

Report of the

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

---

Manila, Philippines, 5-13 August 1976



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

*FAO Member Nations in the Asia and Far East Region (at 13 August 1976)*

Bangladesh	Kampuchea, Democratic	Pakistan
Burma	Korea, Republic of	Papua New Guinea
China	Lao	Philippines
Fiji	Malaysia	Sri Lanka
India	Maldives	Thailand
Indonesia	Mongolia	Viet-Nam, Socialist
Japan	Nepal	Republic of

*FAO Member Nations in the Southwest Pacific Region (at 13 August 1976)*

Australia	France	United Kingdom
Fiji	New Zealand	United States of
	Papua New Guinea	America

*Date and place of FAO Regional Conferences for Asia and the Far East*

First	—	Bangalore, India, 27 July-5 August 1953
Second	—	Kandy, Ceylon, 20-25 June 1955
Third	—	Bandung, Indonesia, 8-18 October 1956
Fourth	—	Tokyo, Japan, 6-16 October 1958
Fifth	—	Saigon, Republic of Viet-Nam, 21-30 November 1960
Sixth	—	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 15-29 September 1962
Seventh	—	Manila, Philippines, 7-21 November 1964
Eighth	—	Seoul, Republic of Korea, 15-24 September 1966
Ninth	—	Bangkok, Thailand, 4-15 November 1968
Tenth	—	Canberra, Australia, 27 August-8 September 1970
Eleventh	—	New Delhi, India, 17-27 October 1972
Twelfth	—	Tokyo, Japan, 17-27 September 1974
Thirteenth	—	Manila, Philippines, 5-13 August 1976

FERC/76/REP

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Rome, 1976

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MANILA DECLARATION ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, 1976

We, the member nations of FAO in Asia and the Pacific here assembled in Manila at the Thirteenth Regional Conference, representing two and a quarter billion people or more than half of the world's population, are deeply concerned that - notwithstanding the decisions taken at the 1974 World Food Conference and the efforts made by many developing countries - the pace of international action for increasing food production has been distressingly slow. We here assembled are also gravely aware that the consequences will fall most severely on the teeming millions of Asia where hunger and poverty are widespread. Conscious of the fact that mounting hunger, malnutrition and unemployment in many developing countries of this Region would have disastrous consequences on the whole world, we hereby adopt this Manila Declaration on Food and Agriculture:

- 1) WE affirm and accept that our agricultural development must be achieved largely by our efforts in a spirit of self-reliance. We stress that in our own respective countries it is essential that we accord the food and agricultural sector a key position commensurate with its primary role in our economies. We also recognize that the small farmer is the backbone of agriculture in our countries and must be given a vital role in the development process. We acknowledge the dire need to break the shackles of the past by removing the prevailing technical, economic and institutional constraints which together combine to prevent our people, specially our small farmers, from increasing agricultural production and improving their living standards. We note with regret that in many of our countries there is a low level of farm productivity, inadequacies in our agrarian institutions and shortages of trained personnel, and therefore, urge member nations individually and collectively to reinforce their efforts toward overcoming these deficiencies so as to achieve a rural break-through.
- 2) WE affirm, at the same time, that our actions must be supplemented by relevant actions in the international community to remove the external constraints that weigh down our efforts to develop ourselves. We call, therefore, on all nations to join us in creating a new international economic order in a spirit of mutual understanding and equality and in the interest of developing nations.
- 3) WE assert that another key constraint to the agricultural development of most member nations of Asia is the lack of stability and profitability in world prices of prime agricultural commodities. We, therefore, call for immediate international action within the UN system to stabilize world prices of such commodities at reasonably profitable levels in accord with the resolution in this regard of UNCTAD IV.
- 4) WE also call upon the FAO and all other international institutions concerned with agricultural research to give greater support to helping national and regional research efforts of member nations. We also ask that these institutions direct their capabilities toward research subjects and methods which are most suitable and more directly relevant to the circumstances and problems of the countries of this Region.
- 5) WE believe that while most of our Asian member nations can expand our own internal credit programmes to reach small farmers, there continues to be imperative need for increased and sustained development financing and investment in the food and agricultural sector of developing nations. We, therefore, call on developed countries, on OPEC, and on all our member nations to finally establish and operate the International Fund for Agricultural Development. This, together with the financial resources being devoted to agricultural development by the other international and regional financing institutions, will help accelerate our own development efforts. To this end, we welcome all efforts that will help increase the total financial resources going to food production and agricultural development.

- 6) WE emphasize that, since agricultural planning and production is still affected by the uncertainties of the weather which causes sudden famine and food shortages, there is a supreme necessity to assure world food security until we achieve self-sufficiency and build up adequate national stocks. We call, therefore, on all member nations to support the FAO World Food Security Programme. We note with dissatisfaction that the food aid target of 10 million tons set by the World Food Conference two years ago has not yet been achieved. We are also gravely disappointed that there is an almost total lack of response to the UN General Assembly call for an Emergency Reserve of half a million tons of grain. Whatever reasons there may be for such failure to achieve these targets, it is clear that our peoples in Asia will be the ones who will suffer most. We, therefore, strongly call upon the affluent nations to fulfill these targets for Food Aid and Emergency Reserves.
- 7) WE here assembled resolve to support the new leadership and initiatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. We look forward to the operation of the Technical Cooperation Programme of the FAO. We also endorse the new thrust of the FAO to decentralize to country level.

WHEREFORE -

WE, the member nations of FAO in Asia and the Pacific, deeply conscious of our common problems and united in our resolve to remove internal constraints and eliminate hunger and poverty in our Region, do hereby pledge our renewed efforts to mobilize our vast human and natural resources. We call upon the developed nations and the rest of the international community to remove the external constraints which prevent us from thus achieving our highest potentials.

WE, therefore, invite all nations to join us in a true partnership to eradicate hunger and poverty in the world and to this end do hereby solemnly adopt this Manila Declaration on Food and Agriculture of 1976.

RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 1/76: CROP/LIVESTOCK/FISH INTEGRATION AT SMALL FARMER LEVEL

The Regional Conference

Recognizing the predominance of small family farm and landless agricultural labourer production system in the countries of the Region;

Recalling the stress laid by the Twelfth FAO Regional Conference on small farmer development programmes and the importance attached to solve the problem of these categories of low income agricultural producers by the Member Governments;

Considering the importance of livestock and fishery in the Region and the role these sectors could play in enlarging the income base of small producers through the integration of livestock/fish/fish farming with crop production;

Resolves to

- (a) recommend that the activities of FAO in the Region should be such as to complement the development activity of the Member countries, and to respond to developing country requests, in ways which will result in a worthwhile practical improvement in the food situation of needy people, and subject to this overriding consideration;

- (b) recommend to the Director-General of FAO that additional emphasis and resources be given to develop suitable programmes of crop/livestock/fish integration at small farmer level for the benefit of low income small farmer and fishermen; that studies be carried out to develop appropriate low-cost technology, more efficient cropping pattern and livestock health services suitable for small farmer production system; that priority be given to find ways and means for developing a self-reliant method of production by improving indigenous livestock, use of selective breeding and artificial insemination and the use of indigenous inputs such as farm by-products, industrial and livestock wastes for livestock feed; and that information exchange programme on low cost technology and improved methods of crop/livestock/fish integration be strengthened in the Region.
- (c) request the Member Governments to encourage and involve national institutions to give priority to the programme of crop/livestock/fish integration at small farm level as a core component of development programme and to focus research studies on the problems of small farmers and fishermen with a view to develop most efficient pattern of crop/livestock/fish integration in their respective countries.

RESOLUTION 2/76: FORESTRY FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Regional Conference

Acknowledging the importance of forests for the Region, as an important renewable resource needed to meet various daily needs of the population;

Realizing the role of forests and trees in the maintenance of soil stability and fertility as well as in the prevention of soil erosion and soil deterioration;

Recognizing the role of forests in maintaining hydrological regime and protecting water sources for the regular supply of clean water;

Considering the contribution of forestry and forest industries in providing additional income and employment to the rural population;

Appreciating the role of forests for wild life conservation and outdoor recreation;

Aware of the contributing role of forests in agricultural development, particularly with regard to food and livestock production;

Resolves to recommend that:

- (a) FAO in the Region should assist in popularization of community farm forestry, within the general framework of its regional policy and with necessary modifications to suit the needs of each country.
- (b) FAO in the Region may take up the initiative to assist and coordinate activities that may lead to the development of community forestry: (i) social forestry and watershed management; (ii) improvement of income and well being of community/farm forestry and forest villages; (iii) silviculture of tropical forest species; (iv) introduction of fast growing tree species; (v) utilization of secondary tree species and small dimension timber; (vi) in-service training in various disciplines of forestry; (vii) markets and marketing of timber; and (viii) exchange of information on forestry problems;
- (c) FAO in the Region may provide assistance in planning and development of forestry resources with a special bias on community development;
- (d) the Member Countries and FAO should give more attention to the problems of forest protection; and
- (e) the Member Countries give greater attention to community forestry and watershed forestry and that forestry development programmes are suitably integrated with programmes of local community development.



RESOLUTION 3/76: HIGH-YIELDING VARIETY SEEDS

The Regional Conference,

Recognizing the importance of high-yielding variety seeds for increasing food and agricultural production;

Considering that given the same soil, water and other inputs, high-yielding seed of good quality can raise production several fold;

Aware of the fact that developing countries of the Region do not find it easy to provide institutional and other arrangements from their own resources alone for the multiplication of quality seed;

Resolves to request FAO to strengthen its Seed Industry Development Programme so as to attract more resources to assist countries in the production, multiplication, processing and certification of high quality seed;

Further resolves to request FAO to approach the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and other financial agencies to give priority in assisting countries in the Region to develop and to expand their seed industries.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS

I. Small Farmer Development Planning as An Integral Part of National Development Plans

- (a) involvement of small farmer in planning and development process and effecting the required changes in agrarian structure;
- (b) development of viable institutions for small farmers by shifting priorities, designing special programmes with supporting resources and training farmers and extension workers;
- (c) assistance in the development of appropriate technology to optimize use of local resources and in organizing farmer groups and institutions at and below cooperative and village council levels; and
- (d) dissemination of country experience on small farmer development planning.

II. Crop/Livestock/Fish Integration at Small Farmer Level

- (a) training of sub-professional field level para-veterinarians and new types of extension workers capable of working with farmers in the field and spanning of all aspects of farming systems;
- (b) case studies on crop/livestock/fish processing and marketing integration to develop model guidelines for specific agro-climatic and socio-economic zones; and
- (c) strengthening of national institutions to develop expertise in aquaculture and training at different levels, particularly at farm level.

III. Forestry for Community Development

- (a) promoting land use in hilly areas based on a rational land use policy and planning including forestry and tree culture;
- (b) suitable structuring and training of forest labour, largely drawn from rural areas for forestry operations and improving efficiency;
- (c) further development of agri-silvicultural systems and formulation of the most appropriate methods to produce food and wood without ecological disturbances; and
- (d) appropriate measures to prevent the accelerated devastation of forests through illicit cutting of trees and through depredations of pests and diseases.

IV. Measures for Improving the Supply, Distribution and Utilization of Agricultural Inputs

- (a) development of varieties with stable yields under low level of management and with greater adaptability to adverse conditions and development of seed industries on a priority basis;
- (b) transfer of technology of fertilizer use to the small farm level with emphasis on greater utilization on local sources on plant nutrients;
- (c) promotion and support of research and development of integrated pest control methods, including biological and environmental methods and use of resistant crops;
- (d) development of pest/disease warning system;
- (e) introduction of suitable forms of mechanization in the farming systems;
- (f) training, particularly grassroot level, in the proper use of inputs;
- (g) monitoring and forecasting regional supply and demand of fertilizers and pesticides and inter-country cooperation in the increased availability of inputs; and
- (h) greater encouragement of flow of investment and transfer of technology for input industries.

V. Improving Marketing and Credit for the Development of Small Farmers

- (a) promotion of production marketing contracts between small farmer and wholesale marketing or processing agencies;
- (b) exchange of information and experience on coordinated and integrated agricultural marketing systems;
- (c) strengthening credit institutions and setting a particular share of credit for small farmers; and
- (d) training of development-oriented cadres of personnel at all levels.

VI. Joint FAO/ESCAP Programme

- (a) duplication of activities should be avoided and ESCAP should devote attention to economic and social aspects of agriculture and FAO to the agro-technical aspects; and
- (b) FAO and ESCAP should further discuss measures to avoid duplication and determine to be undertaken by each agency taking into consideration their mandate and competence.

VII. Implementation of FAO Priority Programme in the Region

- (a) progress of implementation should be evaluated and Regional Technical Bodies should have the function of evaluating regional projects;
- (b) functional link between Regional Conference and Regional Technical Bodies should be established;
- (c) Regional Technical Bodies be given procedural and fiscal autonomy to make them more action-oriented; and
- (d) initiation of follow-up action by the Country and Regional Offices on the reports of surveys.

### VIII. Orientation of the Future Work of FAO in the Region

Focus of future work of FAO should remain on raising productivity and income of small farmer. The Region should receive larger portion of investment funds.

The following Priority Areas of Work should be carried out:

- (a) Promotion of Integrated Food Security, Nutrition Policy and Programmes, and Minimizing pre- and Post-Harvest Crop Losses;
- (b) Promotion of Active Participation of Small Farmers in the Socio-economic Development, particularly Agricultural Productivity;
- (c) Development of Rainfed Agriculture with Special Emphasis on Appropriate Cropping Systems and Soil Management;
- (d) Promotion of Livestock Development through Cooperative Programmes between Countries;
- (e) Promotion of Fisheries Development through Cooperative Programmes with Emphasis on Aquaculture;
- (f) Forestry and Forest Industry Development Planning and Conservation and Management of Forests, including Wildlife;
- (g) Promotion of Agricultural Diversification and Harmonization of Intra-Regional Trade in Agricultural and Agro-Industrial Commodities;
- (h) Water Management at the Farm Level and Water Logging and Salinity Control; and
- (i) Agricultural Development Planning.

### IX. Concluding Items

- (a) proposal to change the name of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East to that of FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific and consequently the name of the Regional Office for Asia and the Far East to that of FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP), should be referred to the concerned FAO Governing Bodies;
- (b) representation of Burma and Indonesia on the CCFPI was confirmed and India and the Philippines were elected to CGIAR for a period of 2 years until the end of the calendar year 1978;
- (c) to make the Conference more effective, it is essential that its recommendations are implemented, and
- (d) a meeting of FAO Country Representatives in the Region should be convened at the Regional Office for linking country programmes with regional programmes.



## INTRODUCTION

1. The Thirteenth FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East was held in Manila, Philippines, from 5 to 13 August 1976. Member Governments which participated in the Conference were: Australia, Bangladesh, Burma, People's Republic of China, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, People's Democratic Republic of Lao, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United States of America and Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.
2. The United Nations System was represented by 11 organizations. There were observers from two FAO Member Nations not in the Region and eight non-governmental organizations.
3. The Conference followed the two-part structure: a meeting of the Technical Committee (Committee of the Whole) was held from 5 to 7 August, and the Plenary Session from 9 to 13 August. The Plenary considered the Report of the Technical Committee as well as policy issues on food and agriculture in the Region.
4. Appendix B of this Report contains the list of participants. The list of documents issued appears as Appendix C.
5. The Conference's inaugural ceremony took place on 9 August. The Director-General of FAO called the Conference to order, welcomed the delegates, observers and guests to the Conference, and expressed appreciation for the hospitality shown by the people and the Government of the Philippines. He then invited His Excellency, President Ferdinand E. Marcos of the Republic of the Philippines to open the Conference.
6. His Excellency welcomed the delegates. He said that the Conference's concern for small farmers is shared by the Filipino people also. A whole new series of development altered Asia's perceptions of the food problem, the President noted. The present food situation is the most critical issue for mankind. It must be solved before other problems. High population growth threatened to widen the food gap. The food problem is most acute - and magnified - in Asia because 54 per cent of the world's population lives in the Region. By 1985, half of the world's food deficit would be in Asia.
7. The international community had worked to alleviate the problem; but it remains uncertain whether these efforts will prove equal to the crisis, continued the President. There is, in Asia a formidable combination of resources that could constitute a solid base for increasing agricultural productivity. The power to turn around the food crisis does not lie in the intervention of other nations or on imports, the President said; rather it rests squarely with Asian peoples and their respective governments. Behind every statistics on Asia's hungry million is an indictment of the inability of Asia governments and societies to be fully self-reliant.
8. The President said that there is today a ferment that is building up the capacity of Asian nations to meet the challenge. This ferment has consolidated political will behind national programmes. New markets are being opened as plantation economies wither. Countries are finding a way to non-alignment and this opens a new stage in international economic relationships. In the Third World, the main conflict is the war against economic debility and deprivation.
9. Asian countries are effecting social reforms, the President noted. Land reform is an integral part of the food production effort. Land reforms have contributed to the stability of agrarian societies.
10. The food gap in Asia reflects insufficiency of rice production. The President said that despite tremendous strides in rice technology, the food needs are still great, specifically adequate organizations to provide support and supervise introduction of new techniques.

11. He cited recent breakthroughs in development of wheat in Mexico, groundnuts in Nigeria, tea cultivation in Sri Lanka, high-yield milk goats in Nepal and rice in the Philippines which showed what can be accomplished in developing countries. It is now imperative to undertake inexpensive programmes for transfer of technology and coordinating research among Asian countries.

12. The Philippines was encouraged by reforms and new programmes initiated by Director-General Saouma. It welcomed creation of the International Fund for Agricultural Development. The coming meeting of the World Bank Group in Manila may produce positive measures to support food production. The President concluded by saying that the Conference's aim should be to see that the whole human family is delivered from hunger, disease and malnutrition.

13. The delegates then elected unanimously the Head of the Philippine Delegation, the Honourable Secretary of Agriculture, Dr. Arturo R. Tanco, Jr., as Chairman of the 13th FAO Regional Conference. Ministers present representing Bangladesh, Burma, India, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea were unanimously elected as Vice-Chairmen.

14. The Agenda submitted to the Conference was unanimously adopted. It appears as Appendix A.

15. The Director-General then addressed the Conference. The full text of his address appears as Appendix D.

16. The Conference subsequently heard statements from the Executive Secretary of ESCAP, the Chairman of the FAO Council, the Representatives of the World Food Programme and the World Food Council as well as the FAO Regional Representative for Asia and the Far East. The full texts of the statements by the Chairman of the FAO Council and the Regional Representative are attached as Appendices E and F, respectively. Extracts from the statements of the representatives of ESCAP, WFP and WFC appear as Appendices G, H and I, respectively.

#### SUMMARY OF COUNTRY STATEMENTS

17. Country statements were presented by the delegates of the following countries:

Australia	Lao (People's Democratic Republic)
Bangladesh	Malaysia
Burma	Mongolian People's Republic
China (People's Republic of)	Nepal
Fiji	New Zealand
India	Papua New Guinea
Indonesia	Philippines
Japan	Sri Lanka
Korea (Republic of)	Thailand
	Vietnam (Socialist Republic of)

#### The Regional Setting

18. The country statements revealed two underlying trends: One was a feeling of cautious relief, offered by the relatively good harvest due to the good monsoons, as well as the end of the large scale hostilities in Indochina. The other was continuing unease over sharply varying weather conditions, failure to rebuild reserve stocks adequately, severe fluctuations in the world markets, inflation and the likelihood of further price increases for essential agricultural inputs, largely imported from outside.

19. The Philippines summed up the Conference's concern by noting that the food problem is in Asia where population concentrations are dense, per capita income lowest and poverty widespread. Yet Asia has the capability and resources to feed its people. In her first address at a Regional Conference, China noted that countries have increased cooperation in the field of agriculture to solve the food problem.

20. India, Japan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand noted that population pressures were building up in a region where the limits for opening new land are being reached. Costs for response by the international community were escalating and their financial capabilities were limited. Nonetheless, there were heartening responses such as creation of the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the policies initiated by the new FAO Director-General to emphasize decentralized activities rather than projects primarily centered in Rome.

21. Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines expressed concern over the severe fluctuations in world markets. Australia said that beef, dairy and fruit exporters were in considerable trouble. In 1975, the Philippines increased coconut production by 62 percent but prices declined by 63 percent. New Zealand said the drop in beef and wool prices in 1974 was the steepest on record. A survey revealed that farmers have turned cautious.

#### Achievements

22. Against this backdrop, a number of countries reported progress, both in the formulation of policy and implementation of programmes in food and agriculture.

23. Bangladesh's irrigation programme had built 37,000 tubewells by 1976. Its integrated Rural Development Programme now operates in 50 per cent of the thanas or districts of the country.

24. Burma announced the completion of the North Nawin Dam. This will bring a substantial area under irrigation. China said that policies, implemented since 1949, had build up a self-reliant agriculture. These brought about good harvests for 14 years and the Chinese people had sufficient food today.

25. India revealed that its grain reserves had been built up to 17 million tons, although at considerable financial strain. Indonesia reported that its Mass Guidance or Bimas programme, which provides a package of services and subsidized inputs, increased its coverage from 3.2 million hectares in 1973 to 4.1 million hectares in 1974.

26. Japan remains heavily dependent on imports for her food needs. In 1975, imports totalled US\$9,200 million, accounting for 10 per cent of agricultural world trade. Japanese official development aid, some of which goes to agriculture, increased from \$510 million in 1971 to \$1,150 million last year.

27. Despite the economic recession in 1974, Korea increased food production from 5.4 million metric tons in 1962 to 8.1 million in 1975. Fertilizer production has increased too, allowing Korea to export 100 thousand tons of nutrients from the 875 thousand it will manufacture this year.

28. The Third Malaysia Plan allocates 26.5 per cent of its budget to agriculture. This is the biggest share of the budget; it represents a 95.8 per cent increase over the previous plan. Mongolia, on the other hand, reported that total average annual volume of agricultural output increased by 26.7 per cent, compared with the previous five-year period.

29. Nepal said that there was a 3.36 per cent gain in cereal production last year. Papua New Guinea said that extension services to nurture its infant rice industries are being built up. It is also developing three oil palm schemes. Pakistan said that fund allocations for agriculture had increased seven times since 1971, resulting in doubling of rice production, a 44 per cent increase for wheat and 28 per cent for maize over a five year period. It had also instituted a Pass Book system to make credit available to small farmers. New Zealand had broadened its export base by including forest products and manufactured goods.

30. Aggregate agricultural production in Thailand, over the past two years, increased by 6.6 percent. Commodity exports totalled \$2,426 million - a decrease of 3.4 percent compared to 1974.

31. Viet Nam and Lao, on the other hand, said that they were now beginning the task of rehabilitating war-damaged agriculture. Viet Nam will concentrate on three points: intensive cropping, diversification and expansion of arable lands. Lao is rebuilding dikes and has achieved considerable progress in encouraging double cropping of rice and expansion of cultivated land. State farms and collectives have been introduced.

#### The Constraints

32. In considering ways and means of solving the problem of hunger and malnutrition, member countries turned their attention towards some of the constraints on agriculture. These ranged from high energy costs to inappropriate policies, inefficient implementation, and lack of access to world markets and damage by war.

33. India, Burma and Nepal cited lack of investment funds and the increased cost of energy and petroleum-based inputs like chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Bangladesh noted instability in food production caused by recurring floods and lack of water control.

34. Fiji and Malaysia revealed that shortages in trained agricultural personnel is a persistent problem. The need is specially felt in agricultural research, which is location-specific.

35. Japan noted the severe lack of irrigation in the Region. About 80 percent of agriculture in Asia depends on rainfed agriculture. Substantial increase in productivity in this sector is essential for overall agricultural development. New Zealand said periodic droughts seared her pasture fields. The need to stimulate static farm production, without reopening the door to inflation, has still to be met adequately.

36. Lao reported widespread damage by rice pests and diseases among livestock. This has been compounded by drought and the prospect of flood by year's end. Lao paid tribute to the Director-General and the Regional Office for their prompt help in combatting rice pests. Slash-and-burn agriculture continues to pose a serious threat.

37. Thailand said that high population growth, slow transfer of technology, limited land and low productivity were some of the constraints. Viet Nam pinpointed monoculture, that is largely dependent on the whim of weather, a major problem. This has been compounded by war damage.

38. Pakistan stressed that lack of participation by the small farmer in planning is a serious bottleneck. Too many plans are imposed from above. And this blocks the effective flow of resources to the small farmers.

39. In addition to these constraints, there were those of an external nature. These were cited by Australia, China, the Philippines, Pakistan and New Zealand.

40. Most developing nations saw their production increases wiped out by sharp price fluctuations, the Philippines said. This is why they called for a common fund, at the UNCTAD meeting, to stabilize prices at reasonably profitable levels.

41. As a low cost food producer, New Zealand said it would not be able to deploy its resources effectively unless it has access, on reasonable terms, to the world market. Australia noted that real farm income for 1976/77 will be barely 65 percent of the average for the three year period 1970 to 1973. International trade negotiations such as GATT, MTN must take notice of this downward trend.

42. China and Pakistan said that these problems must be met by the construction of a new international economic order.



### The Small Farmers

43. After analyzing the constraints, the delegations considered the needs and problems of the men who must produce the food: the small farmers, artisanal fishermen and landless labourers of Asia.

44. The statements revealed that the Conference did not view these sectors as a problem but as a resource for development.

45. Malaysia said that hopes for raising food and generating prosperity rested on the success of efforts to break the cyclical poverty that chains the small farmer. And Pakistan stressed that the small farmer is, indeed, the key figure in increasing agricultural and food production.

46. Australia said that the time had come, to assess in a systematic way, how well resources were applied to Asia's small farmers. And Bangladesh called for equal concern for the small fishermen and the weavers.

47. Indonesia stressed that it followed an agricultural strategy that focussed on the small farmer. Nepal said that it gave priority to organization at the grassroots. And Mongolia underscored the role that cooperatives can play in helping small farmers.

### Approaches

48. Approximately 80 percent of all areas under food production in Asia is cultivated by small farmers. There are more than 400 million people in this category. There could be no effective strategy for development except through them, Malaysia stressed. The small farmers can be mobilized by structural changes or land reform, Pakistan said. Agricultural development strategies need to rest on the broad base of small farmers so that the benefits of development can reach all sections of the population. In fact, Malaysia said that it has identified its poverty groups, namely padi planters, rubber small holders, small farmers and fishermen and agricultural labourers.

49. Approaches have now been devised and adopted in a number of countries like India, Indonesia, China, Korea, Nepal and the Philippines within which small farm and rural development could take place.

50. Large-scale, capital-intensive technology imported from developed countries, the Philippines said, will have to be reconsidered in favour of more appropriate intermediate and indigenous technology developed in the light of the resources, needs and production abilities of the countries. China stressed that economic and social systems vary from country to country, so do conditions for agricultural development. Each country must choose its own path best suited to its circumstances.

51. The member countries endorsed the technical proposals to reach the small farmers. Indonesia, Fiji, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea, for instance, welcomed the measures for crop/livestock/fisheries integration at farm-level to provide the technical means to achieve increased food production and rural development through small farmers and fishermen. Bangladesh and India specially underscored development of aquaculture.

52. Bangladesh, China and Japan stressed that proposals for small farmer development could not be effective, in meeting the needs of the rural poor, except within the framework of integrated rural development.

53. All countries recognized that poverty, hunger and undernourishment still constituted the major challenge to the Region. It was recognized that these could be overcome only by political will and self-reliance, coupled with mutual support. Indonesia noted that the Association of South-East Asian Nations or ASEAN was moving in this direction.

54. This requires a reorientation of existing colonially developed patterns of agriculture dependent on agricultural raw material exports in favour of increased food production and greater self-reliance, Pakistan and Viet Nam said.

55. Increased food self-reliance as well as small farm development depended on the availability of agricultural inputs. Fiji, the Philippines and Nepal stressed that the high cost of manufactured imported inputs should lead to special emphasis on the use of organic materials and indigenous inputs on the one hand, and the recycling of resources and wastes, on the other, to meet the need for plant and animal nutrients and energy sources at country level. As a follow-up, India urged FAO to establish research and development centres for promoting crop/livestock/fish production technologies based on recycling principles and offered to provide facilities for a centre in India. Building up of stocks of improved seed was another proposal.

56. National attempts in increasing food production would be strengthened by better land use, crop diversification, water conservancy and use of manpower, Bangladesh stressed. International action could also be taken to reduce the potential and actual losses caused by bad weather, insect and pest attack, etc. The strengthening and expansion of the Global Information and Early Warning System together with possible regional supporting sub-systems was urged by some delegations. Strengthening of food security systems, was considered an urgent necessity.

57. National political will and self-reliance will be greatly strengthened by greater flows of investment into agriculture from national and international sources like the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The Philippines said that the initial \$ 1-billion fund for IFAD should be considered seed money to raise additional resources.

58. The special need of the countries of the Southwest Pacific was raised by Fiji and Papua New Guinea. If these countries were to be included in Asian Regional Bodies, the titles of such bodies and their regional conference should be based on this recognition. The development strategies, resources, potentials and needs of these island and sea-locked countries as well as landlocked countries like Nepal are different from those of heavily populated Asia.

#### United Nations' Capacity

59. A number of delegations questioned the capacity of the United Nations system, to respond to the food crisis.

60. India noted that many of the important issues and action plans, drawn up during the World Food Conference in 1974, still remain in the discussion stage. The total progress in food aid policy has been painfully slow and grossly inadequate, Pakistan said. Before the new Director-General had been elected, FAO was in danger of becoming a debating society, encrusted by lethargy.

61. Sri Lanka noted that FAO's traditional approach of providing technical assistance through expertise needed revision. Even where the expertise is relevant and competent, the costs involved have exceeded reasonable limits. Greater use of experts and institutions within the Region must be the future policy.

62. The delegations endorsed the new policies announced by the Director-General to increase FAO's capacity for service. Those underscored were the Technical Cooperation Programme, innovative training at village and grassroot levels, greater use of national institutions and decentralization. Several delegates, among them, Malaysia, Lao, Nepal and Sri Lanka hoped that FAO would further strengthen its regional capacity to service the Member Nations more effectively and efficiently.

63. A number of member countries raised the problem of potential and actual duplication of programmes of FAO and ESCAP in the field of agriculture. Australia warned against wasteful overloads and stressed that there is real concern about the duplication and overlap. Fiji agreed saying that meagre resources should not be frittered away in this manner. Indonesia suggested that this problem could be resolved by a meeting of the heads of the two agencies involved.

REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

64. The Conference examined and considered the Report of the Technical Committee which discussed the following items of the Agenda:

Small farmer development planning as an integral part of national development plans.

Crop/livestock/fish integration at small farmer level.

Forestry for local community development.

Measures for improving the supply, distribution and utilization of agricultural inputs.

Improving marketing and credit for the development of small farmers.

Joint FAO/ESCAP Programme.

Implementation of FAO priority programmes in the region - a report by the Assistant Director-General, Regional Representative (including reports of the FAO Regional Technical Bodies).

65. The Report of the Technical Committee, as amended and adopted by the Conference, is set out below (paras. 66 to 138). A note on the Proceedings of the Technical Committee appears in Appendix J.

Small Farmer Development Planning as an Integral Part of National Development Plans (FERC/76/2)

66. The Conference emphasized that small farmer, including small fisherman, development should constitute an important objective of national plans and programmes for the implementation in many countries. It was considered essential that national programmes include projects at the small farmer level. This would enable him to actively participate in the planning process. In the execution of these programmes, farmers ought to be involved. Many instances were mentioned of such small farmer participation in development programmes.

67. It was stressed that programmes for small farmer development should reflect their needs. It is essential that there be provisions for local initiative, cooperation and mobilization of local resources, if such a programme is eventually to become self-reliant and replicable.

68. The Conference, therefore, suggested the development of viable institutions of small farmers. To achieve this, it would be necessary for countries to:

- A. Shift priorities in favour of the small farmers;
- B. Design special programmes with the involvement of small farmers and allocate the necessary resources; and
- C. Train farmers and extension workers to evolve and implement suitable programmes for development.

69. To fully involve the small farmer in the planning and development process, there is need to change the agrarian structure in most countries of the Region. However, since conditions vary from country to country, each Government is urged to adopt principles and policies best suited to their specific circumstances, so as to ensure the increased productivity of the small farmer.

70. A mechanism for organization of groups and institutions of small farmers, at and below the cooperative and village council levels, needs to be further improved or evolved, as the case may be. If the groups were small, for example, consisting of 15 to 20 farmers, a large number of such groups would have to be organized.

71. The need for the training of group organizers and backstopping of such groups was stressed. Further operational studies have to be carried out for the creation of such institutions.

72. There should be an integrated approach to balanced development by the small farmers. This is a broader concept than agricultural development. In this connection, the importance of early setting up of the Centre for Integrated Rural Development, for which preliminary work has already been undertaken, was stressed.

73. The directions in which FAO could be of assistance for the countries in the Region in small farmer development planning were considered. These included responding to the requests from countries for:

- A. Dissemination of country experience based on studies conducted by national institutions;
- B. Guidance in the methods of organizing farmer's groups and institutions at and below the cooperative and village council level;
- C. Encouragement of research and training at field level and exchange of expertise between countries; and
- D. Assistance in the development of appropriate technology for the small farm to optimize the use of local resources.

#### Crop/Livestock/Fish Integration at Small Farmer Level (FERC/76/3)

74. The crop/livestock/fish integrated farming system - or combinations of them - is not new to Asia. But livestock/fish enterprises at the small farmer level had low priority..

75. The Eighteenth Session of the FAO Conference (1975) and the Twelfth Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East (1974) called for a revitalization and reorientation of this type of farming system. Both recommended that action programmes be developed to integrate livestock/fish raising with crop farming.

76. FAO has actively promoted crop/livestock/fish integration at small farm level. It held an Expert Group Meeting on Livestock Programmes for Small Farmers and Landless Agricultural Labourers in Bangkok (31 May to 5 June 1976). This approach was also stressed at the First Session of the Regional Animal Production and Health Commission held in June 1976. At both meetings, country and regional level programmes for immediate follow-up action were drawn up.

77. There is a popular belief that small farmers are not economically viable, unable to attract investment; that there are no economies of scale in such a system. In their approach to area or integrated rural development, countries of the Region are exerting increased efforts to strengthen both vertical and horizontal integration of services and inputs needed by the farm families. Delivery mechanisms of services to the rural sector appear to have been refined over the years; but the receiving mechanism needs to be improved, if the out-reach to the small farmers is to be successfully achieved.

78. In many countries, supply and demand 'economism' ruled the thinking of livestock and fisheries development planners and technicians and earlier programmes basically met urban demands. Professional training of technicians in many developing countries was basically geared to commercial and capital intensive technology.

79. The Conference examined various problems associated with crop/livestock/fish integrated systems. It was accepted that integration of livestock/fish into the farming system is a very effective means to help the small farmer (or fisherman), who is often under-employed to increase his income.

80. The Conference also noted inappropriate policy measures that in the past had caused efforts to help small farmers to fail. Among these were: application of borrowed technology more suited to large-scale or commercial production tending to create dependency on industrialized countries; inadequate information; lack of know-how for exploiting local resources; failure to fully improve and utilize indigenous technology and locally available inputs; land tenure problems; lack of suitable organizational mechanisms at village level to provide supporting services; failure to diversify where needed; and finally, lack of systematic application of the human resources which constitute the major form of capital.

81. Attention was, however, drawn to the problem that pesticides, required to increase crop yields, were incompatible with fish farming. In some cases, specialized rather than integrated activity would be appropriate.

82. While in some countries of the Region cattle and poultry development received due attention, Asia's indigenous livestock, such as buffaloes, goats, ducks and geese, have not received the programme support they deserve, although they are an integral part of a farm family's possessions.

83. The Conference commended FAO for having brought to the level and attention of the Regional Conference, the problems of crop/livestock/fish integration at small farmer level. It fully endorsed the lines of action contained in the document FERC/76/3. It also strongly urged FAO, in cooperation with concerned funding agencies, to immediately implement the following proposed programmes:

- A. Development of appropriate farming systems which have a proper mix of modern and indigenous technology;
- B. Genetic improvement, introduction/development or local selection of the various types of livestock, poultry and fish;
- C. Development of cheap and effective ways of improving animal health at small farm level. This includes sub-professional training of field level para-veterinarians, who combine modern and traditional practices of animal treatment and management;
- D. Efforts be directed towards finding substitutes for concentrate feed through green fodder, farm by-products, improvement of seeds for fodder production and waste utilization;
- E. Institutional support to concentrate on improving the "receiving" mechanisms for assistance at small farm level;
- F. Train new types of extension workers, capable of spanning all aspects of the farming systems proposed above;
- G. Conduct country case studies focussed on crop/livestock/fish processing and marketing integration to develop model guidelines for specific agro-climatic and socio-economic zones; and
- H. Request FAO to collect and disseminate information on successful farming practices.

84. In the case of integration of fish with crop/livestock production, the exchange of experiences among member countries, specially those of 'monsoon' Asia was recommended. The Conference also called for training at different levels, particularly at farm level and strengthening of national institutions to develop expertise in aquaculture.

Forestry for Local Community Development (FERC 76/4 and FERC/76/INF/6)

85. The variety and dimensions of forestry problems were described. These included: (i) increasing pressure of population and receding forests, (ii) heavy soil erosion, floods and landslides caused due to loss of protective tree cover, (iii) scarcity of fuel wood and timber, (iv) loss of a renewable resource base which is capable of providing additional employment and income for rural communities, (v) desertification, and (vi) continuous expansion of subsistence farming.

86. The Conference expressed concern that, in some instances, depletion of forests is adversely affecting agricultural development.

87. Shifting cultivation (or slash and burn agriculture) constitutes a major problem. Over 110 million hectares of forest land in the region is subjected to slash-and-burn agriculture.

88. These problems require that forestry practices be suitably modified to meet the needs of the rural community, if feasible. The understanding and goodwill of the community are essential in forest protection.

89. There was full awareness about the role of forestry for community development. But measures taken to correct the situation have been inadequate compared to the dimensions of the problem. This necessitates greater attention to the development of forestry in the area.

90. There was agreement on the need to intensify tree plantings in homesteads, common land, public land and those owned by farmers, as appropriate. In addition, forestry development within well-defined watersheds and river catchments should be intensified, covering these areas in the shortest possible time through proper watershed management plans.

91. The state has basic responsibility for the proper land use in watersheds, river catchments and other public lands. For the conservation and extension of trees on private lands, motivation/involvement of the owners is required.

92. Measures to introduce forestry for community development vary in different countries and/or different situations within the country. A few of these are: a) tree farms; b) tree crops integrated with food crops, fodder and fish; c) forest villages for implementing plantation programmes; d) fuelwood plantations; e) taungya, tumpangsari or agri-silviculture; f) development of infrastructural facilities in forest areas; g) timber operations; h) popularization of activities involving trees as hosts such as silk, lac and apiculture in certain situations; i) afforestation programmes for protecting hills and watersheds, taming of rivers, arresting soil erosions, etc.; and j) organization of small-scale labour intensive forest based industries.

93. Success of farm forestry is inter-linked with several factors such as: size of the farm holdings, availability of credit and interest rates, return from the produce, organizational and technical support and other incentives. Policies affecting these factors will determine the social acceptability of agri-forestry.

94. Forestry essentially is an aspect of land utilization. Forestry development should be planned in harmony with other aspects of land use. The watershed, being a physically identifiable entity, should be the primary unit for land development, including utilization of products from the land. Treatment of upper watersheds directly affects the lower river basins and the welfare of the communities therein.

95. FAO projects on integrated watershed and forest land use, operating in some countries of the Region, were cited as examples of the integrated and interdisciplinary approach to land management.

96. The discussions also highlighted certain aspects where forestry is vital to the stability and development of rural communities: food and agricultural production, fuel supply and generation of employment and income.

97. It was noted that the rural community derives direct benefits when agricultural commodities are intercropped with trees, thus obtaining an additional temporary land base for production along with timber in new plantations. To help the farmer in meeting the fodder requirements of his cattle, growing of fodder trees may be encouraged in farm forestry.

98. The Conference noted with concern the accelerating devastation of forests through illicit cutting of trees. It called for appropriate measures to prevent this practice.

99. The Conference endorsed suggestions given in paragraph 40 of the document FERC/76/4 with minor modifications. These were:

- A. Forestry could form an important component in programmes of integrated rural development. Forestry programmes, at the village level, should be formulated with the involvement of the farming community;
- B. Land use in hilly areas should be based on a rational land use policy and planning. Forestry and tree culture, which help in soil and water conservation, should be the major form of land use in these areas;
- C. Wherever available, sufficient land (waste lands) should be released for developing community forests. Adequate technical and administrative support should be provided;
- D. Public forestry and forest industry programmes should be dealt with under an "economic area concept" incorporating rural communities;
- E. Forest labour, largely drawn from rural areas, should be suitably structured and trained for forestry operations to improve their efficiency; and
- F. Agri-silvicultural systems should be further developed and the most appropriate methods to produce food and wood, without ecological disturbance, be formulated.

Measures for Improving the Supply, Distribution and Utilization of Agricultural Inputs (FERC/76/5)

100. The Conference discussed the Document FERC/76/5. The role of the Commission on Fertilizers in evolving a world fertilizer policy, as requested by the World Food Conference was also briefly described. The Commission seeks to ensure adequate supplies of fertilizers to developing countries at reasonable prices.

101. It was also informed that the fertilizer emergency was over. But in the light of the balance of payments problems of most seriously affected (MSA) countries, the Commission at its Third Session (June 1976) recommended to the FAO Council, the continuation of the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme up to the end of 1977 and at that time, its further continuance would be reviewed. Appreciation was expressed by Member Countries which had received assistance through the Scheme.

102. Most Member Countries were dependent on imports of fertilizers. The recent limited supplies and high prices of fertilizers in the international market had adverse effects on their crop production programmes. The Conference appreciated the need for monitoring the current situation and forecasting of expected supply and demand. It requested FAO to disseminate such information to Member Countries on a regular basis.

103. Moreover, the development of organic measures and recycling of wastes to make countries more self-reliant in fertilizer supply was stressed.

104. The Conference stressed the need for the Region to become self-sufficient with respect to fertilizers, pesticides and agricultural machinery. This required cooperation to exploit the Region's raw materials for the manufacture of these inputs.

105. It was felt that small farmers had not fully benefited from the improved technology. It was, therefore, essential to adapt the technology, credit and price policies and extension services to help the small farmer. In this connection, it was stressed that, whenever requested, FAO should give high priority to the exchange of information on farming systems, the balanced use of mineral and organic fertilizers and control of pests, including the use of biological agents.

106. The need for developing a continuous supply of improved and disease resistant seeds and to maintain their purity was underlined.

107. The Conference recommended the establishment of regional and national cereal seed reserve stocks, particularly by countries subject to frequent emergencies such as drought, floods and typhoons. There was also need for inter-country cooperation in estimating the demand and supply of these seeds.

108. It was noted that the evaluation and release of cereal varieties, and to a lesser degree of industrial crops, are quite well organized in several countries. Compared with cereals, however, seed production of vegetables, pasture crops, leguminous and non-leguminous oil seeds is less developed. This is the case too with nurseries for tree crops. These need substantial support in many countries.

109. Research to develop high-yielding but high quality varieties, for various ecological zones, particularly rainfed conditions, was stressed by the Conference.

110. It was noted that crop pests and diseases are responsible for heavy losses in crop production in the Region. High-yielding varieties are particularly susceptible to attack. Though the Conference stressed the need to develop alternative means to control pests and diseases, it recognized that chemical control was likely to remain the chief method for some time to come. It, therefore, felt that every possible effort should be made to increase the capability of Member Countries to utilize pesticides effectively with minimum hazard to the user and to the environment. This would require the building up of appropriate infrastructures and training at different levels in the safe and efficient use of pesticides and application equipment.

111. For many plant pests and diseases, such as brown plant hopper of rice, wheat rusts, a regional approach in developing early warning systems and control methods would be required.

112. The Conference also stressed the urgent need for increasing the regional capabilities in the production of plant protection materials, including those pesticides that have been traditionally used, such as, those based on pyrethrum, derris and tobacco.

113. The Conference stressed further the need for intensifying crop breeding programmes for the development of varieties resistant to major pests and diseases and for more research on the biological control of pests.

114. Introduction of appropriate mechanization would increase both cropping intensity, and the productivity of human and animal labour as well as create needs and new jobs. However, conditions in the Region were widely diverse. It was thus impossible to select a single technology level of mechanization that could be applied throughout. This called for regional and national research to develop suitable power and animal drawn implements.



115. The Conference stressed the importance of providing small farmers with the package of material inputs on time, and on terms under which they could use them profitably to increase their crop production and incomes. This involved not only wider use of improved seeds, the efficient and economic use of fertilizer and pesticides, but also controlled water-supply and improved cultural and soil management practices.

116. It would also provide an opportunity for intra-regional trade on the basis of comparative advantages. The Conference, therefore, urged all countries and agencies, including the financial institutions, to concentrate their efforts in increasing the production of these essential inputs in the Region.

117. Matters relating to mechanization and other agricultural inputs, it was noted, are often handled by a number of offices within the Ministry of Agriculture as well as other Ministries and agencies. Fuller cooperation and coordination among these agencies are required, if the goals of national programmes were to be achieved.

118. In view of the urgent need to increase agricultural production, particularly of food, and the crucial role that availability of critical inputs can play in bringing this about, the Conference endorsed the following measures:

- A. Development of seed industries on a priority basis;
- B. Development of varieties with greater adaptability to adverse conditions and with higher and stable yields under relatively low levels of management;
- C. Increasing the availability of fertilizers and pesticides through inter-country cooperation;
- D. Bringing about effective transfer of fertilizer technology use to the small farmer level along with greater utilization of locally available plant nutrients;
- E. Promoting research and development of integrated pest control methods and development of crop varieties with greater pest/disease resistance;
- F. Introduction of appropriate forms of mechanization in farming systems;
- G. Provision of adequate incentives to the farmer;
- H. Imparting training in the proper use of fertilizers, pesticides and farm machines as well as in seed production, processing and quality control; and
- I. Increasing the flow of investment funds and the transfer of technology to the developing countries for the setting up of input industries.

#### Improving Marketing and Credit for the Development of Small Farmers (FERC/76/6)

119. The Conference recognized the critical role of marketing and credit as a stimulus and accelerator for the development of small farmers. It stressed that programmes for small farmers to improve credit and marketing facilities be designed to ensure that the benefits reach them.

120. The Conference, in general, agreed with the problems identified and approaches suggested in the Document FERC/76/6. It recommended the following action programmes:

- A. Since it is essential that marketing be closely linked with credit to be effective, the two functions should be integrated, particularly at the primary level, preferably through cooperatives and farmers' groups. Such integration, where feasible, should be promoted;

- B. To induce efficient assembly of the marketable surplus of small farmers and reduce marketing risks by guaranteeing market outlets, efforts should be made to promote production marketing contracts between groups of small farmers and wholesale marketing agencies or processing industries;
- C. A number of agencies are usually involved in planning for certain aspects of agricultural marketing. They tend to have their own marketing programmes. This results in many fragmented, contradictory or overlapping plans. An integrated national agricultural marketing systems improvement plan should be formulated. It would also be useful to exchange experiences and information on this integrated planning approach in the Region;
- D. To reduce post-harvest losses, including those incurred during marketing, and to increase marketing efficiency, it is recommended that higher priority be given to improvement of marketing facilities and their operations at all levels;
- E. Agricultural credit institutions should be strengthened by allocating a portion of agricultural development funds to develop an adequate network, so as to ensure that all farmers are within a convenient reach of a suitable credit agency. The Secretariat paper refers to establishment of the proposed Asian Regional Agricultural Credit Association. This seeks to exchange experience, conduct international training programmes and support national and international level credit programmes;
- F. Steps should be taken to apportion a share out of the total available agricultural credit, for the small farmers. This should be at least in proportion of the area they cultivate in relation to the total arable area in the country; and
- G. To ensure timely availability of institutional credit for agricultural purposes, particularly to the small farmer, the system of Pass Book may be adopted wherever possible and feasible.

121. The Conference also called for a regular exchange of experiences to stimulate co-ordinated planning, programming and implementation of activities related to food marketing, especially for the small farmers and the urban poor.

122. Higher priority in training, should be given: i) to create a development-oriented cadre of middle and field-level agricultural credit personnel; and ii) to develop middle and field-level marketing managers and technicians with the necessary capabilities. In such training, the need to develop personnel capable of formulating projects for small farmers was stressed.

123. Also, it was recommended that national marketing development and training institutes where needed, be established, if feasible, for the development of middle-level marketing manpower.

Joint FAO/ESCAP Programme (FERC/76/8)

124. The Conference was informed of the major activities of work in agriculture being carried out by the Joint FAO/ESCAP Agriculture Division. ESCAP has accorded high priority to the work in the field of food and agriculture. The Conference was also informed that the programme of work is developed jointly with FAO.

125. The programme of work and the ESCAP medium-term plan 1978-81, containing the broad objectives for work in food and agriculture, were discussed and approved by the ESCAP Committee on Agricultural Development (CAD) and its 32nd Commission Session. The CAD is jointly serviced by FAO and ESCAP.

126. There are presently four main areas of work being undertaken in the Joint Division. These are: the Asian Rice Trade Fund, the Regional Project on Production of Coarse Grains and Pulses, the Agricultural Requisites Scheme for Asia and the Pacific and Development of an Agricultural Information Scheme. The Conference took note of the extra budgetary support contributed in the form of Non-Reimbursable Loans and Funds in Trust by the Governments of Japan, Korea and the Netherlands.

127. While recognizing the importance of the work being done by the Joint Division in the field of food and agriculture, particularly in the field of agricultural requisites, most delegations discussed the wider range of relationships arising from FAO and ESCAP activities, not only in the Joint Division, but in the field of food and agriculture. Serious concern was expressed at the potential and actual duplication of activities that has arisen in a number of fields, particularly, agricultural information, agricultural planning, production of coarse grains, post-harvest technology and agro-industries.

128. The consensus was that further attention to avoid duplication was warranted. It was stressed that the meager resources available for agricultural development in the Region should not be used to duplicate activities of other Agencies.

129. The general opinion was that the Agency best equipped, by way of technical competence to deal with a particular function and authorized to deal with it, should do so. ESCAP had a role to play in respect of the economic and social aspects of agricultural development. As FAO had the technical competence to deal with the agro-technical aspects, it should be the Agency to deal with the same.

Implementation of FAO Priority Programme in the Region (FERC/76/7)

130. The Conference expressed appreciation for the work done under each of the nine Priority Areas as modified by the 12th FAO Regional Conference held in Tokyo in 1974. It was noted that the unifying element of the Priority Areas was the focus on the small farmer.

131. It was emphasized that attention should be concentrated on activities which have an immediate impact at the farm level. In the implementation of programmes, speed and effectiveness were essential. A critical evaluation of the progress of implementation was also considered necessary. There was a mechanism for this evaluation in country projects, in the form of a tripartite review. But such a mechanism did not exist for regional projects. The Regional Technical Bodies would have to assume this function.

132. The Director-General's initiative in reducing the number of meetings and documentation was welcomed. It was stressed that meetings should result in tangible action programmes. Furthermore, Regional or Country Offices should initiate follow-up action on the reports of surveys in the Region.

133. Suggestions were made to enlarge the scope of some of the Priority Areas, namely:

- A. Water management at the farm level, and water logging and salinity control could be expanded to include conservation, utilization and management of soil and water resources;
- B. Agricultural development planning could include agricultural economic research with a view to evolving a common approach, methodology and analysis for such research undertaken by national institutions; and
- C. Agricultural extension research could be included under the priority area - Promotion of Active Participation of Small Farmers in Socio-Economic Development, particularly Agricultural Productivity.

134. Stress was laid on the need for a functional link between the Regional Conference and the Regional Technical Bodies. This was recommended by the 12th FAO Regional Conference held in Tokyo in 1974. These Technical Bodies should indicate activities in their sectoral priority programmes, which could then provide inputs into the overall Regional Priority Areas. In this respect, the convening of expert groups, preceding meetings of Technical Bodies, is useful.

135. FAO should review the functioning of the existing Technical Bodies, with a view to making them action oriented by providing for procedural and fiscal autonomy. It was suggested that additional Regional Technical Bodies should be considered, only if they are funded by contributions from Member Countries.

136. Assistance of FAO in strengthening national institutions in project identification, formulation and appraisal was underlined. This was particularly necessary if Member Countries were to take advantage of the additional resources that would be provided by the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Technical Cooperation Programme of FAO.

137. Assistance would also be required by countries in the development of farming systems with appropriate technology and cropping patterns.

138. It was suggested that future reports on implementation of FAO Priority Programmes in the Region, should contain an evaluation section and be forward-looking. They should indicate the emerging problems of the Region, so that appropriate programmes for their immediate solution could be suggested by the Regional Conference.

#### ORIENTATION OF THE FUTURE WORK OF FAO IN THE REGION (FERC/76/9)

139. The Conference heard the Regional Representative stress that the endorsement given by the Conference to the new policies of the Director-General, reflects Asia's concern for improving the life of the small farmers. It agreed with the general orientation of future work of FAO in the Region, as contained in the document FERC/76/9.

140. The focus of FAO's activities, therefore, should remain on raising the productivity and income of the small farmers. The Conference also agreed that most of the priority areas determined by the 12th FAO Regional Conference in Tokyo (1974) were still valid. The problems covered are of a long-term nature.

141. The report of the Technical Committee, as adopted by the Conference sharpened the focus in each Priority Area. The Regional Representative, invited the Conference to consider a listing of nine Priority Areas. He sought also views on activities that could be undertaken, under each Priority Area, subject to availability of resources and concurrence of the Director-General.

142. The Conference discussed the proposed revision of the Priority Areas, as contained in FERC/76/9 Supplement 1. After discussion, it decided that, since the problems cited were of a medium and long term nature, the priorities as drawn up by the 12th FAO Regional Conference in Tokyo remained valid. They continue to provide a focus for the work of the Organization in the whole Region. The Conference, therefore, decided to readopt in toto the priority formulations of the 12th FAO Regional Conference, as follows:

- a. Promotion of Integrated Food Security, Nutrition Policy and Programmes, and Minimizing Pre- and Post-Harvest Crop Losses;
- b. Promotion of Active Participation of Small Farmers in the Socio-economic Development, particularly Agricultural Productivity;
- c. Development of Rainfed Agriculture with Special Emphasis on Appropriate Cropping Systems and Soil Management;
- d. Promotion of Livestock Development through Cooperative Programmes between Countries;
- e. Promotion of Fisheries Development through Cooperative Programmes with Emphasis on Aquaculture;
- f. Forestry and Forest Industry Development Planning and Conservation and Management of Forests, including Wildlife;
- g. Promotion of Agricultural Diversification and Harmonization of Intra-Regional Trade in Agricultural and Agro-Industrial Commodities;
- h. Water Management at the Farm Level and Water Logging and Salinity Control; and
- i. Agricultural Development Planning.

143. Furthermore, the Regional Representative was requested to view these readopted Priority Areas, in the light of the comments made by delegations in the course of the discussions. These included: cooperative programmes for sale of animal produce, control of animal and plant diseases, building of capability for acquiring data for planning, assistance in project formulation and appraisal, provision of credit institutions and systems that meet the needs of small producers.

144. It was suggested that, since Asia had the largest concentrations of population suffering from poverty, the Region is entitled to a larger portion of the investment funds that would be made available by the International Fund for Agricultural Development and other funding institutions.

145. A portfolio of projects, therefore, should be built. FAO should utilize national and international institutions, in both developing and developed countries, to build the necessary expertise for this purpose.

## CONCLUDING ITEMS

### Adoption of Manila Declaration

146. In view of the continuing food and agricultural crisis in the Region, in order to focus attention and mobilize national, regional and global resources for development, to achieve self-sufficiency and self-reliance in food and agriculture and recognizing the paramount importance and need for agricultural development in Member Nations, the Conference unanimously adopted a statement called the "Manila Declaration on Food and Agriculture, 1976". Full text appears in the section entitled "Manila Declaration".

### Adoption of Resolutions

147. In addition to the recommendations made during the discussions on the Agenda items, the Conference agreed unanimously to adopt resolutions on the following subjects, which were considered of special importance.

1. Resolution 1/76: Crop/livestock/fish integration at small farmer level
2. Resolution 2/76: Forestry for community development
3. Resolution 3/76: High-yielding variety seeds.

148. The Resolutions appear in the section entitled "Resolutions and Recommendations".

### Proposal for Change in the Name of the Conference

149. Papua New Guinea proposed that the name of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East should be changed to that of FAO Regional Conference for Asia and Pacific, to cover the present Region as well as the Pacific. The proposal was supported by Australia, Fiji, Indonesia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand. One country wanted more time for consultation while another opposed the proposal.

150. The proposal also envisaged the change in the name of the Regional Office to that of FAO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (RAP).

151. After some discussion, the Conference agreed that, since this matter involved some procedural considerations, it should be referred to the concerned FAO Governing Bodies.

### Date and Place of the Fourteenth Regional Conference

152. The delegates from New Zealand, Pakistan and Thailand expressed their willingness to host the Fourteenth FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East to be held in 1978. The Conference appreciated the offers made by these countries and recommended them to the Director-General for consideration.

### Other Matters - Regional Representation on CGFPI and CGIAR

153. The Conference considered documents FERC/76/INF/4 and FERC/76/INF/5 in respect of election of members from the Region to the Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment (CGFPI) and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

154. The Conference confirmed the nominations of Burma and Indonesia to the CGFPI, as endorsed by the 66th FAO Council Session, valid until the end of calendar year 1978.

155. Similarly for representation on the CGIAR, the Conference unanimously elected India and the Philippines for a period of two years until the end of calendar year 1978.

### Closing of the Conference

156. Delegations regarded the Thirteenth Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East as especially important and worthwhile. For the first time, a Declaration on food and Agriculture (Manila Declaration) was unanimously adopted. The Session witnessed the participation for the first time of the People's Republic of China and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. The Conference also welcomed the participation of Papua New Guinea as an independant FAO member country. The delegates noted the spirit of cooperation that animated the Conference.

157. The Conference emphasized that the implementation of its recommendations was essential to make the Conference more effective.

158. Stress was also laid on achieving agricultural development through self-reliance and assisting small farmer. Full support was given to the Priority Areas and the orientation of FAO work in the Region.

159. The Conference felt that less time should be devoted to the presentation of country statements and more given for deliberations of the Technical Committee. It was also felt that a reassessment of the role and usefulness of Regional Conferences, is called for.

160. To link up country programmes with the regional programme, it was suggested that the Regional Office might organize a meeting of FAO Country Representatives.

161. Another suggestion made was the convening of national food conferences before the next Regional Conference. This way, the priorities set by the countries will be reflected in the Agenda of the Regional Conference.

162. The Conference appreciated the new orientation and thrust given by the Director-General to the work of FAO. It supported his policies and looked forward to their early implementation.

163. The Conference expressed its warmest appreciation of the hospitality extended by the Government of the Philippines and its assistance to FAO in the successful organization of the Conference.

164. The Chairman made a brief concluding statement on the successful deliberations of the Conference noting that the 13th Regional Conference was unique. It was the first time a declaration on food and agriculture had been adopted. He thanked the Director-General, the Assistant Director-General/Regional Representative, other FAO staff and the Secretariat in organizing and conducting the Conference. He then declared the 13th FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East closed.





AGENDA

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE SESSION (5-7 August)

1. Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Technical Committee
2. Small Farmer Development Planning as an Integral Part of National Development Plan
3. Crop/Livestock/Fish Integration at Small Farmer Level
4. Forestry for Local Community Development
5. Measures for Improving the Supply, Distribution and Utilization of Agricultural Inputs
6. Improving Marketing and Credit for the Development of Small Farmers
7. Joint FAO/ESCAP Programme
8. Implementation of FAO Priority Programme in the Region - A Report by the Assistant Director-General, Regional Representative (including reports of the FAO Regional Technical Bodies)

PLENARY SESSION (9-13 August)

- I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS
  1. Opening of the Conference
  2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen
  3. Adoption of the Agenda
- II. SITUATION AND PROSPECTS OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN ASIA AND THE FAR EAST
  4. Statement by the Director-General
  5. Statement by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP
  6. Statement by the Chairman of FAO Council
  7. Statement by the Executive Director of the World Food Programme
  8. Statement by the Executive Director of the World Food Council
  9. Statement by the Assistant Director-General, Regional Representative for Asia and the Far East
  10. Country Statements
- III. AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION
  11. Consideration of the Technical Committee Report
  12. Orientation of the Future Work of FAO in the Region
- IV. CONCLUDING ITEMS
  13. Date and Place of the Fourteenth FAO Regional Conference
  14. Adoption of the Report
  15. Other Matters
  16. Closing of the Conference



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APPENDIX C

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

FERC/76/1	Provisional Agenda
FERC/76/1(a)	Provisional Annotated Agenda
FERC/76/2	Small Farmer Development Planning as an Integral Part of National Development Plan
FERC/76/3	Crop Livestock Fish Integration at Small Farmer Level
FERC/76/4	Forestry for Local Community Development
FERC/76/5-Rev.1	Measures for Improving the Supply, Distribution and Utilization of Agricultural Inputs
FERC/76/6	Improving Marketing and Credit for the Development of Small Farmers
FERC/76/7	Implementation of FAO Priority Programme in the Region - A Report by the Assistant Director-General, Regional Representative (including reports of the FAO Regional Technical Bodies)
FERC/76/8	Joint FAO/ESCAP Programme
FERC/76/9	Orientation of the Future Work of FAO in the Region
FERC/76/9 Sup.1	Priority Programme for FAO in the Region
<u>FERC/76/INF Series</u>	
FERC/76/INF/1	Information Note
FERC/76/INF/2-Rev.1	Provisional Timetable
FERC/76/INF/3	Provisional List of Documents
FERC/76/INF/4	Election of CGFPI Members Representing the Regions
FERC/76/INF/5	Representation of Developing Regions on the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)
FERC/76/INF/6	Comprehensive Integrated Watershed Development
FERC/76/INF/7-Rev.1	Provisional List of Delegates and Observers
FERC/76/INF/8	Programme for the morning meeting of the Plenary Session
<u>FERC/76/CONF Series</u>	
FERC/76/CONF/1	Opening Remarks by Dr. D.L. Umali, Assistant Director-General/Regional Representative for Asia and the Far East
FERC/76/CONF/2	Address by Dr. Edouard Saouma, Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to the Thirteenth Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East
FERC/76/CONF/3	Address by Mr. G. Bula Hoyos, Independent Chairman of the FAO Council, to the Thirteenth FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East
FERC/76/CONF/4	Address by Dr. D.L. Umali, Assistant Director-General/Regional Representative for Asia and the Far East, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to the Thirteenth Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East

FERC/76/REP Series

FERC/76/REP/1  
FERC/76/REP/2  
FERC/76/REP/3  
FERC/76/REP/4  
FERC/76/REP/5  
FERC/76/REP/6  
FERC/76/REP/7  
FERC/76/REP/8

Draft Report of the Technical Committee - Part I  
Draft Report of the Technical Committee - Part II  
Draft Report of the Technical Committee - Part III  
Draft Report of the Technical Committee - Part IV  
Draft Report of the Technical Committee - Part V  
Report of the Technical Committee (as approved)  
Draft Report Plenary Session - Part I  
Draft Report Plenary Session - Part II

APPENDIX D

STATEMENT BY DR. EDOUARD SAOUMA, DIRECTOR-GENERAL

On behalf of the Organization and all delegations here present, I thank His Excellency President Ferdinand Marcos, and the Honourable Secretary of Agriculture, Dr. Arturo Tanco, Jr., for hosting this Conference.

The warmth of our reception, the efficiency of the arrangements, and the generosity of the hospitality we have been given, attest to the steadfast support which the Philippines Government has always extended to FAO.

It gives me added satisfaction, as it does to all participants, that we can welcome the delegation of the People's Republic of China to their first Regional Conference.

At the same time, we express sorrow and concern over the loss of lives and damage caused by the recent earthquakes in and around Tangshan, and by the floods in Punjab (Pakistan).

We also welcome the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Mr. J.B.P. Maramis, Relations between the Organization and ESCAP are obviously of considerable importance to this Conference. It is good that Mr. Maramis is here.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, I speak today with no ordinary emotion. I feel, in a special sense, that I have come home.

I am not a stranger to Asia. My first assignment with FAO was in this Region. I headed the FAO Office in New Delhi covering Asia and the Far East.

Those two and a half years of service had a profound and enduring effect on me. Those years provided insights into many of the problems and potential of this Region's agriculture; they shaped my hope to play a fuller part in your attack on hunger and poverty. The deep personal friendships I formed, and the appreciation of your countries and your peoples that I acquired, have been of great value.

It is against this background that, over the years, I have formed a deep conviction in the mission of FAO, coupled with a most pragmatic approach, to accomplishing our task of helping feeding the hungry.

This is the first Regional Conference, Mr. Chairman, to be held since the 69th Session of the FAO Council. Your Governments, at this session, extended an overwhelming mandate for new approaches I had proposed.

The Council, I am pleased to report to you, broke free from its habitual debates about posts, upgradings, meetings and housekeeping matters. Instead, it re-examined in the most serious and fundamental way the purposes and aims and the future course of the Organization.

Out of our deliberations, the conviction emerged that it was necessary to shake FAO out of its conservatism, its complacency and its ivory-tower tendencies and to turn it into an instrument which would find new ways of attacking famine and hunger striking down millions of poor people, specially in Asia.

The Organization, I felt, could not stagnate and wither into irrelevance while the aspirations for a New International Economic Order are increasingly gaining ground. Long unmet human needs are driving towards the creation of a new framework of economic relationships, based on equity and compassion. This framework cannot tolerate the deliberate pursuit of inequity and injustice.

Members of the Council from Asia were almost unanimous in their support for the proposed new direction. This is most encouraging given the size and importance of this region.

As a result of all these, we can say that FAO has been renewed in spirit and in form.

Thus, in Manila, today, we find ourselves in the position to discuss, in very concrete practical terms, the new dimensions to our common goal of rolling back the threat of hunger.

I welcome this opportunity for two reasons.

One is the simple but grim arithmetic of this Region.

Asia is now the home of more than two billion human beings. They are twice as many as in 1950. That was when the word "development" first crept into vocabulary of international organizations.

About eighty percent of people here live in rural communities. These are constricted within eighty million individual and fragmented agricultural holdings. Well over 400 million earn less than \$50 per year - the economist's arbitrary but telling norm for the line of absolute poverty. Over 270 million of these are concentrated in South Asia. An FAO/WHO study indicates that one out of four in this Region suffers from serious malnutrition.

Another 100 million are compelled to live as shifting cultivators, on slash-and-burn agriculture. For most of them, this is the only means of bare survival.

But the signs of the abuse of this Region's eco-systems - the only guarantee of food in the future - can already be seen in the steady retreat of the forests.

For many Asian countries, the problem has been compounded, in recent years, by the erosion of the capacity to buy food from the rich countries. Many find themselves as heavy food importers. The value of Asian food imports in 1976, a relatively promising year, is expected to exceed \$1,900 million. This is four times the cost of food imports in 1972.

This trend cannot continue indefinitely. It must be reversed. Clearly then, Asia's most pressing need is for a rural breakthrough. More than any other region, its future is tied up in the future of its farms.

The second reason is my determination to eliminate from FAO all traces of paternalism. This had sapped much of the vitality of our earlier work.

There is enough experience now in Asia and elsewhere, to show the way to meaningful progress, to encourage and help farmers at the village level, to plant and sow and reap.

Henceforth, our approaches, our projects - above all, our attitudes - will be characterized by sensitivity to your perceptions, your priorities and your needs.

I am a realist. And I have few illusions about the magnitude of the food problem. It was a sense of realism that prompted me to tell the Council this July: "The problem of hunger and malnutrition will not be completely solved within a decade. Rhetoric may fill conference halls. It does not fill stomachs."

This same spirit of realism also tells us that chances for a rural breakthrough ultimately rest on the men who produce the food.

In Asia, this is the small farmer.

It is true that the small farmer is impoverished; that his tools are crude, his productivity low. He is voiceless and, together with his family, lives a life truncated by disease, lack of education and limited hope.



Yet, this frail man is the only one who can produce food for tomorrow. We must rally to the support of this man - in the interests of sheer survival, if not out of altruism. For without a rural breakthrough, Asia's prospects would remain bleak indeed.

That is why I feel that the theme of our Conference - increasing the productivity of small farmers and the quality of their lives - is singularly appropriate.

It is precisely to support countries seeking a rural breakthrough that the Organization will embark on a new course. My policy proposals indicate the main thrusts and essentially they call for:

- Greater emphasis on investment in food and agricultural production;
- Establishment of a Technical Cooperation Programme which, within limits, will give FAO a new immediacy and flexibility to act in response to urgent, short-term needs of Member Nations;
- Emphasis on decentralization at the country level and the gradual appointment of full FAO representatives in countries desiring them;
- Shifting the emphasis of programmes away from studies, meetings and theoretical exercises toward practical, urgently needed action directed at tangible effective results in countries.

I am glad to announce that we have in fact begun.

Steps have already been taken to make allocations within the TCP to assist two countries which happen to be in this Region, pending help being made available from other sources.

This help is of necessity modest. But it is timely. And it will result in subsequent help from other sources being more effective.

To stimulate a greater flow of funds for agricultural development, I am increasing FAO's capabilities to attract investment. An expanded Investment Centre should be able to provide needy countries a wide range of assistance, so they can develop more well-prepared investment projects. The service offered by FAO will include identification, preparation and execution of such projects.

A major new source of funds for sound projects will of course be the International Fund for Agricultural Development. In accordance with the instructions of the FAO Conference and Council, I am doing everything possible to ensure close cooperation between the Organization and the Fund, as soon as it becomes operational.

The importance of this Fund, for improving agriculture and raising food production in the Third World, can hardly be exaggerated. It is bound to have a great influence on FAO. And we must be ready to reshape the Organization and its activities accordingly.

Another increasingly important resource for development is the World Food Programme.

With its budget of \$750 million for this biennium, it is a major element in the development activities with which FAO is vitally concerned. We must maximize the impact of WFP projects for agricultural development.

The Technical Cooperation Programme will enable FAO to provide a new, flexible type of assistance in agriculture to developing countries. You and I know of many situations where relatively modest help, if given quickly, can have practical value out of proportion to its size. The range of such situations is very wide.

I attach particularly importance, however, to innovative training at the rural areas, specially on the village level. Training at the intermediate level and to some extent at the higher levels, is important; but the needs of the small farmer, the artisanal fisherman and forest worker have not received sufficient attention by FAO.

I note with appreciation the cooperation extended by eight governments of this Region to our Small Farmers Team, enabling it to work in 16 rural areas and develop a promising and unique methodology to serve the rural poor. At the 32nd Session of the ESCAP, the UNDP noted that FAO's approach to Small Farmers Development constituted a model for emulation.

To help governments reach these lower levels, FAO will continue to envisage new methods and initiatives but always of course at the request and with the full cooperation of governments and national institutions.

While this first allocation for the Technical Cooperation Programme is perforce rather modest, it must be seen in its context as a catalyst and multiplier of other large sources of development finance.

As the Council decided, projects will be short-term, the maximum duration being one year. We will give special but not exclusive attention to needs of the least developed and most seriously affected countries.

The choice of allocations will call for considerable judgment, care and also for some imagination. I am taking steps personally to work out more detailed criteria and procedures.

Your interest, but also your understanding and patience, will be of great importance to the successful operation of the Technical Cooperation Programme.

A matter of obvious interest to Regional Conferences is the question of decentralization. As you know, I have concluded and the Council has agreed that decentralization to the country level and the creation of FAO Representatives is the best course at this stage.

It is in the individual country, after all, where the action decisions that affect the national state of food and agriculture are taken. I am happy to report that the 69th Session of the FAO Council fully endorsed my proposals on this issue.

I emphasize "at this stage" because the door is not closed on the necessary continued consideration of the role, functions and responsibilities of the Regional Offices.

For the moment, however, I am deferring decisive judgements, such as would have been involved in the very large increase, previously proposed for this biennium, of new technical posts in Regional Offices.

This pause will be healthy. It will enable eventual decisions to be based on a more reasoned approach.

Meanwhile, I think that the new FAO Representatives can provide a new link between the work of the Regional Offices and countries which will strengthen the effect of their work and facilitate follow-up at the national level.

I count upon our new FAO Representatives to provide the face-to-face link with national decision makers to give them prompt and reliable assistance in all matters within FAO's competence.

I also expect them to forge working relationships between FAO and national institutions, in fulfilment of the wishes developing countries expressed so firmly at the last FAO Conference.

The FAO Representatives may help to stimulate cooperation among developing countries for greater sharing of the knowledge and experience of their respective national institutions in agricultural work. They also should help increase the effectiveness of FAO field staff, again through close working relationships.

Here I wish to pay tribute to our field staff for the devotion to duty and the patience they have shown during the difficult period caused by the unexpected cash shortage in the UN Development Programme. FAO took measures to alleviate the situation but many staff still were subjected to regrettable hardships.

I also want to refer to the relationships between our Regional Offices and the UN Regional Economic Commissions, which are in a stage of possible transition, a not altogether easy situation.

You will have seen the summary of the work being carried out by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, in cooperation with FAO, both through our Joint Division and outside of it.

I shall be interested to have the views of the Regional Conference on the division of functions and activities between FAO and ESCAP and more particularly its Committee on Agricultural Development.

Being in the Philippines, I take this opportunity of saluting the International Rice Research Institute of Los Baños. Its success is renowned and has benefited the whole world.

I should also like to express my admiration for the work of the South East Asia Regional Centre for Graduate Studies in Research and Agriculture (SEARCA) and the Philippine Council for Agricultural Research and Resources (PCARR).

I have already referred to the wider use of national institutions. They could also help in FAO's efforts at training at the lower grass-root level.

One special use of them could be to combat the growing ecological stress in the region due to the unchecked destruction of watersheds. Land and water conservation management programmes at the farmer level are urgently needed.

Of the many other topics that deserve attention, I would refer especially to those which are of great importance in this region.

Small farmers and fishermen constitute the overwhelming majority of people in this region. I am convinced that Governments will make every effort to bring them into the mainstream of development.

On a wider front, the global Food Information and Early Warning System is now in full operation and provides timely assessments of crop conditions and prospects to the 85 member countries which participate, including 11 important food producing countries of this region.

The Food Security Assistance Scheme is also now operating. At the request of interested developing countries, it helps them in formulating their national food reserve policies and programmes and mobilizes the external resources required for identified projects. There have already been several technical missions sent at the request of governments in this region.

I am glad to report that a growing number of donor countries have pledged support to this Scheme, either with technical assistance to improve storage, or to finance the local purchases of grain for reserve stocks.

This work is being coordinated through the new Committee on World Food Security, which monitors the action taken by countries to implement the International Undertaking on World Food Security.

These two schemes are of great importance to this Region and to this Conference. So precarious is the food supply from season to season, that millions of people are struggling just to ensure survival.

We must see FAO's role in the region in the context of this great battle to assure an adequate supply of food and a decent standard of living in the Third World. FAO can help Governments to achieve the goals they set for themselves. But it is Governments that must take the necessary actions. It is Governments that have the immediate and ultimate responsibility.

It would be presumptuous as well as superfluous for me to lecture you on needs and priorities. You will yourselves ensure that this Conference will identify the regional and inter-country actions that should and can be undertaken to support national plans and programmes, and the policies and priorities which FAC should follow, particularly in the medium and longer-term.

What is important is to have courage and determination; imagination coupled with practical action.

While the challenge of meeting the needs of this region's two and a quarter billion people is an awesome one, I believe that it can be met.

It will be my continuing concern to gear FAO to play a fuller and more fruitful part in the common endeavour to improve the welfare of the rural masses.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FAO COUNCIL

It is for me a great honour to be with you here as the Independent Chairman of the FAO Council.

This is the first Regional Conference to be held since the meeting of the Council last July, in which we considered the Director-General's proposals for a revision of the Organization's policy, programmes and structure as set forth in a resolution adopted by the Conference. So you will have the privilege of being the first to consider how the decisions of the Council will affect the future work of the Organization, with particular reference to this region, a matter that could come up in connection with item 10 of the Agenda of this Conference.

My personal impression is that the manner in which discussions were conducted in the Council and the results to which they led attested yet again to the repeatedly stated conviction of the Governments that FAO must improve its performance and efficiency in the work it does for its Member Nations, and particularly for those in process of development.

With the persistence of the world food crisis, the growing importance of agriculture in the great majority of the developing countries, and the political resolve of the governments to achieve real, effective international cooperation, FAO is cast in a singularly important role carrying a high responsibility that it will only be able to discharge adequately by revising its working plans to fit the problems in the new forms they are taking, and by doing this, in direct contact with the countries at all times so as to perceive their aspirations and needs as they really are.

In my opinion, FAO has to change. An Organization of the character and importance as ours, and with such a large volume of resources and such a large staff, cannot remain a passive spectator to the permanent and growing supply of food aid, or a mere meteorological instrument to record changes in the weather, the only factors with any bearing on the improvement of the food and agricultural situation today. This would leave the countries most severely stricken by the crisis perpetually dependent on those that can provide aid, which will be in keeping with neither the ideals nor the objectives for which FAO was founded.

FAO must focus all its efforts on endowing the developing countries with a solid, durable base that will ensure the growth of their agricultural production, as the only course by which to extricate them gradually from their dependent situation. The distinctive characteristics of some of the countries in this region should stimulate FAO to search for new and more practical ways to help them.

I note with satisfaction that the technical stage that preceded this plenary Conference dealt with many aspects of the new direction of FAO's programming, such as greater stress on activities that can more directly bolster the growth of agricultural production, incentives to investments for development, and better attention to small farmers.

Thus, useful groundwork has been done for this Conference, which will surely produce results that will improve the work of FAO in this region and constitute guidelines that can strengthen our Organization's programmes and policies.

It is reassuring that this Conference has brought together representatives of countries at different stages of development to exchange experiences and endeavour to frame recommendations that will make it possible for FAO to take more dynamic and more positive action in Asia and the Far East.

This auspicious gathering, Mr. Chairman and Delegates, reaffirms the principle of mutual understanding, constructive and remote from any confrontation, that I have endeavoured to impress on the proceedings of the Council as the sturdiest foundation for international cooperation.

It has been most gratifying to find here distinguished colleagues and friends with whom for years I have shared the experience of working in FAO. Aside from the official aspects of this meeting, these personal satisfactions are highly gratifying to friendship and the spirit of comradeship.

And all this is happening in a meeting being held in the delightful setting of Manila, the capital of your noble country, Mr. President, to which we Latin Americans feel bound by old, pleasant ties of admiration and fellowship.

We in Latin America are all very fond of the Philippines and of the good people of this great Nation, which is like us in so many ways and I have felt very well here from the very moment of my arrival. A thousand and one thanks to the Philippine Government and people for all their kindnesses and courtesies.

You, Mr. Chairman, are not simply the Minister whose turn has come to preside over a Conference being held in your country. You have participated in many FAO gatherings, and have brought to them a competence and knowledgeability that I have really admired. The fact that this meeting is proceeding under your hand is a sure sign that it is going to enjoy the success that I, on behalf of the FAO Council, most sincerely wish it.

STATEMENT BY DR. D.L. UMALI, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL,  
REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST

Four short years before his execution, the national hero of the Philippines wrote his professor here in Manila. "What is life itself," he asked, "if it is not committed to a great ideal?"

In answering himself, Jose Rizal drew a simile from the fields of his native Calamba. This is the crossroad town you passed to reach the International Rice Research Institute. "It is like a stone, wasted in the field," he wrote, "without being part of an edifice."

Today, we convene in Rizal's country, part of a world-wide movement, dedicated to a human ideal, namely: To help each other free, from the scourge of hunger, the poor of our countries. This "great ideal" enlivened the address of the President, the Director-General and other speakers.

Speakers expressed their gratitude to the Philippine Government. It has hosted this Conference for the second time, thereby indicating its support for this ideal.

It is in this spirit, that I associate myself with them. Permit me to do so in a double capacity. First, as a representative of the FAO Regional Office and, second, as one of this country's native sons.

Allow me, Sir, to record here also our gratitude to President Ferdinand Marcos, Agriculture Secretary Arturo Tanco, and the Philippine Ambassador to FAO: Mr. Carlos J. Valdez. The excellent facilities that we have at our disposal today are due, in large measure, to their generous cooperation.

All of us are equally beholden to the Conference staff. They have worked long hours to ensure that our conference proceed smoothly and our stay is pleasant.

Mr. Chairman and delegates: It has been two years since we last met in Tokyo. In that brief span of time, we have seen our world edge back, ever so slowly, from the brink of mass hunger.

Our food reserves have not been rebuilt so far. Drought has recently seared parts of Australia, Thailand and Malaysia. Floods trouble Bangladesh and Burma. And until recently, the monsoons were spotty in India and Sri Lanka.

These remind us how aptly Director-General Saouma has characterized this problem as "the permanent peril".

But we have also witnessed, within this same period, creation of the International Fund for Agricultural Development. Within our own House, a Director-General, equipped with a fresh mandate, is seeking to vest FAO with a new dimension of service.

The old perils have been matched with new initiatives.

Earlier, the Director-General explained to us what these "new approaches" are. FAO will no longer be hemmed into the old complacent ways of doing things.

May I offer two brief comments. They give, I believe, some of the perspectives from our Region.

First: One of the most pathetic sayings, in all languages, is: "We have always done it this way". It implies rigidity and dissipation of creativity. Routine smothers initiative. Dictation substitutes for persuasion. In development, this is not merely an excuse. It is an obituary.

The Director-General has given us a striking example of how FAO, under his stewardship, spurns obituaries. Just before this Conference opened, Lao requested FAO assistance to combat an upsurge of rice pests. Three hours after the Regional Plant Protection Officer - who incidentally serves as our Conference Secretary here - filed his report, the Director-General sanctioned purchase and delivery of the needed pesticides. It reveals the conviction that action is indeed the foundation for credibility.

Second: One of the most significant commitments, announced by Mr. Saouma, is to excise from the work of FAO every shred of paternalism.

In effect, the Director-General invites this Conference to assist him in his work: to become active partners in the campaign against hunger, instead of hanging back as indifferent observers, deterred by the paternalism of the past.

The new policy implies scope for local initiative; an openness to the views and priorities of countries. It reveals a willingness to break away from the rigid lines of old FAO work patterns. As some of you have validly noted, these often had little relevance to needs in our villages.

I am confident this Conference will respond generously to this invitation. It is, after all, a call for a revitalized alliance against the blight of want.

The reports cited here earlier, Mr. Chairman, indicate the gross food deficit, by 1985, could well range between 95 to 108 million tons. This underscores our duty to close ranks. "To beat a tiger," the ancient Asian peasants used to warn, "one must have a brother's help."

There is no need to repeat here, Sir, all the dismaying figures. At this stage, let us pinpoint instead certain significant trends. These may help us shape our future approaches.

One is the rapidly shifting framework of social tensions. The undercurrents, unleashed by a psychology of scarcities, constitute another area. Then, there is the emergence of what has been aptly called "the one economy of common expectations".

Let us look at some of these at closer range.

People constitute, of course, the crucial factor. An FAO study indicates that within six years 287 million more will join us in this Region. The sheer momentum of earlier growth rates guarantees this.

Food is the inter-linked issue. Looking into 1985, and given the current production increases of 2.4 percent, our Region could well be confronted by a cereal shortage. It could vary between 46.3 to 54.8 million tons.

If we are to fill our barns, together we must increase cereal production rates to 4.2 percent.

Can we do this?

Responses by this Region's food-short countries will vary. Some have the cash. Their trade and industries generate enough foreign exchange enabling them to shop in world-markets.

The second group has limited production and limited cash. Production is supplemented by increasingly-costly imports. The problem is manageable; but clearly the strain is growing.

But the core of the food problem lies mostly in South Asia. Here, food deficits are compounded by low-income. In some of these countries per capita income is less than \$100 annually. About 412 million of impoverished people are concentrated in just four countries.



The supply and nutritional implications of these facts are grim enough. But I must call your attention to a little-noticed forecast. As industrial economies recover, their imports of oil from the OPEC countries could surge from 27 million barrels daily today to as much as 37 million barrels by 1985.

What all the final consequences of this accelerating curve are, I do not know. But one thing is clear: fertilizers, pesticides, fuel for irrigation pumps, tractors and other farm inputs are already priced beyond the reach of Asia's small farmers. This curve means they will not be any easier to come by in the future.

There are other worrisome indicators. The spiralling price of firewood is one. The other is the withering away of animal dung-application to our fields.

Firewood and charcoal are major energy sources in our villages. Their prices have tripled as demand, fanned by oil-costs, rose. Forests are already plagued by slash-and-burn agriculture. The supply that they can provide is shrinking.

Today, more animal dung is burned as fuel. The supply of organic manure to replenish the overworked soil is therefore diminishing.

No wonder then that prices tend to spurt at the slightest hint of supply disruptions. A 'psychology of scarcities' prevails. And it penalizes the poor.

All these add pressure on the structure of Asian agriculture. Its productivity is already crippled by fragmented land holdings and unjust agrarian practices. The urban bias built into much of current policies and practices aggravates these distortions.

These policies are the legacy of what were fashionable development strategies over the last two decades.

They withheld investments from agriculture. Resources were pumped instead into the small-often artificial - modern enclaves in cities. They were carbon copies of advanced nation models, relied on top-down planning and heavy doses of foreign aid. To meet the voracious appetite of heavy industries for capital and energy, the countryside was 'beggared'.

Benefits were supposed to 'trickle down', from these enclaves to rural areas. They never did. In fact, the absolute incomes of the bottom 10-20 percent of our population - the poorest of our poor - dropped. The weakest were made to bear the heaviest burdens.

Today, these strategies have now been largely run into the ground. And the resulting disparities are so wide, a report has noted: 'Asia's governments, rooted as they are in great cities, seem locked in escalating conflict with their own rural citizenry - and almost without exception, the farmers are losing.'

The terrifying flood into ill-prepared cities of farmers who have lost out, and the consequent mushrooming of mega-slums, are some of the end-results of these anti-rural policies. This drain is occurring precisely when we need to keep people on the land.

Reaction is now starting to set in. We have seen forcible emptying of some cities. But worldwide, prospects for slowing this flood in the near future are dim.

In effect, Mr. Chairman, the old scenes of conflict have changed. Today, the most explosive social tensions are no longer between labour or capital. Nor are they found between national or foreign interests.

The more dangerous arena is that between an impoverished unorganized and voiceless majority in the rural areas on one hand and the articulate minority in the cities on the other.

There are other more damaging consequences of policies that consigned agriculture to lower drawer priority.

One is the distortion in human opportunities.

The Institute of Development Studies at Sussex University notes: A child in an Asian city is 8.5 times more likely to go on to university than one from the village. Town dwellers have four times more chances for medical care.

This is an extortionate cost. Chairman Mao validly reminds us: 'Of all things in the world, people are the most precious.'

Another is the abortion of chances for long term growth.

For the poor countries, the only hope for growth is found - not in foreign aid, which is thinning nor in capital intensive industries which they cannot afford - but in low-cost uses of indigenous resources, especially the huge pools of agricultural manpower.

Urban-skewed policies precisely frustrate this approach.

Expectations aggravate these tensions to a degree far more intense than we suspect. It has been said, with good reason, that our world - whatever be the differences in actual economic systems or political structures - moves to common demands. 'The world has become one economy in its expectations, in its responses and in its behaviour. This is new in human history.'

What then is the way out?

One of Asia's great leaders pointed a route some years back. 'Produce your needs,' Mahatma Gandhi told us, 'and reduce your wants.'

Spiralling needs are spurring most of our countries to search for a rural breakthrough.

There is a groping for alternatives. New models are emerging. This is why China's development experience commands growing interest. It is rooted in self-reliant agriculture and the small farmer who successfully produces for the needs of over 800 million people.

This search is also crystallizing into a rough consensus.

There is agreement now, for instance, that in Asia, the critical level for development is the village; that paternalistic support of agriculture is self-defeating.

Slowly, oftentimes grudgingly, more people are accepting that participation of farmers, at the village level in decision-making processes, is the key to tapping local resources. In turn, this makes available a stable low cost base for sustained growth.

As the early policy illusions wither, a new realism is emerging. It has led to a rediscovery of the small farmer.

Current estimates claim there are 400 million sharecroppers, landless labourers and farmers who till slivers of infertile land. Another 100 million eke out a livelihood from slash-and-burn agriculture. About 270 million hover below subsistence levels.

The statistics do not really tell the full story of the poverty, isolation, lack of opportunities that plague these men. Yet, the fact is only they can do what Ghandi says must be done: To produce for the needs of our hungry.

In Asia, agriculture is in the hands of the small farmers. This is true today. It will remain so in the years ahead. Thus, Asia's hope for a rural breakthrough rests on the small farmer.

There is evidence accumulating that one reason why far too many development projects, in this Region, never put down roots was our inability to reach this man. We do not listen

carefully to him, trust him and therefore we are unable to effectively help him. Instead, we paralyzed him with paternalistic schemes imposed from above.

No wonder then, we have had a 'bumper harvest' of pilot projects that were rarely replicable under Asian field conditions.

Whether we can respond to the Gandhian call to produce enough for our needs depends on how our rural poor are mobilized. It demands, of us, faith in the small farmer.

Let us not be misled by his penury, his confined horizons or lack of social graces. In a harsh world, he has won for himself and his family survival - no mean achievement. He can break out in flourishing creativity, if we only give him a vision of his potential and assist to break the shackles on him.

This week, we shall have before us the Report of our Technical Committee. This document spells out ways whereby we can bridge institutional and the intangible but very real attitudinal gaps. Permit me to spotlight briefly some of the points.

Organization of the rural poor for production is one vital step. At the June 1975 ILO Conference, Member Governments blunted the unfair tendency to squash peasant organizations as 'subversive' by approving a convention on rural workers organizations. FAO associated itself with this convention in our Conference of November 1975.

Together, we must give life to this commitment by helping farmers organize themselves functionally for collective operations. China owes much of her productivity increases to such units. Assistance should aim at unlocking their indigenous capacities. Local people need freedom with responsibility to plan and implement so that in the end, what emerges is their programme, not a paternalistic hand-me-down from national governments.

Rural cooperatives in many countries have made a good beginning. This is the time, perhaps, to lay the groundwork for their moving into collective agricultural operations. In short, new innovative forms of mutual aid are needed.

Village level training offers one channel. Significantly, this constitutes one of the key policies of the new leadership in FAO.

The Small Farmers Team of FAO, in cooperation with nine member countries, pioneered in new forms of village training. It involved all levels: farmers, technicians, policy makers. They focussed on the critical need to pierce the wall that isolates the comfortable world of urban policy and the harsh realities of the field.

There is a continuing need to tear down these walls. This appears to be the rationale for the Chinese insistence that their leaders go into the countryside and do physical labour. The taste of sweat and the reek of manure, it seems, clear the mind quickly and helps formulation of realistic programmes.

The use of unlettered but competent farmers in village training programmes is attracting attention. We need more of these examples and break away from textbook criteria.

'The bamboo that grows on our soil is designed to support nipa huts,' Jose Rizal once said. 'They are not proper material for massive European edifices.'

He wrote this in 1895. Across the years, it reminds that technology to be productive, must be native to our soil. Adapting what is useful from abroad, we must have our own low cost and simple technology. This is what is accessible to the small farmer.

This calls for an approach that avoids waste. We must wean ourselves from costly imported farm inputs. Instead, we should increase our reliance on often neglected local resources. Improvement of indigenous technology and tools ought to rise in our priorities.

This approach adapts to the environment. It avoids the futile - and presumptuous - exercise of trying to recast the environment instead. It also ensures that we do not repeat one of the most emotionally-charged mistakes of earlier development experience: To scrap local values, practices and traditions in a "scorched earth" attempt to impose "modern" programmes. And this is the basic point of Jose Rizal's example of the bamboo.

Concern for the small farmer does not set back the clock, as some claim. Nor is it an argument against industrialization. Rather, it recognizes that in the Asian setting, viable industry will emerge only if it is built on the bedrock of a stable agriculture. It is, therefore, necessary to establish firmly, in our minds and in our programmes, the major principle that industry should not cripple agriculture but serve it.

A thorough review of policies would therefore appear to be called for urgently. Too often, policies in agriculture are negated by conflicting policies in other sectors. We must not only harmonize these conflicts but we need to design strategies of agricultural production and rural development, so that the rural poor gets preferential treatment.

Such policies could cover a wide range from inputs, marketing, credit, to extension support and special funds. We must load the dice in favour of the small man.

There is a great need of rural cadres to assist the farmers. Governments may wish to consider wider use of the services of voluntary agencies, dedicated individuals, retired government personnel, and others. Such a policy could channel services and energy of these dynamic men and come to areas where these could be most socially useful.

These are not easy tasks, of course. And agriculture is a long term proposition. "If you want to grow a squash, it takes three months," the old Filipino farmers like to say. "But if you want mahogany, you need a decade."

The fact, of course, is time is in short supply. This Regional Conference therefore can help to ensure that the short-run pressures that impinge on all of us do not blur our long-term permanent interests.

It is perhaps fortunate that, at this point of time, there is growing realization that the interests of the rural poor are a matter of political necessity to the elite. It seems the long-term repercussions of some past short-run expedients are hammering this home.

Credibility is essential. This will come if we remember the second part of Ghandi's call: To reduce our wants.

As a region of great needs, we require models of limited wants. High consumption lifestyles have to be dampened, specially during the initial stages to get development programmes for the rural poor started. Rural development, based on self-reliance, requires shared austerity, if programmes are to bite.

Leadership by example is Asian agriculture's greatest need: From master farmers at the village level to palaces of men like King Bhumipol of Thailand who tills his plots and gave his land to the tillers. This is education in the best and widest sense of the word. All these underscore the call to restructure rural educational programmes, so the academic is rooted in real problems.

There is scope too for learning from each other.

Many national institutions in member countries are now centres of excellence. Technical cooperation here can now take a more sophisticated form. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations or ASEAN is beginning to pool its skills. It was in this Region that what is now called TCDC (Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries) initially came into being. This explicitly emphasized the principle: That each developing country should be encouraged to be a donor as well as a recipient.

We have gone a long way from the early days of the Colombo Plan. Categorization of donors and recipients is now largely obsolete. What this Conference can do is to emphasize mutual cooperation and help.

There are various ways we can intensify mutual help. These include: cooperation in the exploitation of common resources such as river basin development, control of animal and plant diseases which do not respect national frontiers; cooperative breeding and agronomic research; exchange of germ plasm and semen for cattle breeding programmes and coordinated research on and development of aquaculture; to mention a few.

It is by promotion of collective self-reliance that technical cooperation gains a new dimension. In FAO we stand ready to support such endeavours.

This requires of us commitment, hard work and, above all, a vision of what life can mean, if we share with others.

“If you pour yourself out for the hungry,” the Sacred Writers tell us, “you shall raise up the foundations of many generations... And you shall be called the repairer of the breach and the restorer of paths to dwell in.”

In a world whose foundations have been breached by hunger, that is a promise we should aspire to achieve: To be a foundation and a restorer.



SUMMARY OF STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ECONOMIC AND  
SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND PACIFIC

The Executive Secretary stated that ESCAP sought to promote collective self-reliance and measures to secure growth with social justice. The Colombo and the New Delhi Declarations voiced the Commission's concern at lagging agricultural production and imbalances in the distribution of food and raw materials; they emphasized the need to intensify food production through measures for improving the well-being of small farmers and agricultural labourers. He cited a list of projects that ESCAP had carried out.

The ESCAP Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Water Conference, which met in August 1976, recommended that water programmes should be integrated with those aimed at other national goals, including food production and integrated rural development. Water plans and programmes of countries should contribute effectively to the goals proposed by the UN World Conferences, including the UN World Food Conference.

ESCAP is developing a multidisciplinary approach by attempting to harness inputs from interrelated disciplines/sectors in all fields. All these activities will be developed and implemented with the support and cooperation of FAO.

The Commission viewed with concern the problem of mass rural poverty in Asia and the Pacific where the majority live in squalor and misery. The conventional development processes have by-passed the rural majority and further contributed to the widening of inequality. Concomitant disenchantment with the narrowly economic and technocratic growth models has led them to question the validity of the 'trickle-down' theory. The Commission also emphasized now that the qualitative aspects of growth and development were much more important than merely quantitative indicators. These objectives are reflected in Commission resolution 161 (XXXII) Integrated Programme on Rural Development.

Progress has already been made towards formulation of this programme, largely through extrabudgetary assistance of donor countries. ESCAP convened inter-agency consultations which led to the establishment of an inter-agency task force to develop such a programme. Technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) offers a potential for close cooperation in the priority field of food and agriculture.





SUMMARY OF STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

The World Food Programme's resource situation has changed dramatically in the wake of the World Food Conference of 1974. The Programme set a target of \$440 million for the current 1975-76 biennium; but its resources now exceed \$640 million. There are indications they will reach at least \$650 million by the end of this year - an increase of nearly 50 percent over the target figure.

Results of the Pledging Conference for the biennium 1977-78, held in February this year, have reached \$554 million, or 74 percent of the \$750 million target. The USA and Canada continue to be the two largest donors. Asia and the Far East region contributed \$11.8 million for the current biennium. New commitments increased more than threefold in 1975 to a total of \$416 million. Some 75 percent of the new commitments for social and economic development went to the Least Developed (LDC) and Most Seriously Affected Countries (MSA). Some 70 percent of projects, in which the food will be used, are for agricultural development, 24 percent for improved nutritional status of vulnerable groups, and 6 percent for other purposes.

Improvements in the Programme's cash resources are due largely to Saudi Arabia and Canada. About \$15 million worth of commodities will be purchased on the open market primarily from developing countries.

The World Food Programme's newly reconstituted governing body, the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes (CFA) would review food aid and the International Emergency Food Reserve. In spite of a relatively modest target of 500,000 tons for the Reserve, to date the response has not been encouraging. Only two countries, Norway and Sweden, have so far actually made deliveries.

Most of the World Food Programme's new resources are used in food-for-work projects related to agriculture. Since mid-1974 to end March 1976, the Director-General of FAO approved 13 requests for emergency assistance to eight countries in Asia and the Far East Region at a total cost of \$31.5 million. In Indo-China, the Programme offered emergency and development assistance. An overall cost of \$46.7 million has so far been allocated to the Region.

A number of voluntary agencies and private individuals gave approximately \$391,000 in 1976 for the purchase of various non-food inputs toward the social and economic development of countries in the Region.



APPENDIX I

SUMMARY OF STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

The current status of the International Fund for Agricultural Development was explained and the Regional Conference was asked to give its strongest support to efforts to raise the balance of \$ 66 million needed to meet the \$ 1 billion target. If the final pledges do not materialize by 30 September 1976, the Preparatory Commission, established by the World Food Conference, will convene a meeting before 31 January 1977. It may reduce the target and may also establish other conditions for the opening of the Agreement for signature.

The Council, at its second session, took steps to give a greater sense of urgency to efforts to increase food production in the developing countries. Recommendations of the Preparatory Commission on this subject were endorsed by the Council, and many of the developing countries of Asia figure prominently among the "food priority countries".

The Council recommended that international agencies cooperate with the "food priority countries" in programmes to accelerate their food production to reach, at least 4 percent growth, within a feasible time period. The Council Secretariat is discussing with the agencies and governments of "food priority countries" to determine the most effective ways to initiate action on these recommendations. It will be seeking the cooperation of the Development Assistance Committee, the multilateral donors and other donor groups, interested governments and international agencies in conducting intensive evaluations of constraints to food production.

The volume of cereals aid is now over nine million tons a year. But it is still short of the minimum target set by the World Food Conference of 10 million tons. Canada and Sweden indicated their commitments to provide food aid for three years from 1975/76. The European Economic Community will implement medium-term indicative planning of its food aid.

Progress toward the establishment of a dependable system of world food security has been limited. There is need to ensure speedy implementation of the International Undertaking on Food Security. The Council endorsed both FAO Committee on World Food Security's recommendation that all countries endeavour, by the end of 1977, to adopt national stock policies and targets and the Reserve for Emergencies proposed by the Seventh Special Session of the General Assembly. The Federal Republic of Germany informed the Council that it would hold ready 30,000 tons toward this reserve, to which Norway and Sweden were already contributing.



REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Introduction

The meeting of the Technical Committee of the 13th FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East opened on 5 August in Manila, Philippines. It ended on 7 August.

Representatives of the following member governments were present: Australia, Bangladesh, Burma, People's Republic of China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, People's Democratic Republic of Lao, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and United States of America.

Observers from the United Kingdom, Holy See, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, UN Asian Development Institute, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Children's Fund, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, International Labour Organisation, Asian Development Bank, Asian Productivity Organization, International Cooperative Alliance, International Planned Parenthood Federation and World Veterans Federations, also attended.

The Regional Representative of FAO for Asia and the Far East welcomed the participants. He expressed the Conference's appreciation to the Philippine Government for hosting the meeting. He recalled that the 12th FAO Regional Conference Resolution 3/7, inter alia, recommended to continue the use of the Technical Committee as a part of the Regional Conference. This Resolution also urged that Regional Technical Bodies be linked functionally to the Regional Conference. He said that this structure enabled the Plenary to approach the agenda items with objectivity, since technical preparatory work had been carefully done. This would help in policy decision.

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

The Technical Committee unanimously elected the following officers: I.J. Naidu, (India) as Chairman and Winston Thompson, (Fiji) as Vice-Chairman.

The following constituted the Drafting Committee: Mr. Jesus Alix, (Philippines) Chairman Dr. G.S. Kalkat (India); Mr. Ismet Hakim (Indonesia); Mr. Matusiro Horiguchi (Japan); Mr. Somphong Mongkhonvilay (Lao); and Mr. Malcolm Cameron (New Zealand); members.





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