such as the aggregation of agricultural and non-agricultural wealth for purposes of taxation, surcharge on land tax, the increasing role of rural banks or commercial banks in the mobilization of small savings, increased investment in rural industries, increased irrigation charges and the establishment of agricultural finance and re-finance corporations. It was recognized, however, that the 'Green Revolution' had opened up fresh opportunities for mobilizing a portion of the increased incomes in the agricultural sector for agricultural and rural development.

MEDIUM-TERM PROGRAMME

216. The Conference noted that the proposals for medium-term activities and programmes contained in Director-General's Note "Proposals for Medium-Term Activities and Programmes" constituted the more detailed statement requested in Fifteenth FAO Conference Resolution No. 9/69. This paper did not go as far as would otherwise have been desirable in setting priorities, etc. It was necessarily in fairly general and comprehensive terms but it nevertheless provided a picture of the main lines of development and fairly definite indications of some policy priorities. The Conference further noted that the Supplementary Paper (Medium-Term Programme) suggested more specific policy priorities in relation to the Region.

217. It was noted that employment, conservation and research were regarded as outstanding special problems that had to be tackled over the next six years; that the mobilization of human resources was dealt with as the first of the Five Areas of Concentration, not merely as a presentational device to meet the views of the Fifteenth FAO Conference, but because the results of preliminary work on programme budgeting showed that among the Five Areas more resources were in fact being currently allocated to this Area than to the others. In this connection, programme budgeting was a tool for implementation of the correct policies emerging from discussion of the Medium-Term. The pattern of classification, as recently revised and approved by the Director-General would be submitted to the Programme Committee and the Council later this year as a basis for preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget 1972-1973. The pattern would no doubt change again in the future, since programme budgeting was not an end in itself but a means by which Member Governments could be provided with a basis for judging the validity of FAO's objectives, the allocation of resources to those objectives, and the efficient use of those resources. The Organization was therefore proceeding rather further and faster with the introduction of programme budgeting than was perhaps desirable in so short a time, but much would remain to be done before it could be said that it was a full system of programme budgeting.

218. As regards the Programme of Work and Budget 1972-73, this would be the first phase of medium-term programme. The Director-General wished to take fully into account the views of the Regional Conferences and of the Council before making his final decisions for submission to the FAO Conference next year. In this connection, however, the Conference noted that further developments since the paper was issued indicated that the mandatory increases in expenditure in this biennium and having their full impact in the next biennium would be even larger than was thought in July and would in fact be very considerable. For this and other reasons, it seemed clear that the additional programme resources in 1972-1973 would be comparatively rather modest. In this connection, it was important to note that the medium-term proposals should allow for flexible development over a period of six years rather than on an 'all or nothing' or 'now or never basis' in one biennium only, so that what could not be done in full or in part in the next biennium should be capable of steady or rapid development in subsequent biennia.

219. The Conference generally endorsed the concept of a medium-term programme as a basis for planning and developing programmes of activity and projects important to countries in the Region in line with their implementation of the findings of the Indicative World Plan and under the Five Areas of Concentration.

220. As regards the content of the proposals, a number of suggestions concerning priorities were made by several delegates but some felt that it was not possible for them to indicate the priorities which should be implemented by the Director-General in view of the position explained in paragraphs 18 to 20 of the paper and the possible situation as regards the next Programme of Work and Budget. Some delegates also felt that more details should have been provided on certain activities, in particular under agricultural policy and planning.

221. There was, however, general agreement that the proposals were a very useful first step in the direction of medium-term programming and that there were good reasons for not having yet gone further in defining the proposals. It was also pointed out that there would always be difficulty in reaching agreement between the many Member Countries of FAO in providing the Director-General with clear guidance on the priorities which he should follow. There was, however, general agreement about the importance of effective action in the field of sustaining and developing the 'Green Revolution', on employment with proper regard to the respective roles of FAO and other agencies; on agrarian reform; on dealing with the protein problem with attention to calorie supply and protective foods as well as high protein foods; on research, concerning which there was considerable support for regional or cooperative projects; on the need for FAO to play a more positive role on commodity and trade questions with a view to the maximization of earnings from the exports of developing countries; on various aspects of the War on Waste as recommended by the Panel set up by the Conference; and on studies in the field of agricultural policy and planning, including comparisons of experiences in development and exchange of information on major programmes and projects in the Region. It was felt that the Regional Office should be strengthened, particularly by the addition of a commodity specialist, to play a greater role in these fields, and that FAO should take the initiative in finding new ways of promoting regional and cooperative efforts.

222. As regards the Supplementary Paper, it was pointed out that the problem areas discussed therein already formed the basis of major policies and programmes in the countries of the Region and that the paper did not provide a sufficient indication of the strengthened support which FAO could give through the Regional Office, nor did it place sufficient emphasis on trade problems. Reference was made to the need to strengthen work on planning and socio-economic surveys, commodity studies and synthetics. Some delegates also referred to the role of the Senior Agricultural Advisers/FAO Country Representatives and the need, whatever the outcome of the joint UNDP/FAO review, for them to be closely associated with Ministries of Agriculture. There was, however, general agreement that the first priority was to sustain the Green Revolution and to prepare for the next stage of diversification, including HYVs, water development, livestock and fisheries development, mixed farming, horticulture and in particular agro-industry.

223. As regards the question of priorities and resources, some delegates referred to the large flow of external assistance which was necessary and to the imbalance in the allocation of the aid flow as between this Region and other regions. Substantial additional investment was necessary in the fields referred to above and on easier terms. Some Delegates referred to the need for effective action at the country level and the desirability of a balanced effort, not only through the Regional Office but also through Headquarters staff and Country Representatives; the need to avoid over-ambitious activities in the field of research, conservation and employment; and the need to select the few regional problems of major importance on which FAO action was both essential and would be effective. One delegate, while welcoming the introduction of programme budgeting warned against its over-rapid and expensive development and also drew attention to the references in the FAO Conference Resolution No. 9/69 in the context of the amount of work that FAO could take on in the next biennium.

224. It was stressed that Medium-Term Planning would not be meaningful unless the developing countries were enabled to raise resources of their own through relaxation of trade barriers and through more favourable terms of trade by securing better prices for their traditional exports of agricultural products to the developed countries, which should help them in a much more substantial way than foreign aid. It was emphasized that FAO should give high priority to assisting the developing countries in making such commodity trade agreements with developed countries.

225. In summing up the debate, the following points were noted: Although more details could and probably would be provided in subsequent revisions of the main medium-term proposals, and it was the function of these to set the main lines of development over a period of six years, detailed programmes would find their place in successive Programmes of Work and Budget. It was inevitable that countries should consider the question of priorities in relation to their own particular needs and had in fact assigned priorities equally and simultaneously to a number of fields. But it was clear that there were certain regional problems on which an FAO initiative would be desirable and valuable, in particular on animal disease. In this connection, some projects were appropriate to extra-budgetary financing, others could be carried out by studies by Headquarters staff and/or the Regional Office, or through consultant funds at the disposal of the Regional Representative. Some suggestions would depend on whether two or more governments wished to pursue the question of cooperative action, although FAO could assist in exploratory work and preparation for this. As regards the Supplementary Paper, FAO was of course fully aware of the major policies and programmes being carried out in various countries of the Region. The intention was firstly to focus attention on the further results which could be achieved by fuller coordination of the efforts of those governments (which in any case provided the greatest amount of the resources themselves), by other aid agencies and by FAO; and secondly on the potentialities for more integrated work by FAO itself on these problems.

226. The Conference noted with satisfaction that the Director-General was fully aware of the importance attached by countries to the problems of trade. They noted the further explanations which were given on the work already on hand or contemplated as regards commodities, including the problem of synthetics, and on agricultural policy and planning. As regards the suggestion of the provision of a commodity specialist at the Regional Office, it was noted that it was desirable and inevitable that the major work on commodities should be performed on an overall basis at Headquarters, but that strengthening of the economic expertise at the Regional Office, possibly in conjunction with general planning assistance to governments, would be carefully considered, together with other recommendations for strengthening FAO's work in the Region.

227. In conclusion, the Conference noted with satisfaction that the Director-General would, as previously indicated, inform the Council of the views of the Regional Conference and would carefully and sympathetically review these when deciding the priorities for allocation of resources over the medium-term and in particular in the next Programme of Work and Budget which would constitute the first phase of the Medium-Term Programme.

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE'S SUMMING-UP

228. In his statement on the Reorientation of FAO's work in the Region, the Regional Representative referred to the spirit of close cooperation shown by the delegates in their common approach to problems facing the countries of the Region, leading up to proposals for cooperative action by the countries and the formulation of requests for FAO action on their behalf, which had contributed in a great measure to the undoubted success of the Conference.

229. The most striking development since the last Regional Conference had been the stirrings of agricultural progress. Though the Green Revolution had presently covered only a small area, yet its impact had been felt over a much larger area and more deeply in the attitudes of the farmers in several countries of Asia where, from being a way of life, agriculture had moved from a subsistence to a market enterprise. There was, however, no ground for complacency and it was necessary to ensure that the present momentum of production did not falter, but led to a sustained and broader based growth.

230. In this connection, the Regional Representative referred to the emphasis placed in the Conference on the need of urgent institutional changes and arrangements for the flow of credit and provision of agricultural inputs and services, which would secure effective participation of small farmers, tenants and the landless in the Green Revolution; and on the need for a vigorous tackling of technical and institutional problems of agricultural production in rain-fed and dry farming areas. These problems, he said, should receive high priority not only for expanding the production base, but also to avoid the growing disparities between the regions (within a country) and the income distribution within a developing region itself, which were exacerbating social tensions. Several suggestions had been made in this regard for studies, research, training and pilot experiments which should receive careful consideration of FAO and the Member Governments.

231. Although the shadow of hunger, which hung heavily over the Region in the 'Sixties' showed signs of lifting, many countries were faced with the growing problem of unemployment and under-employment in the rural areas due to rapid increases in the population. The size of this problem, the possible contribution of agricultural intensification and agro-industries to its relief, and how best the abundant human resources could be mobilized for development, was one of the high priority areas for action research in the Second Development Decade.

232. The Regional Representative then referred to the emerging problems of disposal of agricultural surpluses and said that many countries were now faced with declining foreign exchange earnings due to falling prices of agricultural products in the international markets. The resulting unfavourable trade balances and the increasing burden of servicing the heavy debts had limited severely the capacity of the developing countries in securing further international assistance, even if available. It had been rightly emphasized in the Conference that if Medium-Term Planning were to be meaningful, FAO should accord high priority to assisting the developing countries in making commodity trade agreements with developed countries to secure them better prices for their traditional exports of agricultural products, which should help them much more substantially than foreign aid programmes.

233. There was general recognition in the Conference that the developing countries would have to carry the major burden of development themselves. The recent technological developments had opened up fresh opportunities for mobilizing a portion of the increased incomes in the agricultural sector for agricultural development. Even so, the external assistance had a catalyst role in the development of economies of Member Countries, and it should be the endeavour of FAO to secure for the countries of this Region their due share of international assistance in cooperation and collaboration with other members of the UN family and the investment agencies.

234. It was very right that the problems of Waste should have received special consideration of this Conference. In this connection, he referred to the very good work done by the Panel constituted by the Conference to study the problems of Waste. The recommendations of the Panel which had been adopted by the Conference should certainly receive careful consideration of FAO and Member Governments.

235. The Regional Representative expressed his deep appreciation of the confidence reposed in and the support for the services of the Regional Office and the repeated requests for further assistance from it, and assured the delegations that the Regional Office, in cooperation with FAO Headquarters, would endeavour to meet such requests, as best as possible, within the limits of available resources.

236. In concluding, he thanked the host government for the splendid facilities provided and the warmth of hospitality extended, and the Chairman of the Conference, the members of the Organizing Committee and many others who had worked behind the scene for the success of the Conference.

#### DATE AND PLACE OF THE ELEVENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE

237. The Delegate of India made an offer on behalf of his Government to host the next Regional Conference. The Conference welcomed the offer and recommended it for the consideration of the Director-General.

#### CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE.

238. The Delegate of India moved a vote of thanks on his behalf and on behalf of his colleagues and expressed the deep appreciation of the Conference for the excellent arrangements made for the conduct of the Conference. He thanked the Chairman for the tact and firmness with which the proceedings of the Conference had been conducted. Thanks were particularly due to the Australian and the FAO Staff who had contributed so much to the success of the Conference. Thanks were also due to the UN Agencies who had participated in the Conference. And finally to the host Government which had provided such excellent facilities for the Conference and made this visit to Australia so pleasant and memorable.

239. The Delegate of the United States of America fully supported the sentiments expressed by the Delegate of India and said that the Conference owed above all a deep sense of gratitude to the Government of Australia for their help and cooperation. This Conference was the best serviced Conference, of more than 150 conferences he had attended.

240. The Chairman in his concluding remarks thanked delegates for their expressions of regard and said that this Conference was for him personally a great experience. He was struck by the intimate cooperation among the delegates, which should help a great deal in seeking solutions to the difficult problems facing this Region in raising the standards of living of millions of farmers. He thanked the Deputy Director-General, the Regional Representative and the FAO Staff for all their help in the organization and conduct of the Conference. He then declared the Tenth FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East closed.





LIST OF DELEGATES, OBSERVERS AND REPRESENTATIVESA. MEMBER NATIONSAUSTRALIA

Delegate	J.D. Anthony Minister for Primary Industry Canberra
Alternates	Walter Ives Secretary Department of Primary Industry, Canberra
	A.L. Senger Deputy-Secretary Department of Primary Industry, Canberra
	D.H. McKay Deputy-Secretary Department of Trade and Industry, Canberra
	S.F. Harris Director Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Canberra
	C.S. Christian Member of Executive C.S.I.R.O.
Associates	M.W. Oakley First Assistant Secretary Department of Primary Industry, Canberra
	E.S. Hoffman First Assistant Secretary Production Division Department of Primary Industry, Canberra
	G.O. Gutman First Assistant Secretary Economic Affairs Division Department of External Territories, Canberra
	C.G. Setter First Assistant Secretary Fisheries Division Department of Primary Industry, Canberra
	L.C. Corkery Acting First Assistant Secretary Department of External Affairs, Canberra

AUSTRALIA (contd.)

Associates

K.W. Edmondson  
First Assistant Director-General  
National Health Division  
Department of Health, Canberra

K.S. McIntosh  
Assistant Director-General  
Animal Quarantine Branch  
Department of Health, Canberra

J.R.G. Morschel  
Assistant Director-General  
Plant Quarantine Branch  
Department of Health, Canberra

J.C. Lamrock  
Assistant Director  
Division of Extension and Marketing  
Department of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries  
Territory of Papua and New Guinea

F.H.M. Collins  
Assistant Secretary  
Agricultural Production Branch, Production Division  
Department of Primary Industry, Canberra

N. Honan  
Assistant Director  
Bureau of Agricultural Economics  
Department of Primary Industry, Canberra

D. Mentz  
Assistant Secretary  
Production and Trade Branch  
Department of External Territories, Canberra

P.J. Galvin  
Assistant Secretary  
Government Branch  
Department of External Territories, Canberra

H. Marshall  
Acting Assistant Secretary  
Economic Relations Branch  
Department of External Affairs, Canberra

E.H. Hipsley  
Medical Officer-in-Charge  
Australian Institute of Anatomy

W. Granger  
Officer-in-Charge  
International Relations Branch  
Department of External Territories, Canberra

AUSTRALIA (contd.)

Associates

K.V.L. Kesteven  
Agricultural Production Branch  
Department of Primary Industry, Canberra

P.S. Muecke  
Agricultural and Biological Sciences  
C.S.I.R.O.

H.K. Grubb  
Chief Finance Officer  
Rural Industries Section  
Department of the Treasury, Canberra

K. Horton-Stephens  
Chief Finance Officer  
Aid and Development Section  
Department of the Treasury, Canberra

P.M. Walsh  
Acting Officer-in-Charge  
Agriculture, Stock, and Fisheries Division  
Department of External Territories, Canberra

R. Green  
Officer-in-Charge  
Forestry Section  
Department of External Territories, Canberra

R.A. Daly  
Director  
Commodity Policy Division  
Department of Trade and Industry, Canberra

M. Dall  
Senior Project Officer  
Department of Primary Industry, Canberra

R.N. Farquhar  
Extension Services Division  
Department of Primary Industry, Canberra

R.C. Bolduan  
Project Officer  
External Relations Branch  
Department of Primary Industry, Canberra

D.S. Hamilton  
Senior Agronomist  
Northern Territory Administration  
Department of the Interior, Canberra

K. Brazel  
International Organization Section  
Department of External Affairs, Canberra

AUSTRALIA (contd.)

Associates

I.L. Briant  
Research Officer  
Department of Defence, Canberra

N.P. Hodgson  
Research Officer  
Department of Defence, Canberra

J.D. Christian  
Parliament House  
Canberra

Miss J. Turnbull  
International Organizations Section  
Department of External Affairs, Canberra

Advisers

D.E. Tribe  
Dean Faculty of Agriculture  
University of Melbourne

J. Francis  
Professor of Preventive Medicine  
Veterinary School  
University of Queensland

BURMA

Delegate

Myo Myint  
Director of Agriculture  
Department of Agriculture  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Rangoon

Alternate

Khin Maung  
Deputy Director (Research)  
Department of Agriculture  
Ministry of Agriculture, Rangoon

Associates

Hla Myint  
Chief Executive Officer  
Agricultural and Rural Development Corporation  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Rangoon

Khin Myint  
Manager  
Trade Corporation  
Ministry of Trade, Rangoon

CEYLON

Delegate D.G.P. Seneviratne  
Senior Assistant Secretary  
Ministry of Plantation Industries, Colombo

Alternate D.E.N. Rodrigo  
Second Secretary  
Ceylon High Commission, Canberra

FRANCE

Delegate Jean de Vaissiere  
Inspecteur général de l'Agriculture, Paris

Adviser R. Puissant  
Premier Secrétaire  
Ambassade de France, Canberra

INDIA

Delegate Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed  
Minister of Food and Agriculture  
Community Development and Co-operation, New Delhi

Alternate J.C. Mathur  
Additional Secretary  
Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi

Associates H.L. Chawla  
Specialist, Farm Management  
Directorate of Economics and Statistics, New Delhi

Ambika Singh  
Assistant Director-General  
Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi

Abu Hakim  
Private Secretary to the Minister, New Delhi

K.C. Lalvunga  
First Secretary  
Indian High Commission, Canberra

INDONESIA

Delegate Thojib Hadiwidjaja  
Minister of Agriculture  
Chairman, National FAO Committee, Djakarta

Alternate Sujitno Sukirno  
Ambassador  
Indonesian Embassy, Canberra

INDONESIA (contd.)

Associates

Agus Jaman  
Minister  
Indonesian Embassy, Canberra

Sugeng Amat  
Indonesian Permanent Representative to FAO  
Rome

J. Hutabarat  
Bureau for Foreign Relations  
Secretary, National FAO Committee  
Department of Agriculture, Djakarta

Suparso Malangjudo  
Planning Bureau  
Directorate-General of Fisheries  
Department of Agriculture, Djakarta

M. Satar Loebis  
Project Officer  
Directorate-General of Agriculture Estates  
Department of Agriculture, Djakarta

T. Hutagalung  
Directorate for Multilateral Economic Cooperation  
Directorate-General for Foreign Economic Relations  
Member, Executive Body, National FAO Committee  
Department of Foreign Affairs, Djakarta

E. Soehardi  
First Secretary  
Indonesian Embassy, Canberra

JAPAN

Delegate

Makoto Saito  
Special Adviser to Minister of Agriculture  
and Forestry, Tokyo

Alternates

Kaoru Motohashi  
Deputy Chief  
International Cooperation Division  
Agricultural Economic Bureau  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Tokyo

Shigeki Tsukamoto  
Second Secretary  
Embassy of Japan, Canberra

Masaaki Kuniyasu  
Deputy Head  
Specialized Agencies Division  
United Nations Bureau  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tokyo

JAPAN (contd.)

Associates

Seiichi Okubo  
Official  
International Co-operation Division  
Agricultural Economic Bureau  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Tokyo

Yoshihiro Nakamura  
Third Secretary  
Embassy of Japan, Canberra

KOREA (REPUBLIC OF)

Delegate

Choong Sik Min  
Ambassador  
Korean Embassy, Canberra

Alternate

Duch Yong Rhee  
Assistant Minister for Agricultural Production  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Seoul

Associates

Tal Chun Hong  
Manager  
Purchasing Department  
National Agricultural Co-operatives Federation, Seoul

Tae Kyu Yang  
Bureau International Relations  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Seoul

LAOS

Delegate

Phagna Sisouk Na Champassak  
Ministre des finances et  
Ministre chargé de l'économie nationale, Vientiane

Alternates

Tianethone Chantharasy  
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim  
Ambassade Royale du Laos, Canberra

Tiao Somsavath Vongkoth  
Directeur de l'agriculture, Vientiane

Khandeng Sananikone  
Directeur du Service des Eaux et Forêts, Vientiane

MALAYSIA

Delegate Ghazali Bin Haji Jawi  
Minister of Agriculture and Co-operatives  
Kuala Lumpur

Alternate Mohamed Bin Jamil  
Director of Agriculture, Kuala Lumpur

Associates Johari Bin Daud  
Director of Veterinary Services, Kuala Lumpur

Hasnul Bin Osman  
Assistant Secretary  
Ministry of Agriculture, Kuala Lumpur

NEPAL

Delegate Harishehandra Mahat  
Assistant Minister of Food, Agriculture and Forestry  
Kathmandu

Alternate Rohit Thapa  
Director  
Fisheries Department  
Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Kathmandu

NEW ZEALAND

Delegate D.J. Carter  
Minister for Agriculture  
Wellington

Alternate A.T. Johns  
Director-General of Agriculture  
Wellington

Associates Harold B. Hewitt  
Secretary to Minister of Agriculture  
Wellington

J.C. Clarke  
Second Secretary  
New Zealand High Commission, Canberra

Miss J.E. Duncan  
Assistant Trade Commissioner  
New Zealand High Commission, Canberra

Adviser N.R. Woods  
General Manager  
Asian New Zealand Development Consultants Ltd.  
Wellington



PAKISTAN

Delegate Mahmoud A. Haroon  
Minister for Agriculture and Works, Islamabad

Alternate A. Sami Qureshi  
Joint-Secretary (Agriculture)  
Ministry of Agriculture, Islamabad

Associate Mohammad Tasharrof Hussain  
Joint-Secretary  
Agriculture Department  
Government of East Pakistan, Dacca

PHILIPPINES

Delegate J. Gualberto Planas  
Executive Director  
National Food and Agriculture Council  
Department of Agriculture and National Resources  
Manila

Alternate Teafilo Azada  
Administrator  
Agricultural Credit Administration, Manila

THAILAND

Delegate Kahn Jalavicharana  
Deputy Under-Secretary  
Ministry of Agriculture, Bangkok

Associates Phit Panyalakshana  
Director-General  
Department of Agriculture, Bangkok

Siri Subharnngkasen  
Deputy Director-General of Livestock Development, Bangkok

Ying Vajragupta  
Senior Soil Scientist  
Department of Land Development, Bangkok

Virapong Boonkitticharoen  
Chief, Foreign Trade Policy Division  
Ministry of Economic Affairs, Bangkok

Virach Arromdee  
Economist  
National Economic Development Board, Bangkok

Sermsak Awakul  
First Grade Agricultural Officer  
Rice Department  
Ministry of Agriculture, Bangkok

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Delegate                   Ralph W. Phillips  
                              Director  
                              International Organizations Staff  
                              U.S. Department of Agriculture  
                              Washington, D.C. 20250

Alternate                   Ralph N. Gleason  
                              Deputy Associate Director for Domestic Production  
                              USAID, Vietnam

Adviser                    Fred M. Lege  
                              Agricultural Attache  
                              American Embassy, Canberra

VIETNAM (REPUBLIC OF)

Delegate                   Tran Quang Minh  
                              Director of Cabinet  
                              Ministry of Land Reform and Agriculture  
                              and Fisheries Development, Saigon

Alternate                   Luong-Si Chuong  
                              Division du Plan  
                              Ministère de la Réforme Agraire et du  
                              Développement de l'Agriculture et des Pêches, Saigon

B. OBSERVER NATIONS

ISRAEL

Y. Hassin  
First Secretary  
Embassy of Israel, Canberra

UNITED KINGDOM

R. Elphick  
First Secretary (Agriculture and Food)  
British High Commission, Canberra

J.M. Riddell-Swan  
Acting Director of Agriculture and Fisheries  
Hong Kong

Berenado Vunibobo  
Director of Agriculture  
Fiji

C. HOLY SEE

Rev. John Patrick Kelly  
Garran, A.C.T.

Rev. M. Rafter  
Flemington, Victoria

D. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

UNITED NATIONS

M. Yamashita  
Chief, ECAFE/FAO Agriculture Division  
Bangkok

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Adriano Garcia  
Director  
Asia and the Far East Division

ASIAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
AND PLANNING

N.A. Khan  
Chief, Division of Research  
Bangkok

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

M. Yamashita  
Chief, ECAFE/FAO Agriculture Division  
Bangkok

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

Thomas C.M. Robinson  
Deputy Executive Director, Rome

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

Nikom Chandravithun  
Officer-in-Charge, Programming and Relations Unit  
ILO Regional Office for Asia, Bangkok

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

A.A.J. Jansen  
Medical Officer  
Inter-Country Programme on Nutrition  
WHO Regional Office of the Western Pacific, Manila

E. OBSERVERS FROM INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND INTERNATIONAL  
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

ASIAN PRODUCTIVITY ORGANIZATION

Chujiro Ozaki  
Agricultural Programme Officer  
Asian Productivity Organization, Tokyo

COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN SOUTH AND  
SOUTHEAST ASIA (COLOMBO PLAN BUREAU)

A.B. Connelly  
Director  
Colombo

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

R. McCumstie  
Economist  
Noumea

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE

W.W. Rawlinson  
Secretary  
Cooperative Federation of Australia  
Perth

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

A.A. Dawson  
Executive Officer  
Australian Farmers Federation, Canberra

WORLD FEDERATION OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS

Miss R.I. Rawson  
c/o Department of External Affairs  
Canberra

Walter F. Lulich  
Box 368  
Manuka A.C.T. 2603

WORLD UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Ivor F. Vivian  
P.O. Box 381  
Canberra

WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION

J.H. Kosseck  
Canberra

HOST GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

R.C. Bolduan  
Executive Officer  
Department of Primary Industry, Canberra

A.C. Kempe  
Assistant Executive Officer  
Department of Primary Industry, Canberra

L.L. Crossman  
Tours and Travel Officer  
Department of Primary Industry, Canberra

D.R. Barnes  
Protocol and Receptions Officer  
Department of Primary Industry, Canberra

G.D. Robertson  
Conference Arrangements Officer  
Department of Primary Industry, Canberra

B. Smith  
Furniture and Supplies Officer  
Department of Primary Industry, Canberra

W. Curedale  
Finance Officer  
Department of Primary Industry, Canberra

G. Russ  
Document Reproduction Typing Service Supervisor  
Department of Supply, Canberra

K. O'Brien  
Transport Officer  
Department of Supply, Canberra

N. Hobbs  
Press Officer  
Australian News and Information Bureau, Canberra

Mrs. H. Humphrey  
Accommodation Officer  
Department of Supply, Canberra

FAO STAFF PARTICIPATION

O.V. Wells, Deputy Director-General

Regional Office, Bangkok

Ahsan-ud-Din, Regional Representative for Asia and the Far East  
Soesilo H. Prakoso, Deputy Regional Representative for Asia and the Far East  
H.A. Al-Jibouri, Regional Plant Production and Protection Officer  
G. Cameron Clark, Regional Agricultural Extension and Education Officer  
M. Keon, Regional Information Adviser  
M.R. McRoberts, Regional Nutrition Officer  
C.P. Pillai, Regional Veterinary Officer  
D.B. Reddy, Regional Plant Protection Officer  
G.R. Spinks, Regional Marketing and Cooperatives Officer  
Thet Zin, Agricultural Services Officer

Headquarters, Rome

O.E. Fischnich, Assistant Director-General, Agricultural Department  
B.K. Steenberg, Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department  
T.S.B. Aribisala, Chief Operations Services, Agricultural Services Division  
L.C. Arulpragasam, Economic Analysis Division  
M. Autret, Director, Nutrition Division  
J. Clark, Agricultural Economist, FAO/IBRD Cooperative Programme  
D.C. Kimmel, Deputy Director for Operations, Rural Institutions Division  
P.A. Oram, Senior Agronomist, Policy Advisory Bureau  
P.E. Popper, Director of Programme Cooperation and Operations,  
Department of Fisheries  
A. Szarf, Agricultural Raw Material and Process Products Branch,  
Commodities and Trade Division  
E.M. West, Director, Programme Formulation Unit, Development Department  
F.W. Whittemore, Senior Officer, Plant Protection Service, Plant Production  
and Protection Division

CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

Officers of the Conference

H.N. Mukerjee, Conference Secretary (Bangkok)  
N.C. de Caprona, Conference Affairs Officer (Rome)  
A.N. Seth, Reports Officer (Bangkok)  
Liang Likitprathan, Documents Officer (Bangkok)

Translators

Mrs. N. Vittorelli (Rome)  
J. Brasseur (Rome)

Interpreters

Mrs. Barrau  
Miss M.T. Iordanov  
Mrs. N. Robson  
J. Sala

Secretaries

Miss M.F. Brossard (Rome)  
Mrs. Navarat Chulakamala (Bangkok)  
Kach Kichtham (Bangkok)  
Pravet Awachanakarn (Bangkok)  
Mrs. D. Moro-D'Alessandro (Rome)  
Miss G. Poulot (Rome)



LIST OF DOCUMENTSWorking Papers

FERC/70/INF/1	Information Note
FERC/70/INF/2	Provisional Timetable
FERC/70/INF/3	List of Documents
FERC/70/INF/4	Draft Provisional List of Delegates and Observers
FERC/70/INF/4 Rev.1	Provisional List of Delegates and Observers
FERC/70/INF/4 Rev.2	Provisional List of Delegates and Observers
FERC/70/INF/5	Press Release -- "Prime Minister to Open World Food Agency Meeting", 26.8.70
FERC/70/1	Provisional Agenda
FERC/70/1a	Provisional Annotated Agenda
FERC/70/2	Regional Representative's Review of FAO's Activities in the Region
FERC/70/3	Policy Implications of the Indicative World Plan Regional and World Studies for Asia and the Far East
FERC/70/4	Mobilizing Human Resources for Agricultural Development
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FERC/70/6	War on Waste
FERC/70/7	Efficient Domestic Marketing and Distribution of Agricultural Produce and Inputs
FERC/70/8	Research for Agricultural Development
FERC/70/9	Mobilizing Domestic and External Resources Required for Agricultural Development in the Second Development Decade
FERC/70/10	Medium-Term Programme
FERC/70/10a	Proposals for Medium-Term Activities and Programmes

Background Papers

FERC/70/CONF/1	Opening Statement by Mr. Oris V. Wells, Deputy Director-General, of FAO
FERC/70/CONF/2	Some Policy Implications of the Indicative World Plan for Asia and the Far East
FERC/70/CONF/3	Report of the Panel established by the Tenth Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East to consider priorities for regional action in the War on Waste
FERC/70/CONF/4	Research for Agricultural Development
FERC/70/CONF/5	The Future Orientation of FAO's Work in the Region (Statement of the Regional Representative)
FERC/70/REP/1	Introduction
FERC/70/REP/2	Introductory Remarks by the Regional Representative
FERC/70/REP/3	Policy Implications of the Indicative World Plan Regional and World Studies for Asia and the Far East
FERC/70/REP/4	Mobilizing Human Resources for Agricultural Development
FERC/70/REP/5	World Food Programme
FERC/70/REP/6	War on Waste
FERC/70/REP/7	Efficient Domestic Marketing and Distribution of Agricultural Produces and Inputs
FERC/70/REP/8	Medium-Term Proposals
FERC/70/REP/8 (contd.)	Regional Representative's Review



TENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST

Canberra, 27 August to 8 September 1970

A G E N D A

A. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

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

B. SITUATION AND PROSPECTS OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN ASIA AND THE FAR EAST AND FAO'S ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION

- 4.(a) Director-General's Introductory Statement
- (b) Introductory Remarks by the Regional Representative
5. Country Statements
6. Policy Implications of the Indicative World Plan Regional and World Studies for Asia and the Far East
  - 6.1 Impact of the High-Yielding Varieties on the Cereal and Livestock Economy (including problems arising out of emerging surpluses in the Region)
  - 6.2 Prospects for Main Export Commodities of the Region in the Light of the Overall Trade Analysis and Opportunities for Intra-regional Trade Cooperation
  - 6.3 Requirements of Manufactured Inputs and Scope for Production in the Region
  - 6.4 Agricultural Targets for the Second Development Decade

C. SECTORS OF IMPORTANCE FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION IN RELATION TO FAO'S AREAS OF CONCENTRATION WITH EMPHASIS ON ACTION NEEDED TO OVERCOME SIGNIFICANT RESTRAINTS

7. Mobilizing Human Resources for Agricultural Development
  - 7.1 Agricultural Education and Training in the Light of Manpower Needs
    - (a) Formal Education and Training
    - (b) Farmer Education
  - 7.2 Development Support Communications

- 7.3 Involving Youth in Rural Development
- 7.4 Women in Rural Development
- 7.5 Organizing Farmers for Rural Development
- 7.6 An Integrated Institutional Approach to Rural Development
- 8. Statement by the Executive Director of the World Food Programme and WFP Activities in the Region
- 9. War on Waste
  - 9.1 Plant Protection
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  - 9.3 Improved Handling, Storage and Processing of Food Products
  - 9.4 Conservation of Land and Water and Naturally Renewable Resources
- 10. Efficient Domestic Marketing and Distribution of Agricultural Produce and Inputs
- 11. Research for Agricultural Development in the Region
- 12. Mobilizing Domestic and External Resources Required for Agricultural Development in the Second Development Decade
- 13. Medium-Term Programme

D. CONCLUDING ITEMS

- 14. Regional Representative's Summing-up
- 15. Adoption of the Report
- 16. Date and Place of the Eleventh Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East
- 17. Closing of the Conference

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONSI. RECOMMENDATIONS ADDRESSED TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS

1. The urgent need for undertaking surveys and studies to seek solution to the difficult problem of mobilizing the rapidly increasing human resource for development was stressed. (para 36)
2. Recognizing the importance of agrarian reforms and land settlement projects in mobilizing human resources for social and economic development, the need for early and expeditious measures for the effective implementation of these programmes was stressed. (para 37)
3. The importance of vegetable proteins in the diet of the people of several countries of the Region was stressed and high priority in research to evolve suitable strains of food grains with high protein content was recommended. (para 41)
4. Measures leading to improved input:output ratios were considered to be of greater immediate benefit than reducing prices of staple crops. Careful study was, therefore, required of the possibilities of achieving economies by intra-regional cooperation in the manufacture of inputs. (para 48)
5. In order to ensure that timely measures could be taken to encourage diversification, there was a need for careful studies of consumption and demand patterns for cereals and other crops, of price responses and price relationships (particularly between grains and livestock), and of appropriate incentives to bring about the required changes. FAO should cooperate closely with national planners in the Region in this work. (para 52)
6. Stress was laid on the need to involve small farmers more closely in high-yielding varieties programmes and other measures to increase farm income and employment. Special multi-disciplinary programme - both on a commodity and on an area basis - were considered necessary to bring them into the orbit of modern agriculture. (para 55)
7. There was need for a study in depth of existing public and private channels for distribution of fertilizer and other inputs and how these might be improved. Such studies should be undertaken under the auspices of or with the help of FAO. (para 82)
8. The training of traditional artisans in the repair, maintenance and fabrication of improved implements should receive urgent attention of both FAO and Member Countries. (para 104)
9. The need to give greater attention to training of agricultural technicians in rural sociology, group dynamics and principles of communication was endorsed. (para 105)

10. Farmers' training, in order to be effective in the new agricultural break-through, should be organized as part and parcel of production programmes of crops, animal products or fisheries, and the organization of farmers' groups or associations at village level were an essential element of the training. (para 108)
11. Due attention should be given to raising the status of extension workers, particularly in the eyes of the farmer and through appropriate training to improve their technical competence and thereby performance as agents of change. (para 110)
12. The urgent need for Member Governments to develop comprehensive plans and programmes for increasing the involvement of youth in all rural and agricultural development projects was acknowledged and FAO was requested to continue its leadership in this field. (para 116)
13. Agricultural ministries and departments were urged to take the initiative, with FAO assistance where possible, to plan a programme aimed at developing positive attitudes amongst teachers in rural and urban schools at all levels towards agriculture and scientific farming as a profitable and satisfying way of life. (para 122)
14. Home economics should become an integral and dynamic part of all national agricultural extension services, particularly in view of the increasing shift of emphasis to the farm family unit in promoting economic and social progress for Asia. (para 126)
15. Horizontal integration of the essential institutional services at the field level as well as vertical integration in the administrative chain from field, through intermediate, to the central level was considered essential. This integration should apply to both planning and implementation and ensure effective linkage between governmental and people's efforts. (para 134)
16. The suggestion to have national seminars to examine the status of development of institutions and their integration for effective action, was endorsed. In this connection the desirability of a Regional Seminar was suggested and the delegate of India reiterated his Government's invitation to host it. (para 136)
17. In formulating their proposals and programmes of War on Waste, Member Governments and FAO should assign high priority to problems of an irreversible nature as well as to those where an immediate impact could be obtained. (para 155)
18. Systematic surveys of losses occurring in different sectors of agriculture should be undertaken by FAO and the Member Governments, and a suitable statistical methodology for estimating losses should be developed. (para 156)
19. Countries of the Region should evaluate their programmes in rodent research and control with a view to strengthening their work. (para 158)

20. Concern was expressed at the rapidly increasing resistance of some insects, and the growing public and official concern with the possible hazards to man, livestock and fishery and the environmental contamination associated with the use of pesticides, particularly the more dangerous ones, and Member Governments and FAO were asked to pay greater attention to the safe and efficient use of pesticides. (para 160)
21. The Conference was informed of the two draft requests which had been prepared by FAO for UNDP assistance to Member Governments for global research on agricultural pesticides and the development and utilization of integrated pest control techniques. Member Governments were asked after appropriate study at the national level to submit Letters of Intent to UNDP in support of these proposals. (para 162)
22. Member Governments should strengthen the national plant quarantine services by providing suitable facilities and by appropriate legislation. Post-entry quarantine and the export phytosanitary certification facilities also needed special attention. (para 164)
23. So far the emphasis in the Region had been on the study of important pests and diseases of rice and a few high value crops. More attention should now be given to the study of pests, diseases and weeds of other cereals, legumes, vegetables, fruits and commercial crops. (para 165)
24. The need for providing adequate research facilities and trained personnel and for intensifying studies on weeds, particularly their ecology and control was stressed. Some weeds, such as water hyacinth, covered large areas in the Region and could most effectively be tackled by cooperative action at regional or sub-regional levels. (para 166)
25. High yielding varieties had intensified the existing plant protection problems and created new ones such as bacterial leaf blight of rice, rice gall midge, orange yellow leaf virus, leaf and plant hoppers and stem borers. Immediate attention should be given to research in tackling these problems. Because of the severity and suddenness of some of the pests and diseases occurring in these crops, Member Governments should institute and strengthen surveillance and forecasting services. (para 167)
26. Member Governments and FAO should direct immediate attention to the establishment of coordinated regional research programmes in the Region on specific problems, such as weed control, integrated control, pesticide research, at the same time utilizing the facilities available in Member Countries. (para 168)
27. National facilities for diagnosis, vaccine production and training were inadequate to deal with current problems. Studies in the field of epidemiology should receive high priority. (para 171)
28. The establishment and strengthening of animal quarantine service in Member Countries was strongly urged and a suggestion was made that the exchange of information on the occurrence of epizootic and communicable diseases should be promoted through the facilities of the Regional Office. (para 174)

29. Member Countries were urged to strengthen the livestock extension service for providing an effective livestock diseases control programme. (para 175)
30. Further attention should be paid to the possibilities of economic utilization of fish meal and slaughter-house and milling by-products as animal feeds since, in many areas, the use of these materials was not being adequately exploited. (para 176)
31. Member Governments should study the situation and take steps for the conservation and rehabilitation of buffalo with a view to improving it for milk and meat production, and current efforts of FAO in this field should be strengthened. (para 177)
32. The need for establishment of abattoirs with proper facilities was stressed. (para 178)
33. The approach adopted in Africa involving several countries to eradicate the rinderpest disease should also be made in India, Nepal and Afghanistan with the active cooperation of Pakistan. FAO should take initiative in this matter and secure assistance from bilateral and multilateral sources. (para 179)
34. Increased attention should be paid to the conduct of training courses for medium level personnel in proper storage methods and storage pest control, and every opportunity sought to establish pilot demonstration and training projects at the farm and village level under the auspices of FFHC and the various bilateral sources of aid administered by FAO. Attention should also be given to training courses concerned with the storage and processing of fresh fruits and vegetables, together with training in methods of harvesting, handling and grading. (para 181)
35. Member Governments should increase their efforts to provide satisfactory processing facilities utilizing both internal and external sources of assistance. (para 183)
36. Member Countries should examine their capabilities in fish processing and product development and, where appropriate, request FAO assistance and advice in improving their utilization of this most important resource. (para 184)
37. The need to include nutrition in the syllabus for training in food technology, and vice versa, particularly at the technician level, was stressed. The importance of demonstration projects in food processing techniques to stimulate a private sector support for the development of new products utilizing presently available sources of food, was emphasized. (para 185)
38. Member Governments should improve and modernize mills and also provide necessary facilities for grading, drying, and storage. Evaluation studies should also be undertaken of the factors which influenced the milling quality and recovery. (para 186)
39. Member Governments should undertake integrated land and water resource surveys. Training in integrated resource surveys under arid, rain-fed and monsoon conditions was essential to the provision of data which could be effectively used in the national level planning. (para 187)



40. Member Governments should consider requesting assistance for projects, like the Indian Ocean Fisheries Project, in other areas, especially in the South China Sea, keeping in view such suggestions as may emerge from the deliberations of the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission and the Indo-Pacific Commission. (para 189)
41. Forestry experts (TA) in the Region should prepare manuals on water-shed management with first priority being given to monsoon conditions. These should be followed by a series of training seminars and pilot projects and demonstration units at the farm level, thus stimulating public and private interest necessary to the implementation of a national water-shed management programme. (para 190)
42. Arrangements should be made for the exchange of information through FAO on marketing development programmes, including those implemented with bilateral and multilateral assistance. (para 192)
43. Attention was drawn to the problem of marketing of agricultural inputs and the need, especially in servicing the smaller farmers, to link up marketing with arrangements for the provision of credit and farm supplies was emphasized. (para 196)
44. Research on legumes, fodder and plantation crops, fruits and vegetables, ornamental plants, particularly those meant for export, pest and disease control methods, soil fertility, crop rotation, weed control and utilization of un-cultivated lands should receive priority. Research into problems of areas of dry farming, unirrigated but assured rain fall areas and of those prone to floods, whose early development was essential for several social and economic considerations, and in particular for mitigating regional disparities, should receive special attention. (para 198)
45. A link should be established between research personnel, extension workers and farmers, to ensure that research should be problem-oriented and the farmers might take full advantage of the findings of the research as early as possible. (para 199)
46. As similar agro-ecological conditions obtained in several countries of the Region, there was considerable scope for cooperative action at regional and sub-regional levels in regard to several problems of research. (para 202)
47. Universities should be increasingly involved in agricultural research and training, and possibilities of contracts with universities for specific research tasks should be explored. (para 204)
48. An association of research institutions and universities engaged in research should be formed. This should assist in the exchange of information among them and help to promote coordinated research in important fields. (para 204)
49. The suggestion for a regional approach to solving some of the common problems through the establishment of regional institutes or centres was supported. (para 207)

50. Structural changes were needed to make the aid programmes of the multilateral agencies observe the priorities of individual countries. (para 211)
51. Countries of the Region should cooperate for securing greater regional balance in the development and utilization of available resources. (para 211)
52. The proposed UNDP country programming recommendations should be studied closely to ensure increasingly close cooperation between bilateral and multilateral agencies so that external aid might be utilized more effectively. (para 213)



POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF THE INDICATIVE WORLD PLAN REGIONAL AND WORLD STUDIES FOR  
ASIA AND THE FAR EAST

Impact of the High-Yielding Varieties on the Cereal and Livestock Economy

6. FAO should strengthen its assistance to Member Countries in the evaluation of progress in HYV programmes and practical problems in their implementation, and make a periodical review of the problems and progress by an ad-hoc group of officers responsible for implementation of the programmes in different countries of the Region. (para 47)
7. Measures leading to improved input:output ratios were considered to be of greater immediate benefit than reducing prices of staple crops. Careful study was, therefore, required of the possibilities of achieving economies by intra-regional cooperation in the manufacture of inputs. (para 48)
8. FAO should continue assistance in developing surface and groundwater resources in Asia, as well as in programmes to ensure efficient water use and management in existing or new projects. (para 50)
9. FAO, through its Regional Office, should act as an information centre on progress in irrigation and drainage in the Region, as well as on experimental work and other new technical developments. (para 50)
10. FAO should devote special attention to problems of storage, drying, and milling, including design of equipment suitable for use in the Region. (para 51)
11. FAO should help, both by arranging regional meetings to discuss ongoing efforts, methodology and results in (or applicable to) the Region, and by cooperating with other international organizations and national planners in developing multi-disciplinary pilot projects for small and marginal farmers and landless labourers. (para 56)
12. FAO should give increasing attention to develop suitable enterprises and systems for rain-fed agriculture as appropriate to the different ecological zones of the Region. As a starting point special studies should be undertaken in individual countries under the leadership of the Regional Office, which should also promote exchange of experience and information between countries on this problem through an appropriate consultative body. In particular, the identification of areas suitable to new land development schemes, and of enterprises suitable to such schemes, having good market prospects, should be the objective of such studies. (para 57)

Prospects for Main Export Commodities of the Region in the Light of the Overall Trade Analysis and Opportunities for Intra-regional Trade Cooperation

13. It was suggested that FAO should extend, within the agreed objectives as expressed at the 15th FAO Conference, the analytical coverage of the Perspective Study for World Agricultural Development to include industrialized countries. (para 67)

14. FAO, possibly in cooperation with UNCTAD, and with the assistance of suitably qualified consultants, should undertake a study of the various aspects of agricultural marketing, including shipping arrangements, freight rates, auction systems, and their effects on international commodity prices. (para 68)

Requirements of Manufactured Inputs, and Scope for Production in the Region

15. FAO should assist Member Countries in overcoming bottlenecks in the supply of manufactured inputs through pre-investment studies and institutional investment. (para 75)
16. The majority of the delegates suggested that FAO should take appropriate initiatives to establish a Food Production Resources Programme. (para 76)
17. FAO should promote further exchanges of information between its members on methods of organizing the purchase and distribution of inputs to smaller farmers. (para 79)
18. FAO should strengthen its technical assistance in the field of soil-water-fertilizer-crop relations as an activity likely to yield early and significant benefits. (para 81)
19. FAO should draw the attention of the appropriate UN agency to the need to discover and develop domestic sources of sulphur, potash, phosphate and other essential plant nutrients. (para 83)
20. Training was needed for middle-level field staff in respect of mechanization and pesticide use. FAO should undertake a special study of the training facilities available in the Region for the benefit of all Asian countries. (para 87)
21. A thorough study was required of the present, planned, and potential capacity for production of inputs amongst the countries of the Region, the types of products, prices, and other relevant information. The promotion of trade of manufactured inputs among the developing countries of this Region would not only reduce the cost to the users but would also be consistent with the recent attempt of ECAFE to work out inter-regional cooperation in trading and monetary arrangements. FAO should review these issues and suggest further action in this regard. (para 91)

Agricultural Targets for the Second Development Decade

22. FAO should pay special attention to disparities between areas of higher and lower potential in the work on D.D. II and the Perspective Plan for World Agricultural Development. (para 95)
23. In addition to its long term activities in development planning, FAO should also strengthen its assistance to country planners, including measures to improve national statistics and statistical services. (para 97)

MOBILIZING HUMAN RESOURCES FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Agricultural Education and Training in the Light of Manpower Needs

(a) Formal Education and Training

24. FAO should continue to collaborate with ILO in determining agricultural manpower requirements. It should give particular attention to programmes for improving the quality and quantity of middle level agricultural technicians. The past efforts of FAO in the organization and conduct of national level agricultural education problem-solving workshops and teacher training courses were strongly commended as having made a significant impact at the field level and FAO Regional Office should continue and intensify this valuable regular programme service to Member Governments in the Region. (paras 101, 102)
25. The training of traditional artisans in the repair, maintenance and fabrication of improved implements should receive urgent attention of both FAO and Member Countries. (para 104)
26. Greater attention should be given to training of agricultural technicians in rural sociology, group dynamics and principles of communication and the training of trainers in these disciplines should be encouraged within the Region. To improve the quality of teaching in agricultural education institutions within the Region, a coordinated project should be developed for training of trainers in various subject matter fields of agriculture based on the strengthening of national institutions of excellence to perform ad hoc regional training functions. (paras 105, 106)
27. FAO should play a more significant role in higher agricultural education and encourage links between education and research, promote a contribution to extension by universities, and ensure an appropriate link between curricula and employment opportunities. Regular consultation between higher agricultural education institutions in the Region could be most helpful in strengthening those institutions and FAO was requested to organize such consultation. (para 107)

(b) Farmer Education

28. Recognizing the value of visits by groups of progressive farmers to other countries in the Region, the Conference recommended that FAO should take the initiative in organizing such tours. (para 108)

Development Support Communications

29. The need of FAO's assistance in training personnel in development support communications was emphasized. (para 114)
30. A suggestion was made for a workshop or seminar to consider various aspects of development support communications and the experience gained in the Region in this regard. (para 115)
31. FAO should collect information on the use of media in the rural communications field and put it out as a document. (para 115)

32. A regional pilot project on development support communications should be organized for coordinated action by the existing national institutions such as those in India and the Philippines. (para 115)

#### Involving Youth in Rural Development

33. FAO was requested to initiate pilot projects in "on farm - within community" training for the older youth in interested countries of the Region and to establish, in at least one of these project areas, a regional training centre for producing the new type of instructors required to conduct farm based agricultural education. (para 119)
34. FAO was requested to continue to strengthen existing programmes through the organization and conduct of additional national seminar-cum-workshops on rural youth extension. (para 121)
35. In spite of the increasing tempo of agro-business in areas where HYV's had caught on, the difficulties of rural youth securing employment in resulting agro-industries continued due to lack of education and training opportunities, and the location of such industries frequently in or near larger cities for reasons of available infra-structure. FAO, in collaboration with other appropriate international agencies, should initiate studies of these problems. (para 123)

#### Women in Rural Development

36. The variety of rural women's field programmes and training projects in the Region were noted, and FAO was requested to assist in their rationalization and in development of guidelines for appropriate training programmes. (para 127)

#### Organizing Farmers for Rural Development

37. FAO was asked to give greater leadership in the development of farmers' organization through national seminars and workshops, and regional studies, seminars and study tours. The potential problem of the gradual transfer of leadership of farmers' organization from government to the farmers themselves was noted and FAO was asked to undertake a regional study of the problem and the experience gained in this field. (paras 128, 131)
38. FAO should assist in the development of a regional farmers exchange programme whereby farm leaders could study agricultural and rural development and farmers' organization in other countries of the Region. (para 132)

#### An Integrated Institutional Approach to Rural Development

39. The suggestion to have national seminars to examine the status of development of institutions and their integration for effective action, was endorsed. In this connection the desirability of a Regional Seminar was suggested and the delegate of India reiterated his Government's invitation to host it. (para 136)

40. FAO was called upon to undertake studies of the employment potential which might arise from:

- (1) new agricultural break-throughs such as high-yielding varieties;
- (2) planned rural works programmes in flood and drought prone areas;
- (3) industrialization directly related to agricultural development, and the siting of such industries in medium sized towns; and
- (4) land reform.

It was suggested that the Regional Office should be provided with the resources to follow-up these studies with pilot demonstration projects. (paras 137, 138)

41. The establishment of FAO's Special Committee on Agrarian Reform to provide guidance for programmes in the Second Development Decade, was welcomed and it was emphasized that the Committee should give special attention to problems of small farmers in relation to the adoption of high-yielding varieties. (para 139)

42. In the closely related area of land settlement, attention was drawn to its potential for employment expansion and it was recommended that Regional Office's capacity to render assistance in this regard should be strengthened. (para 139)

#### WAR ON WASTE

43. In formulating their proposals and programmes of War on Waste, Member Governments and FAO should assign high priority to problems of an irreversible nature as well as to those where an immediate impact could be obtained. (para 155)

44. Systematic surveys of losses occurring in different sectors of agriculture should be undertaken by FAO and the Member Governments and a suitable statistical methodology for estimating losses should be developed. (para 156)

#### Plant Protection

45. The existing post of the regional plant protection expert should be placed on a permanent basis and that an additional regional expert provided under TA programme and that Member Governments should support appropriately such strengthening of the regional staff. The Director-General should investigate the possibility of securing the services of an Associate Expert to assist the existing expert in Bangkok. (para 157)

46. Concern was expressed at the rapidly increasing resistance in some insects and the growing public and official concern with the possible hazards to man, livestock and fishery and the environmental contamination associated with the use of pesticides, particularly, the more dangerous ones, and Member Governments and FAO were asked to pay greater attention to the safe and efficient use of pesticides. (para 160)



47. The Conference strongly endorsed the recommendation of the 15th Session of the FAO Conference for establishing a Headquarters post to deal with problems concerning resistance of agricultural pests to pesticides and integrated control, and requested the Director-General to establish the proposed post in the 1970-71 biennium within the approved budget level. (para 163)
48. So far the emphasis in the Region had been on the study of important pests and diseases of rice and a few high value crops. More attention should now be given to the study of pests, diseases and weeds of other cereals, legumes, vegetables, fruits and commercial crops. (para 165)
49. Member Governments and FAO should direct immediate attention to the establishment of coordinated regional research programmes in the Region on specific problems, such as weed control, integrated control, pesticide research, at the same time utilizing the facilities available in Member Countries. (para 168)
50. The Regional Plant Protection Committee should give due attention to the measures necessary for excluding the introduction of exotic pests and diseases of forest trees. (para 169)
51. A study of the production capacity of the plant protection materials industry in the Region should be undertaken, so as to assist the Member Governments in the development of their production programmes - particularly in the formulation of pesticides - and to promote cooperation among them in the most economic use of the regional resources. (para 170)

#### Animal Protection

52. The Regional Office should provide the services of a short-term consultant to conduct a survey of the status and capabilities of national veterinary laboratories, with a view to preparing a request for UNDP assistance in the establishment of a Far East Animal Health Institute. (para 172)
53. A Regional Commission on Animal Health for Asia and the Far East should be established immediately. Adequate finance should also be provided for the activities of the Commission. (para 173)
54. The establishment and strengthening of animal quarantine service in Member Countries was urged and it was suggested that the exchange of information on the occurrence of epizootic and communicable diseases should be promoted through the facilities of Regional Office. (para 174)
55. Member Governments should study the situation and take steps for the conservation and rehabilitation of buffalo with a view to improving it for milk and meat production, and current efforts of FAO in this field should be strengthened. (para 177)
56. The approach adopted in Africa involving several countries to eradicate the rinderpest disease should also be made in India, Nepal and Afghanistan with the active cooperation of Pakistan. FAO should take initiative in this matter and secure assistance from bilateral and multilateral sources. (para 179)

57. The possibility of providing the services of a TA expert to survey the extent of losses occurring in hides and skins in the Region should be looked into with a view to suggesting measures to Member Governments for preventing such losses. (para 180)

Improved Handling, Storage and Processing of Food Products

58. Increased attention should be paid to the conduct of training courses for medium level personnel in proper storage methods and storage pest control, and every opportunity sought to establish pilot demonstration and training projects at the farm and village level under the auspices of FFHC and the various bilateral sources of aid administered by FAO. Attention should also be given to training courses concerned with the storage and processing of fresh fruits and vegetables, together with training in methods of harvesting, handling and grading. (para 181)
59. There should be more emphasis on product development from fish in the FAO Regular Programme, and the countries should examine their own capabilities in fish processing and product development and, where appropriate, request FAO assistance and advice in improving their utilization of this most important resource. (para 184)

Conservation of Land and Water and Naturally Renewable Resources

60. FAO should take the lead in establishing an integrated resources survey training centre in the Region, giving due consideration to providing training in environments representative of the Region as a whole. (para 187)
61. FAO should take initiative in promoting regional or sub-regional studies on silting and associated problems, particularly with regard to the silting of some vast water reservoirs in the Region, the capacities of which are fast diminishing. (para 188)

EFFICIENT DOMESTIC MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE AND INPUTS

62. FAO should undertake comparative studies of institutional systems and marketing channels for agricultural produce and inputs, and into the future place of village level markets in the overall marketing structure, which had special importance in relation to HYV programme. (para 192)
63. Arrangements should be made for the exchange of information through FAO on marketing development programmes, including those implemented with bilateral and multilateral assistance. (para 192)
64. The need for expanding FAO assistance to cover specialized marketing facilities and services for individual commodities, including end-uses of such commodities was stressed. (para 193)
65. FAO should take steps to bring the developing countries more fully into its Codex Alimentarius Commission programme. (para 194)

RESEARCH FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION

66. FAO should look into the possibilities of using remote sensing technique in the development of agriculture, fisheries and forestry in the countries of the Region. (para 200)
67. FAO Regional Office should become a Centre for collection, collation and dissemination of information on research facilities and research findings in the Region. (para 205)
68. The suggestion for a regional approach to solving some of the common problems through the establishment of regional institutes or centres was supported. (para 207)

MOBILIZING DOMESTIC AND EXTERNAL RESOURCES REQUIRED FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE SECOND DEVELOPMENT DECADE

69. There was a general expression of concern that the Region was not receiving its due share of assistance from the Organizations in the United Nations Family, and the Conference called attention to the need for increasing aid and for greater attention to the Asia problems within the UN system. (para 209)
70. There should be greater flexibility about the Special Fund projects, so as to permit requests based on one or more elements as would meet the needs of a country, and to allow for the purchase of such services from within the country. (para 210)
71. FAO should strengthen its arrangements for collaborating with the regional agencies, especially the Asian Development Bank, to bring about their increased involvement in agricultural development. (para 213)

MEDIUM-TERM PROGRAMME

72. Medium-Term Planning would not be meaningful unless the developing countries were enabled to raise resources of their own through relaxation of trade barriers and more favourable terms of trade by securing better prices for their traditional exports of agricultural products to the developed countries. FAO should give high priority to assisting the developing countries in making commodity trade agreements with developed countries. (para 224)
73. Regional Office should be strengthened, particularly by the addition of a specialist in commodity trade and economic planning. (paras 221, 226)



STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to address this Tenth Far East Regional Conference. I bring you the greetings of the Director-General who is unfortunately prevented from attending on this occasion but who, as you know, has very much at heart the interests of this Region through which he has travelled extensively over many years.

I should like to say a few words to our hosts. We thank them for inviting us here and for all the facilities they have so generously made available. I also want to say how appropriate it is that the biennial Conference for this vitally important Region - the Region which has made the most striking breakthrough in food production in recent years - should be meeting in Australia. Some years ago, wiser heads than mine divided the world up into developed and developing countries. Australia is undoubtedly a dynamic and prosperous country which has achieved remarkable results in, for example, primary production and efficient use of the land. Yet I understand that many of you, familiar with our jargon, still prefer to regard Australia as "a developing country". This seems to me a clear-sighted - and encouraging - self-appraisal. At the same time, Australia is one of the leading countries in the matter of international aid. This combination of factors is among the reasons why FAO welcomes the fact that this Regional Conference is being held in Canberra.

Two years ago, when the Director-General addressed your Regional Conference, he departed somewhat from previous practice in that he framed his remarks within an overall policy setting applying not only to individual Regions but to FAO's concerns with the world as a whole. Had he been able to be here today, he would have wished to take a similar approach. For, while the Regional Conferences provide a unique opportunity to focus on the special problems of the different Regions and are thus basic sources for building up a coherent policy, it is also important - for the greater effectiveness of that very process - that the Regions in turn keep the world picture in view.

The importance of this becomes greater with every passing year. For it is increasingly evident that the nations and regions of the world are becoming more and more interdependent. And so - partly as cause, partly as result - are the problems they face. This means that, in devising policies to meet these problems - even such seemingly specialized ones as those connected with agricultural production - we have to take into account a whole range of economic and social factors affecting people in all parts of this planet. Of course, when it comes to actually tackling most of the individual problems, we must - as we do in our field projects - come to grips with them in terms of regional, national or even local needs. But, as we watch such things as the continuous widening of the gap between most of the developed and developing nations, the spread of technology and the intensification of the struggle for international markets in primary products, we shall be increasingly forced to take a global view of the situation.

There is perhaps some special significance in stressing this in the year 1970 - which marks the 25th anniversary of both the United Nations and FAO, the end of the First Development Decade and at the time we are setting our course for the Second Development Decade.

It is also relevant when we come to consider the special role of FAO. For a global view is necessary if we are to understand both the limitations and the strength of that role. On the one hand, it is clear that we cannot tackle the development problems related to food and agriculture alone. We need the active and continuing support of all our Member Governments, and we must work in close co-operation with the other organizations in the United Nations system and with all bilateral programmes and non-governmental bodies that are ready and able to help. On the other hand, however, it should always be remembered that FAO has its own special technical competence which, taken together with its inter-governmental status, places it in a unique position. I would only add that this technical competence needs to be continuously strengthened if the Organization is to be as effective as it could be and should be in the years ahead.

It is against the background that I should now like to draw your attention to some of the more important issues facing this Regional Conference. The most pressing of these, I believe, is that of the Medium-Term Programme.

You will recall that, at the Fifteenth Session of the Conference last November, the Director-General put forward a document - in line with a recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies - which contained a first submission of proposals on medium-term activities and programmes. In approving the principle of medium-term programming, the Conference requested the Director-General to circulate a more detailed statement on medium-term activities prior to the session of the Council this coming November. This paper is now before you as well as the supplementary paper which draws attention to the major agricultural development problems of the Region. I do call your attention that this is an outline of proposed activities and programmes for the next six years or so ahead - it is not a specific Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium which will, of course, not be prepared until after this series of Regional Conferences and the November Session of our Council.

I do not think that I need to urge on you here the value of medium-term programming. Nor do I need to go into the details of the two papers I have mentioned. There are, however, a few comments on them that I feel that I should make.

You will note that the medium-term paper is basically built around the Five Areas of Concentration which the Director-General proposed as FAO's new strategy two years ago. The paper also lists a sixth area - concomitant with the others - which deals with Agricultural Development Planning as such. Now, the fact that our Conference has endorsed the Areas of Concentration and they have proved to be a suitable design for our medium-term programming emphasizes their real vitality and validity as a means for tackling problems related to agricultural development. And it is the Director-General's strong hope that countries themselves, in drawing up their own agricultural development programmes, should do so as far as possible with an eye to the Areas of Concentration.

You also will note that the general Council paper on the Medium-Term Programme deals with certain special problems. The first and most urgent of these is unemployment. There is no doubt - especially with the rising flood of population in the developing countries - that, unless urgent steps are taken to create employment opportunities on a scale hitherto barely envisaged, we are going to witness a situation which could lead to the break-down of whole societies.

The second special problem is concerned with the conservation of the environment. For many years, FAO has been involved in a broad range of activities aimed at the rational utilization of natural resources, the protection and the improvement of the human environment. However, the threat posed by over-exploitation and pollution has reached a new dimension in recent times and calls for a radically new and comprehensive approach. Although the developing countries generally face different problems from those in the advanced ones, they will need to take steps to ensure that they do not repeat the mistakes made in the developed world. At the international level, you will be aware that the United Nations is holding a Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972, for which FAO is already actively preparing. I draw the attention of Member Governments of this Region to the request made by the Secretariat of that Conference for the preparation of national reports, which will provide an excellent opportunity for countries in each Region to identify their own environmental problems and make specific recommendations for their solution.

The third special problem to be high-lighted in the medium-term paper is that of research - together with a short note regarding the introduction of new technology such as remote sensing from spacecraft. So far as research generally is concerned, you will note that, in view of the fact that many countries share similar ecological conditions and problems, stress is laid on the possibilities of regional research activities although we are also much interested in research at both the national and international levels. In this connection the Regional Conferences are asked to identify clearly the major problems on which more research is needed, to assess the order of priority in which they should be solved, and to indicate whether these research problems can best be dealt with at national, regional or international levels.

There are a few other matters connected with the Medium-Term Programme that I should mention.

The Organization is now moving towards a system of programme budgeting. Following the approval of the Conference, the Programme of Work and Budget for 1972-73 will be constructed on this basis. This means that attention will be concentrated on the programmes of FAO rather than, as in the past, on expenditures Division by Division. And it is our intention to move further in this direction in the biennia that follow. This new system, by enabling evaluation of our work to be conducted in terms of programmes - the Areas of Concentration and the sub-programmes into which they are broken down - rather than the dimmer light of administrative detail, is potentially an extremely valuable instrument, both for Member Countries and for the Director-General, in assessing FAO's programmes and the Organization's efficiency in carrying them out.

I next want to mention the future of the Freedom From Hunger Campaign and its unique role in building up links between FAO and the general public. An example of how effective this role can be was the part played by the Indian Freedom From Hunger Committee in the organization of the highly successful National Food Congress in that country prior to the World Food Congress. Another, I might add, is the outstanding record of the Australian Freedom From Hunger Committee, which goes back to the beginning of the Campaign.

Another question is the need to strengthen the relatively new programme of Development Support Communication - through all kinds of communication media such as radio, television and audiovisual aids - in order to promote rural development in general and to bring home to rural populations the importance and relevance of the projects that are being designed for their welfare and to involve them more actively in making these projects succeed.

The last - but far from the least - important aspect of the Medium-Term Programme which I wish to mention is the question of its implications for this particular Region. These are dealt with in the supplementary paper to which I have referred. From this you will see that, not surprisingly, a main issue is that of the use of the so-called "high-yielding" varieties and their further development.

In the last few years, this Region has come to occupy the central place in the thoughts of all those who are concerned with the world food problem. It was in this Region, not many years back, that the outlook seemed to be most bleak. Today, thanks to the spread of the high-yielding varieties of cereal crops, the prospects are now much brighter so much so as to warrant a feeling of "realistic" or "cautious" optimism. We all know that a great deal of material investment will be required if the high-yielding varieties are to be fully successful and that there are also very difficult and complex socio-economic problems which must be solved.

But the encouraging trend is there. Our preliminary estimates for 1969 show that, while the increase in food production for the developing world as a whole was of the order of 2 per cent, the developing countries of this Region registered an increase of 4 per cent.

In the light of all this, it is natural that our supplementary paper for the Medium-Term Programme in this Region should concentrate on how to sustain this momentum and how to prepare for the next stage when it should become possible to release land and other resources for alternative uses, taking into account the need to correct or avoid any dangerous economic or social imbalances that may result. Although the paper also deals with the livestock industry, with tropical forests, with fisheries and with unemployment - all of them highly important matters - the Green Revolution and all its implications are clearly what is of special relevance to this particular Region.

Mr. Chairman, I have dealt at some length with our Medium-Term proposals, because these point the direction in which we believe FAO should move in the years immediately ahead. We await with the greatest interest your reactions to our proposals, particularly with respect to this Region, so that they may be taken into account in our presentation to the Council and the Conference.

I must now move on to other matters:

The one which it is most logical to mention after what I have been saying about the Medium-Term Programme is the Indicative World Plan, or the Perspective Study of World Agricultural Development as it will now be called.

As you know, the Conference considered the IWP as a pioneering undertaking aimed at providing a world-wide framework for international agricultural development planning. Even those who were not satisfied with the Plan's proposals regarding their own countries were in favour, not of abandoning work of this kind, but improving it. The Conference therefore unanimously recommended that, as rapidly as circumstances permit and within the limits of the funds available, the Director-General should evolve the IWP into a Perspective Study of World Agricultural Development. It also requested him to do several specific things - among them to bring the base period more up-to-date, to broaden the geographical coverage to the world as a whole, including the developed countries, and to examine the impact of possible or proposed changes in income distribution, social needs, trade policies and alternative economic opportunities for production.

Furthermore, the IWP itself and the new work called for by the Conference is to be adapted to the time-span and general goals of the Second Development Decade. Finally, all the work is to be carried out in close contact with national authorities responsible for the planning of agricultural policies and with bodies concerned with integration at the regional and sub-regional levels.



It is our objective to prepare a series of policy papers as part of the combined effort by the United Nations family for the Second Development Decade. In addition to a document on global agricultural development policies, we hope to produce policy papers for each of the developing Regions.

So far as this Region is concerned, it has to be acknowledged that the biggest gaps in the Indicative World Plan's coverage of the developing world were in Asia and the Far East. The IWP was, for one reason or another, unable to cover Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Eastern Malaysia, Nepal and Vietnam - in other words, about twenty per cent of the population of the Region. The most serious of these gaps was of course in Indonesia, and I am therefore glad to be able to tell you that, immediately following this Conference, an FAO team will be visiting that country for discussions. I hope that it will be possible, with our somewhat limited resources, to include Indonesia in the analyses we are preparing for the Second Development Decade. We have finished the process of up-dating the base period to 1964-66 for the eight countries in the Region previously covered and also for Indonesia. This material will be sent to all countries concerned for comment. The demand and supply analysis for the period 1970-1980 will be related to the targets for overall economic growth proposed by the United Nations, subject to discussion with ECAFE to whom we have already sent our comments. The new demand projections will be run very soon now and the supply analysis will begin in the autumn. This will not of course go into the same detail as the IWP, but will concentrate on points of major policy importance.

This, in outline, is where we stand now in the implementation of the Conference's resolution on the Indicative World Plan.

I now come to the Pearson and Jackson Reports. So far as the Pearson report is concerned we broadly agree with its philosophy, its analysis of the present crisis in development and its targets. We hope - along with you, I am sure, - that the richer countries of the world will move as rapidly as possible to meet those targets, particularly in matters of aid and trade.

The Capacity Study of the United Nations Development System, for which that distinguished Australian, Sir Robert Jackson, acted as Commissioner, deserves perhaps a few more words on this present occasion.

There is no doubt that the Study is provocative. But there has been a widespread feeling that changes are needed and from the beginning, FAO has taken a constructive attitude towards the many valuable suggestions made in the study. In the paper which we presented to the Inter-Agency Consultative Board, we laid stress on the constructive elements in the Jackson proposals, while at the same time emphasizing that the aim should be to improve what is working well rather than to start completely from anew and the need for close working relations or in effect, full partnership between the specialized agencies and the UNDP.

The Capacity Study has been extensively discussed by the Governing Council of UNDP and subsequently by the Economic and Social Council. The conclusions reached at the governmental level in ECOSOC have been embodied in a lengthy "consensus" which will be submitted for approval by the General Assembly. We feel that the "consensus" is workable, and we shall do our best to make it work. We are glad, in particular, to see that it emphasizes the idea of partnership which I have already mentioned.

This is perhaps the moment to say a word about our field programmes. You can have no doubt that this is the aspect of our work to which we attach the greatest importance. We are making every endeavour to increase their efficiency through an acceleration in the recruitment of experts, various management improvements such as network analysis and the whole-hearted acceptance of Sir Robert Jackson's concept of country programming.

At the same time, let me remind you that the kind of increase in field work envisaged in the Jackson Report would mean at least a doubling of the resources allotted to it over the next few years. FAO can undoubtedly handle the additional work which would come with this. But we can only do so effectively if there is a concomitant increase in our Regular Programme, which provided the technical under-pinning for our field operations. I should not like there to be any doubt about this.

I now pass on to the Second World Food Congress which met at The Hague from 16 to 30 June. Some of you will have been present on that occasion and will have formed your own conclusions as to its success. I myself was not there, but the Director-General tells me that the Congress was a most worthwhile event - that he is certain the discussions at the Congress will exert a beneficial influence in FAO's activities. There were more than 1,800 participants from all parts of the world, from all age-groups and from all walks of life. They attended in their individual capacities. This led to a much freer and franker exchange of views than is usual in the more self-consciously diplomatic atmosphere which customarily prevails at international meetings.

Perhaps the strongest theme to come out of the Congress was the emphasis constantly laid on the humanization of the development process. That is, the problems relating to food and agriculture were considered within the setting of overall development, and development, in turn, was spelled out in terms of the simple needs and feelings of human beings and in terms also of the opportunities for them to participate in the framing of their own future.

All in all, the Congress provided a new and extremely stimulating form of dialogue for an organization within the United Nations system. Much has been made of the role that was played by youth and of some of the positions that they took. But on the whole the contribution of young people, though often critical, was basically constructive.

Mr. Chairman, I now turn to certain matters of specifically regional interest, although I have already dealt with some of these. I should perhaps begin with a few observations on the general state of food and agriculture in the Region.

You will recall I mentioned that our preliminary indices showed that food production in the developing countries of the Region increased by about 4 per cent in 1969. If this is confirmed by the final data, it would represent a slight fall-off from the 5 per cent increase at the preceding year, though it would still be substantially above the long term trend. So far as Japan is concerned, there appears to have been an increase of about 1 per cent, while in Oceania we estimate that there was a decline of about 2 per cent, a small increase in New Zealand being more than offset by the decrease in Australia, due in no small measure to a reduction in the wheat harvest.

Returning to the developing countries of the Region, there are a few general conclusions that may be drawn from recent figures. The increases in food production over the last few years, mainly due to the high-yielding varieties, indicate that a turning-point may have been reached in most of those countries, with increases in basic food production overtaking the rate of population increase and thus holding out prospects of self-sufficiency in cereals in 1975-1980. There is no need for me to point out that, however welcome this may be in comparison with the situation only a few years ago, it poses potentially very serious problems in terms of international trade.

Indeed, it is the trade, rather than the production, situation that increasingly gives grounds for concern in the developing countries of this Region. The relatively poor performance of agricultural exports in 1969 again underlines the persistent vulnerability of many economies which are heavily dependent on primary exports as a source of foreign exchange. The improvement in the prices of some of these exports, such as rubber and tin, led to a better balance of trade for some countries. But the fall in prices of other exports, such as rice and tea, caused a worsening in the balance of payments position for many of them. And this general tightness in the balance of payments has been aggravated by the steeply-rising debt-service obligations of most developing countries in the Region.

The next matter of regional interest concerns the moves we have been making over the last two years towards the strengthening of our field activities at both the Regional and the country levels. This was an important feature of our Reorganization which has now largely been completed. While the final responsibility for policy must of course remain in Rome, the Regional Offices should have greater voice in matters concerning their Regions. At the same time, the Director-General feels very strongly that the Organization needs Country Representatives in as many developing countries as possible, and, in accordance with the agreement reached with the UNDP on this subject, nearly all of the 55 Country Representatives/Senior Agricultural Advisers provided for in that agreement are already in place.

As a further indication of what we have done towards strengthening our field activities at the Regional and country levels, I might point out that the proportion of the funds in the total budget allocated directly to the Regions rose from 7.2 per cent in the 1968-69 biennium to 14.5 per cent in the current one.

The Director-General would like to make it clear, however, that the strengthening of the Regional and Country Offices is not an arbitrary decision but a process which must evolve naturally out of the field needs. It is from the identification of major field problems - in consultation with the countries themselves and with Regional Representatives - that the need for further strengthening of the Regional and Country Offices will become apparent and, to the best of our ability, be met.

The Director-General also feels that it is necessary that there should be more contact with Member Governments not only at the national and regional levels but also at headquarters. At present rather less than half the developing countries have Permanent Representatives to FAO in Rome. It is important that as many countries as possible should have fully-qualified Permanent Representatives at headquarters who are able to follow the work of FAO closely and consistently and thus be in a position to advise their Governments on the various kinds of assistance our Organization can provide in helping to accelerate the agricultural development of their countries.

Mr. Chairman, I think I have now covered the main points which I wished to deal with today. In any assessment of agricultural development at this present juncture in time, whether in the world as a whole or in this Region, one can see both grounds for encouragement and yet at the same time formidable difficulties ahead. On the one hand, there have been the great strides in agricultural progress made by the developing countries in the last decade, notably in this Region. On the other hand, it is clear that the challenges facing the world in the 1970's, with so many more millions of people in search of food, shelter and work, will be sharper than ever before. They can be met only by a concerted and unremitting effort by all concerned, both governments and individual people. The call is for unity of action - unity in the different Regions and ultimately in the world as a whole.

Thank you.









