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Report of the

**FIFTEENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

New Delhi, 5-13 March 1980



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

FAO Member Nations in the Asia Region (at 13 March 1980)

Bangladesh	Indonesia	Pakistan
Burma	Japan	Papua New Guinea
China	Korea, Republic of	Philippines
Democratic Kampuchea	Lao	Samoa
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Malaysia	Sri Lanka
Fiji	Maldives	Thailand
India	Mongolia	United Kingdom
	Nepal	Viet Nam

FAO Member Nations in the Southwest Pacific Region (at 13 March 1980)

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

Date and place of FAO Regional Conferences for Asia and the Pacific

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
Fourteenth	—	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 25 July-3 August 1978
Fifteenth	—	New Delhi, India, 5-13 March 1980

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Rome, 1980

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	
A. Resolutions	v - ix
B. Recommendations	x - xvii
	<u>Paragraphs</u>
INTRODUCTION	1 - 27
Agenda and Drafting Committee	28 - 30
STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL	31 - 92
COUNTRY STATEMENTS	93 - 147
STATEMENTS BY THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS	148 - 160
REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE	161 - 162
Implementation of the FAO Programme in the Region	163 - 182
Regional Implications of International Action to Strengthen Food Security	183 - 200
Review and Follow-up of the Plan of Action for the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD)	201 - 228
Agriculture: Toward 2000: Regional Implications with Special Reference to the Third Development Decade	229 - 246
Increasing Rice Production in Asia and the Pacific Including Under Rainfed Conditions	247 - 267
Increasing Preparedness of Agriculture in Drought-and Flood-prone Areas	268 - 281
Impact of the New Ocean Regime on Fisheries in Asia and the Pacific	282 - 312
FAO Programme in the Region	313 - 330
SUMMARY STATEMENTS	331 - 365
CONCLUDING ITEMS	
Adoption of Resolutions	366 - 367
Date and Place of the Sixteenth FAO Regional Conference	368
Other Matters - Regional Representation on CGIAR	369 - 370
Closing of the Conference	371 - 375

APPENDICES

- A - List of Participants
- B - List of Documents
- C - Agenda
- D - Statement by Dr. D.L. Umali, Assistant Director-General,
Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific
- E - Report of the Technical Committee

RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Resolutions

Resolution 80/1

WORLD FOOD SECURITY

The Regional Conference:

Recalling Resolution 3/79 on World Food Security of the Twentieth FAO Conference;

Emphasizing the urgent need for all governments in the Region to effectively implement within the Region the FAO Plan of Action on World Food Security in all its aspects;

Taking note of the continued vulnerability to crop failure and the widening food gap of many countries in the Region, the current precarious world food situation, the unsatisfactory geographical distribution of food reserves, and the absence of an internationally coordinated reserve stock system;

Recognizing that food security projects in many developing countries in the Region are hampered by a persistent lack of resources;

Reaffirming that periodic short-falls in domestic food production and increases in import prices raise the food import bills of the developing countries above their normal trend levels, impose a heavy burden on the scarce foreign exchange resources of most developing countries, interrupt and slow down the progress of development projects;

Concerned at the rise in world market prices and freight rates for cereals which has worsened the already adverse balance of payments position of the poorer importing countries, jeopardizing the pace of their economic development;

1. Urges all governments in the Asia and Pacific Region to request the relevant governing bodies of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to give most urgent consideration to the proposal contained in the Plan of Action regarding additional balance of payments support for meeting the rise in food import bills of low-income food deficit countries, particularly in the event of domestic food shortages and rising import prices;
2. Calls on governments in the Region to give high priority to food security programmes within the context of their development policies and to increase their efforts, individually or collectively, to build food security stocks;
3. Urges governments in the Region and the international organizations concerned to provide the necessary technical, financial and food assistance to food security projects in the Region, and through the participation of existing and new donors, to strengthen the resources of the FAO Food Security Assistance Scheme to enable it to respond to increasing requirements;

4. Urges all governments to foster mutual partnership which can help to achieve a beneficial blend of the endowments of those nations which are blessed with increased incomes and large reserves of foreign exchange in order to roll back the tide of hunger and malnutrition, to raise levels of investment, production and food security for the impoverished millions;

5. Calls on governments to give greater priority to the prevention of pre- and post-harvest food losses through the allocation of funds, in research, training and development programmes, including joint action research projects and further recommends that the FAO programme on prevention of food losses be strengthened.

Resolution 80/2

INTER-COUNTRY PROGRAMMES FOR FISHERIES

The Regional Conference:

Recognizing that fundamental changes in the regime of the oceans and in the practice of States in regard to the extension of jurisdiction over fisheries offer unprecedented opportunities to, and entail concomitant responsibilities for, coastal States to ensure the rational management and optimum use of the living resources off their shores;

Aware that these developments are a manifestation of and contribute to the efforts to establish the New International Economic Order by securing a more equitable share in, and control over, the wealth of the sea, by encouraging self-reliance and by promoting greater opportunities for trade in fish and fishery products.

Realizing that in order to take advantage of these opportunities and to discharge the responsibilities for managing fishery resources and utilizing them for overall social and economic benefit, many developing coastal States will urgently need considerable assistance;

Convinced that FAO has for many years made a significant contribution to the development of fisheries and is now in a unique position to play a key role in assisting coastal States in their efforts to meet these challenges;

Recognizing also that the optimum utilization of the fishing resources in the Region requires the development of coastal and deep sea fisheries, in particular small-scale fisheries conducted mainly by artisanal fishermen, off-shore fisheries, inland fisheries and aquaculture; and

Realizing the urgency and importance of implementing the Director-General's new Programme of Assistance for the Development and Management of Fisheries in Exclusive Economic Zones through a network of sub-regional technical support units funded by UNDP to respond to the specific needs of groups of countries in natural management areas based upon such factors as shared stocks or fisheries, common problems or opportunities and other natural affinities among the countries concerned;

1. Endorses the Director-General's proposals for a Programme of Assistance in the Development and Management of Fisheries in the Region, including inter-country programmes which it considers an excellent framework for the planning and execution of the assistance required by developing countries in the Region and requests that these activities be continued and intensified;
2. Realizing the urgent needs of developing countries will require substantial additional resources on a sustained basis over a number of years;
3. Urges international, regional, bilateral and other donor agencies and financial institutions to give maximum support to the Programme of Assistance being provided by FAO and to broaden their assistance in the development and management of fisheries in developing countries;
4. Requests the Director-General to continue and intensify efforts to mobilize the financial, technical and other forms of assistance required to implement the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) Programme and programmes for aquaculture, inland fisheries and small artisanal fishermen in the Asia and Pacific Region;
5. Calls upon the Director-General to examine and suggest on request model guidelines for control over EEZ and joint venture strategies as appropriate;
6. Invites especially the Director-General to seek additional resources from the UNDP in the third programming cycle (1982-86) to support these important regional fisheries development programmes.

Resolution 80/3

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

The Regional Conference:

Noting that the Asia and Pacific Region is inhabited by more than 50% of the world's total population of whom 80% live in rural areas often on small subsistence farm holdings and under conditions of abject poverty;

Recognizing the high and growing incidence of malnutrition and rural unemployment and underemployment in most developing countries in the Region;

Cognizant of the need to focus available national and external resources towards actions designed to improve the social and economic conditions of the rural poor as recommended in the Programme of Action of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD);

Realizing the international assistance resources allocated to this Region for food, agriculture and rural development are not commensurate with the dimensions of the Region's problems;

Noting further the limited agricultural share of technical assistance resources allocated for regional activities within the Asia and Pacific Region during the current UNDP programming cycle (1977-81);

Recalling in this connection Resolution 6/79 entitled, "Development Assistance for Food Production and Rural Development", adopted by the Twentieth Session of the FAO Conference which draws attention to the declining share of agriculture in UNDP-financed programmes;

Convinced of the importance of science and technology for the development of agriculture and related sectors in conformity with the Programme of Action prepared by the UN Conference on Science and Technology for Development in August 1979 and endorsed by Resolution 34/218 of the UN General Assembly;

Aware of the prospects for the establishment of an Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development in March 1980 under the administration of the United Nations Development Programme and the policy guidance of the UN International Committee of Science and Technology for Development;

Recognizing the urgency for submitting suitable project ideas, both national and regional, to the Interim Fund for Science and Technology so as to make full use of the resources likely to become available from this source;

Noting further that the resources expected to be made available for regional activities in the Asia and Pacific Region during the next UNDP programming cycle (1982-86) are likely to be significantly above the current level;

Requests the Director-General;

- (a) to communicate to international and bilateral agencies the Conference's urgent plea for an increase in the flow of development assistance, both technical and financial, to the agricultural and rural sector giving greater emphasis to the countries of Asia and the Pacific;
- (b) to draw up a programme of regional projects in line with the priority areas defined in Conference document APARC/80/2 to initiate the detailed preparation of these project proposals and to submit them to appropriate funding sources;
- (c) to present to UNDP, ideas and proposals for regional projects endorsed by member governments, for financing by the Interim Fund for Science and Technology, taking into consideration the overall needs of the Region as a whole;

Invites member governments;

- (a) to review urgently their requirements in the field of science and technology as related to agriculture taking into consideration, inter alia, the preliminary list of project proposals already available and to communicate their views and proposals to the Director-General;

- (j) FAO should provide information on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) to member countries and seed-money to facilitate exchange of experience through study tours, training programmes and institutional linkages.
- (k) Additional resources should be made available to accelerate the development of agriculture in the Region.
- (l) The share of agriculture in the Regional Indicative Planning Figure (IPF) should be increased to not less than one third.
- (m) Project proposals for the Interim Fund for Science and Technology must be prepared and submitted without delay and the food and agricultural sector should receive a fair and equitable share from the Fund.
- (n) Special emphasis should be given to TCDC approach in the implementation of regional programmes and the national institutions should be the main instruments of implementation.
- (o) Progress on the Regional programmes and projects should be reported at the next Session of the Conference.

Regional Implications of International Action to Strengthen Food Security

- (a) FAO's Plan of Action should be regarded as a continuing framework of policies, refining them, wherever necessary, in the light of experience gained in its implementation.
- (b) Greater priority should be given both at individual and institutional levels, to the prevention of pre- and post-harvest losses in the allocation of funds, in research, training and development programmes, including joint action research projects, exchange of research results and development experiences. Conventional methods of storage need special attention because of rising cost of materials.
- (c) Women's training should be given high priority.
- (d) Countries vulnerable to food shortages, should give high priority to national food security programmes within the context of their development policies.
- (e) Countries should explore possibilities for developing joint ventures for the production of fertilizers and pesticides and other agricultural inputs.
- (f) Governments should consider, in a spirit of collective self-reliance, the need and feasibility of concluding long-term trade agreements in foodstuffs, with or without provisions for loan financing, as a means of assuring supplies to importers, and guaranteed market outlets to exporters.

- (g) Governments should establish and strengthen national food information and early warning systems, and exchange mutual experience and expertise within the context of TCDC.
- (h) The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Board should be requested to give full and sympathetic consideration to the proposal contained in the FAO Plan of Action concerning additional balance of payments support, bearing in mind the great need of the developing countries in the Region for special facilities to finance their food imports in case of domestic shortages or rises in food import prices.
- (i) The FAO Food Security Assistance Scheme (FSAS) should be expanded and contributions to the scheme replenished on a regular basis.
- (j) The food surplus countries and other countries in a position to contribute should participate in the Food Aid Convention and the International Emergency Food Reserve in a manner that the targetted quantities which were already inadequate in comparison with needs were fully subscribed.
- (k) Greater emphasis should be given to the prevention of food losses in national programmes. The FAO programme on prevention of food losses, TCDC projects and the international assistance to the countries in the Region should be strengthened.
- (l) There should be a critical, country by country, review of the measures necessary to improve logistics and infrastructure, such as transportation, port facilities, etc. as these very often act as major constraints in facilitating access to available food supplies.

Review and Follow-up of the Plan of Action for the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD)

- (a) National Coordinating Committees, at the highest political level where such committees have not been set up, to guide and coordinate activities of national institutions that will implement projects and programmes in agrarian reform and rural development with a strong back-up Secretariat, with ancillary national institutions for the implementation of the Programme of Action should be established.
- (b) Periodic and regular inter-country consultations should be convened to review progress, exchange experiences and identify constraints.
- (c) To supplement current methods of economic analysis in project analysis, social cost-benefit analysis should also be included.
- (d) Small farmers group organization, on lines similar to the FAO project, with its techniques of multi-level field workshops should be adopted.

- (e) Special attention should be given to developing programmes in organizing rural women and bringing them more meaningfully into the main stream of rural development.
- (f) Innovative and constructive ways should be found to involve national non-governmental organizations in WCARRD Follow-up Programmes and efforts should also be made to associate non-governmental organizations in the work of National Coordinating Committees.
- (g) FAO should send policy review missions to work closely with National Coordinating Committees and to assist countries in formulating strategies and developing work programmes in appropriate areas.
- (h) The Inter-Agency Committee on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific should establish formal links with the ACC Task Force on Rural Development of which FAO is the lead agency.
- (i) FAO should serve as the lead agency in the Regional Inter-Agency Committee, taking due cognizance of existing mechanisms for coordination in the Region.
- (j) Special regional funds for WCARRD Follow-up, to be utilized through the FAO Regional Office, should be established on a voluntary basis.
- (k) Financial resources placed at the disposal of FAO for WCARRD Follow-up in the Region should be increased.

Agriculture: Toward 2000: Regional Implications with Special Reference to the Third Development Decade

- (a) Member countries should give high priority to the formulation and implementation of appropriate population policies.
- (b) Milk production in the Region, through cattle and buffalo development, particularly in South Asia, should be increased.
- (c) The revised version of the study should contain a more detailed analysis of the role of agriculture in total energy economy of the Region.
- (d) Much greater attention should be paid in the future to more economic and efficient use of fertilizers, pesticides and irrigation water.
- (e) Training in project analysis should be strengthened through FAO assistance and through TCDC arrangements for increasing the capacity of countries for absorbing external assistance in agriculture.
- (f) FAO should assist countries in the formulation of medium-term plans for agricultural development.

- (g) Developed countries should support programmes of cooperation among developing countries, particularly in various fields of production, trade, food security, research and training.
- (h) The study should be periodically revised and updated to serve as a regional framework for national plans and policies and there should be a deeper analysis of institutional, social and organizational aspects as well as of price policy than what has been attempted in the study.

Increasing Rice Production in Asia and the Pacific including under Rainfed Conditions

- (a) FAO should assist in obtaining financial and technical support to undertake investments for the rehabilitation and expansion of irrigation for intensification and stabilization of rice production.
- (b) Efforts in rainfed areas to increase productivity and to some extent yield stability should be intensified.
- (c) Applied research for developing superior varieties, resistant and adapted to prevalent location-specific stresses and improved agronomic practices for rainfed, upland, tidal and deep water rice production, should be strengthened.
- (d) Attention should be given to the organization of appropriate mechanisms for the transfer of modern technology to narrow the gap between potential and farmer's actual yields, in both rainfed and irrigated areas.
- (e) Research and development efforts must be intensified to improve problem soils, specifically acid-sulphate, alkali and saline.
- (f) Research on and application of organic and biological sources of nitrogen specifically introduction of legumes, azolla, and algae into rice production practices must be intensified.
- (g) FAO should assist in the development of sound and effective national seed programmes.
- (h) Effective integrated pest control practices, including biological control and pest-resistant rice varieties must be developed.
- (i) FAO should help member countries through increased technical guidance and assistance in the prevention of post-harvest losses of rice at the central and farm levels.
- (j) FAO should help in strengthening national extension services, particularly in the effective transfer of appropriate production technology which is location-specific and applicable under the socio-economic and agro-ecological conditions.

- (k) There is need to develop diversified cropping patterns in marginal rainfed rice areas.
- (l) FAO should strengthen its regional activities to better assist member countries in their rice production programmes and the International Rice Commission should play a more active role in increasing rice production in South and South-East Asia.
- (m) FAO should establish a regional project to promote the development of new rice varieties suitable for agro-ecological stresses in rainfed areas and should include research on related appropriate farming systems to increase the productivity of small rice-based farming.
- (n) FAO should assist in establishing a regional and national pilot development project aimed at the improvement of transfer of adapted technology in the field of rainfed rice and should involve national research institutions and extension services in order to provide simple packages adapted to local specific conditions.
- (o) FAO should assist the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries in their cooperation programme on the development of rainfed agriculture.

Increasing Preparedness of Agriculture in Drought-and Flood-prone Areas

- (a) Countries that are disaster-prone may consider establishing national disaster prevention councils, where such councils have not been set up, with regional and local counterparts.
- (b) FAO should assist in establishing a Regional Working Group on Flood and Drought Control to follow up, discuss and help in operationalizing the action plan in this regard.
- (c) Groundwater resources in rainfed areas must be exploited with the use of solar energy wherever possible.
- (d) Soil conservation, afforestation and watershed management programmes as well as measures for increasing preparedness, both for flood and drought should be included in integrated rural development.
- (e) FAO should develop an operational manual on appropriate crop and animal insurance systems based on the available experience.
- (f) The High Altitude Agriculture Research Centre, when set up, should expand its work to include studies also on the Himalayan mountain-range eco-systems.
- (g) A TCDC approach, with FAO help, should be followed by countries in sharing experiences and in increasing preparedness for flood and drought and other calamities.

- (h) Immediate action should be taken for the development of an early warning system to forecast aberrant monsoon behaviour to minimize adverse impact on agricultural production.
- (i) FAO should organize two travelling seminars: one for flood-prone areas and the other for drought-prone areas for discussing the collective experiences of the Region and to prepare manuals outlining measures to be taken before, during and after calamities.
- (j) An integrated approach to watershed and range management must be taken for effectively improving preparedness for flood and drought.

Impact of the New Ocean Regime on Fisheries in Asia and the Pacific

- (a) Special emphasis must be given to the need for low-cost effective surveillance and enforcement procedures, within the Exclusive Economic Zones.
- (b) The need for locating, identifying and quantifying of the stocks, lying within the national jurisdiction as well as stocks shared by two or more states, was stressed.
- (c) Small-scale fisheries in the South Pacific sub-region along the lines of the WCARRD Declaration of Principles should be encouraged.
- (d) Application of the WCARRD principles to fisheries to protect and encourage improvement of the livelihood of small fishermen in the South and South-East Asia sub-regions was emphasized.
- (e) The importance of intensive resource surveys in both in-shore and off-shore areas of the South Asia sub-region to better understand the potentials for production as a basis for development planning was emphasized.
- (f) Export and marketing development should be an integral part of the EEZ Programme in the South Asia sub-region.
- (g) FAO, on request, should assist in formulating guidelines for control over EEZ and joint venture strategies.
- (h) Efforts to develop aquaculture as well as management and sustenance on inland fisheries should be given due emphasis throughout the Region, particularly in landlocked countries.

Concluding Items

- (a) The Representatives on the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) from the Region should report on the progress of their representation to the Conference at its next Session.
- (b) At its next Session, the Conference should consider the research priorities and programmes to serve as guidelines for its representatives on CGIAR.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Fifteenth FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific was held at Vigyan Bahvan, New Delhi, India, from 5 to 13 March 1980.
2. Member countries that participated in the Conference were: Australia, Bangladesh, Burma, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United States of America and Vietnam. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Programme, World Food Council, World Food Programme, International Labour Organisation, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank and International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT, also attended.
3. There were observers from Netherlands, United Kingdom, the Holy See, Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organization, Asian Development Bank, Asian Productivity Organization, Association of South-East Asian Nations, Caritas Internationalis, Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific, International Confederation of Catholic Organizations for Charitable and Social Action, International Cooperative Alliance, International Planned Parenthood Federation, and World Veterans Federation.
4. The Technical Committee held its meetings from 5 to 8 March 1980. The Conference held its Plenary Sessions from 10 to 13 March 1980.
5. The Technical Committee discussed the substantive items of the Agenda and prepared a report of its deliberations for consideration by the Plenary.
6. Participants are listed in Appendix A of this Report. The documents issued, during the course of the Conference, are listed in Appendix B.
7. The Conference's Inaugural Session was held on 10 March. The Director-General of FAO, Dr. Edouard Saouma, welcomed the Prime Minister of India, Ministers, Members of Parliament, delegates, members of the diplomatic corps in New Delhi and observers. He thanked the Government of India for hosting the Conference. He then requested the Minister of Agriculture of India to welcome on behalf of the Conference, the Prime Minister.
8. His Excellency, Shri Rao Birendra Singh, Union Minister of Agriculture, welcomed the FAO Director-General, delegates and observers. As one of FAO's oldest members, India recalled the assistance and spirit of partnership extended by the Organization to agricultural development. He expressed India's appreciation for the striking of a Ceres Medal in honour of Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi and the Agricola Medal for two distinguished Indian citizens: B.R. Sen, former Director-General of FAO and the late Shri Jaya Prakash Narayan.

9. He cited effective assistance under the World Food Programme and Technical Assistance Programmes. He expressed the hope that the Conference would pay particular stress to rainfed agriculture, preparedness against calamities and other critical issues. The Minister then requested the Prime Minister to inaugurate the Conference.

10. The Prime Minister stressed that food is the foundation of life and food production must remain the first concern. FAO had appropriately reflected this concern in its continuing efforts to improve the international food security system. Science had given power to feed all mankind but 800 million men, women and children still lived in poverty and went hungry. Recommendations of the World Food Conference, held in 1974, had made little headway.

11. It was unfortunate that the desire to profit out of poverty seemed to be strong amongst affluent nations and also amongst affluent sections of the population in less developed countries. This should spur countries to new international arrangements to eliminate want.

12. The Prime Minister noted that in the decade ahead, a major issue will be the need to stimulate economic growth without damage to ecological harmony. A parallel issue is to adapt a long-range policy of energy management. This would shift reliance to renewable sources of energy.

13. More than half of the world's population lives in Asia and the Pacific. This Region has rich natural resources in terms of land, water, minerals, and sunshine. But resources had often been squandered, the Prime Minister said. Most of the tropical rain forests, for instance, were being devastated at an alarming rate. Less obvious but equally disturbing was the dissipation of valuable genetic materials in the form of plants and animals.

14. Employment of the growing labour force remained a major problem. The Prime Minister cautioned that there was a need for employment-creating rather than labour-saving technology. She recalled Mahatma Gandhi's warning that mechanization should not "help a few to ride on the back of the million".

15. Achievements in India's agriculture were cited. India had raised food production two-and-a-half times since 1960. This had silenced the taunt that agricultural countries cannot produce the food they need. However, hunger remains a major problem. Malnutrition is still prevalent, due to lack of adequate purchasing power.

16. The Prime Minister noted the sharp increases in the prices of fertilizers and other agricultural inputs. She suggested that FAO initiate a move to set up an international agreement to limit prices of strategic agricultural inputs, with a view to place these inputs within the reach of the small farmer. The farmer needs above all reasonable returns for his labour and investment. The Region requires producer-oriented systems of procurement and consumer-oriented systems of marketing. India is experimenting with innovative schemes to improve the plight of small farmers. Among these are crop and cattle insurance schemes.

17. The Prime Minister observed that coastal communities of small fishermen deserve special attention. Small fishermen could be organized into cooperatives, on the lines of dairy cooperatives to improve their marketing systems and thereby raise their incomes.

18. Coastal communities are subject to natural and man-made disasters. The Prime Minister stressed the importance of creating coastal shelterbelts of trees to prevent erosion and cyclonic damages along with steps to promote coastal aquaculture.

19. Improvement in nutrition basically hinges on provision of employment. Increasing purchasing power of people will enable them to improve nutritional standards.

20. Turning to the question of rice production, the Prime Minister quoted an old saying that "poverty and paddy go together". The Conference could identify programmes for subsidiary occupations, so that the by-products of paddy can be fully utilized. In initiating official programmes, designed for the benefit of farmers, the aim should be to convert them into "farmers' movements".

21. To cope with the energy problem, the Prime Minister noted that some experts have proposed limiting growth as an appropriate response. Ironically, those who practice conspicuous consumption are teaching the virtues of thrift to the poor. But basic human needs have not been met in less-developed countries. Hence, policies that curb growth do not constitute an acceptable option.

22. The Prime Minister instead proposed shifting reliance to renewable sources of energy. She noted that most crops are primarily a harvest of solar power; thus, agricultural development, fortunately, can be based on renewable sources of energy. Limits to growth in agriculture could be lifted, provided techniques of conservation and recycling of organic material are adopted.

23. In the light of these critical problems, the Prime Minister called upon countries present to launch a movement to conserve energy and to recycle wastes. To roll back the tide of hunger, she suggested a pooling of experience and endowments to create an enduring machinery of powerful partnership.

24. His Excellency, Shri C.M. Stephen, Union Minister of Communication, announced that the Government of India was releasing on the occasion of the Conference, a special postal cover. This stressed the theme of agricultural technology from "LAB to LAND" (Laboratory to Land). The stamp was released and albums were presented to the Prime Minister and the Director-General.

25. The Conference approved a vote of thanks to the Prime Minister for her address.

26. The delegates elected, by acclamation, the Minister of Agriculture of India as Chairman of the Conference.

27. The Conference also elected all the Ministers present as Vice-Chairmen.
28. The Conference adopted the Provisional Agenda and Timetable prepared by the Secretariat. The Agenda appears as Appendix C.
29. The Director-General, addressed the delegates. The text of his address appears in paragraphs 31 to 92 below.
30. The Conference noted, with appreciation, the excellent work done by the Technical Committee's Drafting Committee. The Conference requested that its report be prepared by the same Committee. Thus, the following delegates were accordingly appointed to serve as the Drafting Committee: B.S. Raghavan (India), Chairman; M. Morimoto (Japan); Choung Phanrajsavong (Lao); Manzur Ahmad (Pakistan), and Narong Chuprakob (Thailand). Interested delegates were invited to assist the Committee in its work.

STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

31. This Regional Conference is not only the first of the new series but the first to be held under its new title: Asia and the Pacific - Let us hail our new Region; and the first Regional Conference of the new decade into which we now step.
32. I propose in this Address briefly to review what we have or should have learnt from the Seventies, and how we can view our tasks for the 1980s.
33. I need not recite all the well-known but on the whole distressing facts about the food and agricultural situation of this Region.
34. Suffice to say that the population of only two countries of the Region constitutes well over a quarter of the total population of the whole developing world; that two thirds of the world's poorest people are to be found in this Region; that net imports of cereals of developing countries in the Region have increased from 14 million tons in 1970 to 24 million tons in 1978.
35. There have been gains throughout the Seventies. Countries like the Philippines achieved self-sufficiency in rice. India built a 20-million ton buffer stock of foodgrain. Burma is systematically curbing food losses. Thailand broke new ground with its Land Reform Law of 1975. The Republic of Korea launched a dynamic rural development programme through its Saemaul movement. Sri Lanka approved a series of progressive land reform laws. And the Pacific countries vigorously designed rural development programmes that drew on the strength of the traditional communities structures.
36. Much of those gains have however been negated by the effects of a growing debt burden, deterioration in terms of aid, protectionism, and falling off of aid, as well as - let us face it - international and civil conflict and its resultant disruption and economic and human waste.
37. This is merely a broad-brush picture. But it indicates why I was compelled to warn the Twentieth FAO Conference last November that, on the basis of most criteria, the situation was deteriorating.

38. On the threshold of the 1980s, our world then is one where the words of Mahatma Gandhi still apply with striking relevance: "To a people famished and idle, the only acceptable form in which God can dare appear is work and the promise of food as wages".
39. I realize the diversity of conditions in Asia and the Pacific. No overall answer is possible. Nor are uniform models workable.
40. But there are, it seems to me, some lessons of experience that emerge with clarity and force. Permit me to single out a few which appear of particular relevance to the concerns of this Conference.
41. First: In the 1970s the critical element that spelled either success or failure for development programmes was certainly not the lack of master plans. There is a surfeit of plans, but a paucity of viable investment projects. What was really significant however was the lack of effective implementation at village level.
42. It was at this point where well-intentioned delivery systems petered out. It was here that the momentum flagged and the benefits of agricultural research and credit came to a dead end.
43. In FAO's own experience in the Region, creation of functional, receiving and utilizing systems, at village level, are needed to match, and reach up to take the fullest advantage of the delivery systems of governments. These mechanisms, taking the form of small homogeneous groups - especially of the most disadvantaged of the rural poor - seem to offer a hope of breaking the bottlenecks.
44. Second: The 1970s showed us that at the core of rural poverty in Asia were the landless agricultural labourers, the sharecroppers, artisanal fishermen and small farmers - most of them locked into harsh penury by unjust agrarian and economic structures.
45. Paradoxically, they can produce as intensively as the better-off farmers, given a chance to unlock this production potential.
46. We therefore need programmes specially designed to reach the poorest sectors. These programmes should help generate additional income, and improve basic health and nutritional levels.
47. Their production capacities can be further buttressed by integration with livestock, fisheries and agro-forestry practices.
48. Third: The production breakthrough we need will come about, only if decision-making powers are fairly decentralized, beyond local bureaucracies, to the people themselves and organizations of their own choosing.
49. Farmers require measures that will enable them to organize unimpeded, raise their own revenues and hold on to benefits from their work. This implies radical reform of tax powers and revision of expenditure patterns to favour

the rural areas. Such measures help people participate meaningfully in planning and implementing programmes that respond to their own perceptions of their own needs.

50. Fourth: Agricultural research, in the 1970s, tended to concentrate on irrigated areas. For the most part, the "Green Revolution's" benefits were concentrated upon this better-off sector. More irrigation is essential.

51. But the core of rural poverty is to be found in the farms on rainfed areas where the majority of the rural poor live.

52. Our knowledge and technology on rainfed tropical agriculture however is sketchy at best. Research and development back-up for rainfed agriculture has not been commensurate with the challenge. Research resources applied to evolving and adapting low cost delivery systems at the farm level, have been inadequate. Small farmers therefore found little relevance of research results to their lives. A shifting of research priorities is urgently called for.

53. Fifth: The 1970s demonstrated the need for much less waste of resources.

54. This call for more precise definition of programme objectives, more management and social audits, and mechanisms for participatory evaluation, to reinforce the sense of accountability in development agencies.

55. Sixth: The 1970s demonstrated that women and youth have essential and irreplaceable roles to play in the development process.

56. Seventh: The severe food crisis that followed aberrant weather conditions in the 1970s underscored the need for contingency planning and flexible operations. We have to learn how to maximize production when good weather prevails and cut losses when weather deteriorates.

57. Eighth: The 1970s revealed a clearer perception, on the part of the international community, that token reforms merely exacerbate deep-seated grievances; that in a period of rapid economic growth we can still further impoverish millions. We can see that uprooting of unjust social and economic structures, through effective agrarian reform is essential for sustained and equitable growth tomorrow.

58. This was at the centre of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

59. As Prime Minister Indira Gandhi has said: "Poverty corrodes the spirit of the poor. The wealth of the prosperous grows in isolation and does not provide support to those who need it ... Poverty cannot be the destiny of the majority of mankind (and) we have only one adversary - economic and social injustices."

60. What then are we to do in the decade ahead?

61. Absolute poverty cannot be wished away. It yields grudgingly only before the most determined of efforts that uproot social injustice and meet basic human needs.

62. Also, there will be resistance. Let us therefore have no illusions. There will have to be a protracted struggle.

63. There must, first of all, be a sharp surge in agricultural output. And it must be substantial enough to pull away from just barely keeping abreast of population increases.

64. Furthermore, that surge must be sustained. Its benefits must also be distributed more equitably.

65. Considering the realities of this Region, our priority has to go into raising the small farmers' productivity. We will have to concentrate more on the rainfed areas. And the programmes must be so designed so that small farmers and sharecroppers can participate in, contribute to and benefit from this growth. More support than has been available so far for farmers' organizations and for services of all types is required.

66. We will have to draw up simultaneously policies to cope with the rising numbers of rural workers. Programmes to provide wage-paying jobs, as well as supplemental occupations, have rapidly moved to the forefront of priority lists. Increased food availability is meaningless to the rural worker who cannot but it.

67. Today, millions of impoverished and jobless rural workers, driven by absence of earning opportunities, are force-feeding migration streams into urban areas.

68. Yet, this migration crises is, at rock bottom, a crisis of agricultural policy. It is the shuffling of desperate poverty in the farms to equally-desperate penury in the slums. The late Indian statesman, Jayaprakash Narain - in whose honour FAO struck an Agricola medal - perceptively defined the nature of this issue by saying: "Poverty in the urban areas is just an extension of rural poverty."

69. Our strategies call for increased investment in rural infrastructure such as irrigation and rural agri-based industries and feeder roads.

70. Agriculture does not exist in a vacuum. Improvements in agriculture occur only when linked to parallel improvements in other sectors of the economy.

71. Thus, it is fortunate that the 1970s brought a wider understanding of the fact that industrialization - which is the aspiration of many countries - is possible only if agriculture grows steadily. Policies in investment, energy, pricing and trade that discriminate against agriculture must be recast and realigned with objectives for rural growth.

72. The ultimate responsibility for carrying out these tasks rests with individual governments. Nonetheless, FAO has been privileged to serve as your collaborator in this task.

73. I do not intend to repeat all that we are doing to assist Member Governments of this Region. I would however refer especially to a few major issues. Firstly, there is the Five-Point plan of Action for World Food Security.

74. In this connection, I wish to draw the Conference's special attention to an important new proposal contained in the Plan of Action on World Food Security. This is designed to help finance exceptional food imports of developing countries facing chronic balance of payments problems. The developing countries of this region are especially vulnerable to crop failures or high world grain prices, which create unexpected increased in their food import needs. Their national food reserves are inadequate and soon depleted. Food aid is insufficient. Governments then have to divert their hard-earned foreign exchange to purchase food, which cuts the resources urgently needed for developmental projects. Recent experience shows that such additional expenditures can reach several hundred million dollars for a major grain importing country, creating intolerable strains.

75. This is why I have proposed that the IMF should examine the feasibility of providing additional balance of payments support for this purpose.

76. The FAO Conference last November has specifically invited the IMF to consider this proposal, which I have already transmitted to the Managing Director, Mr. de Larosière. I hope this Regional Conference will urge the Executive Board of the IMF to take quick and positive action on the FAO proposal, bearing in mind the need for such a facility to be quickly accessible on liberal conditions.

77. I would like also to refer to the follow-up of the WCARRD Declaration of Principles and Programme of Action.

78. FAO as well as the other Regions have been greatly encouraged by the example set by Asia and the Pacific in responding promptly to WCARRD's call. The Inter-Country Consultation in Bangkok last November agreed that 1980 be considered as the preliminary phase in national programmes of action. National Coordinating Committees are to be established, at the highest practicable political level, both to outline a practical operation programme for this first phase, as well as to plan and supervise a continuing programme of action.

79. This first year operational programme should urgently identify, with FAO's help as needed, action projects that could upgrade existing national capacity for effective programme implementation, and so lay a solid foundation for longer-term work.

80. Our Conference here will provide the occasion for you to review the measures you have been able to take, to articulate the constraints you may be experiencing and to identify specific areas in which you can assist each other with FAO's help or separately.

81. Just before the decade closed an Asian city - Jakarta - hosted the Eighth World Forestry Congress.

82. Among other things, this Congress spotlighted the growing shortage of fuel-wood in the poor countries. Yearly, our world now burns over 1.2 billion cubic meters of fuel wood. Asia accounts for nearly half of this drain - mainly by rural families. Demand is outpacing supplies. The shrinkage of fuel wood sources is perhaps best symbolized by the bare areas on the hills of Nepal or on the Kampuchean-Thai border, stripped bare of trees, by refugees, for fuel.

83. The environmental consequences of such practices are obvious. Thus, a major concern for the 1980s will be our policy on rural energy. In this connection, the Jakarta Congress made a basic point we can gloss over only at some peril, namely: these forests will be conserved and renewed, only when the impoverished rural communities living in them benefit more equitably from their use.

84. Fisheries is a major source of protein. And based on my recommendations, the Twentieth FAO Conference approved a comprehensive programme for member countries in the development and management of fisheries in Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ).

85. There are, in this Region, millions of small-scale low-income fishermen. FAO is implementing a number of programmes for these disadvantaged groups including special efforts to develop inland fisheries and aquaculture within overall rural development programmes.

86. But more effort is needed in this field. Attention must also be paid to the needs of geographically or otherwise disadvantaged Member States unable to benefit directly from the new legal regime of the oceans.

87. On the wider front, you have before you the regional implications of our unique study on Agriculture: Toward 2000.

88. The over-riding problem remains the paucity of resources to investment and technical assistance and the failure so far of the North-South dialogue.

89. All of us are aware that we are meeting in the shadow of the latest episode of the failure of the countries of the North and the South to come to an agreement, here in this very hall, on issues absolutely vital not only to the future of the South but to the whole world.

90. It is one world. We are inter-dependent. Our poorest brothers need our help and we damage ourselves if that help is not given.

91. The North cannot thrive without the economic betterment of the South. When will the rich within and between nations open their eyes and their hearts and better still their wisdom to the lesson that it is only through out dedicated service to the lowest, the poorest and the least that we can all find a higher human fulfilment?

92. Not tomorrow, not next year, but God willing, before this new-born decade dies. Let us hope and strive to ensure that the hopes and efforts of your nations and of the whole world are not again downcast but are rewarded by the successes, however modest, which mean less human suffering and despair, more self-respect and human dignity for the millions of this Region.

Namaste.

COUNTRY STATEMENTS

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

Australia	India	New Zealand
Bangladesh	Indonesia	Pakistan
Burma	Japan	Philippines
China	Korea, Republic of	Sri Lanka
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Lao	Thailand
France	Malaysia	United States of America
Fiji	Nepal	Viet Nam

Perspectives

94. Governments recognized the significance of this Regional Conference, meeting as it did at the end of the Second Development Decade and on the threshold of the Third. They used it as a vantage point both to look back at past experience and to frame clearer perspectives for the future through a careful and critical assessment of the past.

95. In this task, all delegations welcomed the help they received from FAO secretariat documents, particularly those on the Regional Implications of Agriculture: Toward 2000, and on the Declaration of Principles and Programme of Action of WCARRD.

96. The Minister of Agriculture of India saw the seventies as a "decade of unfulfilled hopes and frustrations": while, in the words of the Minister of Agriculture and Forests of Bangladesh, "logic and the development process have clearly not gone hand in hand."

97. On the other hand, all delegations tended to view prospects for the future with a sense of pragmatic optimism. It was felt that the lessons of the past provided clearer guidance in identifying and in dealing with the major issues of the future.

98. Among these issues were: a comprehensive and reliable system of food security for the Region; adequate preparedness against the natural disasters of drought, floods, hurricanes and cyclones to which the Asian Region is particularly prone; the structural reforms envisaged by WCARRD to ensure participation of the rural majority in the processes of development; the intensive search for alternative and renewable rural energy resources in what is rapidly becoming a "post-oil world economy"; the continuous exploration of increasing forms of Intra-Regional Technical and Economic Cooperation; and the measures needed to take optimum advantage - in the field of fisheries development - of the National Exclusive Economic Zones now made possible by the new Regime of the Seas.

Food Security

99. Governments were unanimous in their concern that food security should receive the highest priority. Japan and Indonesia drew attention to the still precarious situation of the Region in this respect. Delegations dwelt at some length on the wide range of issues involved: international constraints of freight rates, transport logistics, and the uneven geographical distribution of stocks, since the major grain reserves are now concentrated in the developed countries.

100. However, some encouraging beginnings in improving food security in the Region were reported. The Philippines reported on the recent ASEAN agreement between its five member countries, on the creation of an ASEAN Food Reserve in the form of a coordinated system of national stocks. These stocks include a fixed quantity of rice earmarked as an Emergency Reserve.

101. India has established a target of 12 million tons of food grains as a continuing national buffer stock. Pakistan and the Republic of Korea have accumulated reserve stocks of 500 000 tons and 1.0 million tons respectively.

102. Bangladesh drew attention to increased national food production and effective demand as important aspects of national and regional schemes of food security. Based on her own experience, China laid particular stress on decentralized village storage schemes and on improving government mechanisms of procurement and distribution.

103. France and other delegations commended the stress laid by the Director-General on prevention of pre- and post-harvest food losses. They urged that special attention be given to quick-impact and low cost projects in these fields.

104. A number of delegations expressed disappointment over the unsuccessful efforts, so far, to negotiate an International Grains Arrangement.

105. Australia and the United States of America referred to the importance of the new Food Aid Convention as a practical step towards such an Arrangement. The USA delegation reported the successful negotiation of the new Food Aid Convention on 5 March at the Thirty-fifth Session of the Food Aid Committee, in London. Irrespective of this Convention, the USA government had already made a firm commitment of 4.5 million tons of cereals. It called on all countries in a position to do so to increase their levels of commitment under the new Convention.

106. In addition, the USA Government has adopted or proposed to Congress a series of measures which would greatly help to promote food security at global levels. These include a food grain reserve of 4 million tons to backstop concessional and grant shipments under the continuing "Food for Peace" programme.

107. All delegations expressed their endorsement of the Director-General's Five Point Plan of Action on Food Security. They urged that this be recognized as a continuing framework for policies and aid programmes at national, regional and international levels.

Disaster Preparedness

108. Malaysia welcomed FAO's foresight in bringing this vital issue before the Regional Conference. The inclusion of this item on the Agenda reflected the particular and chronic proneness of the countries of this Region to recurring national calamities resulting from drought, floods, hurricanes, etc.

109. India described the comprehensive drought management strategy it evolved. Its components include: employment for the able-bodied through Food-for-Work Programmes; basic relief for the old, infirm and vulnerable groups, through Food-for-Nutrition Programmes; drinking water and irrigation through utilization of groundwater potential; and widespread crop stabilization measures involving crop life-saving techniques, alternative cropping strategies to suit various weather models, and emergency "crop compensatory" projects.

110. In addition, a Model Relief Manual has been evolved by the Central Government for location-specific adaptation by the States.

111. FAO was requested to focus attention, in the future, on collating and analysing country data and in promoting regular exchange of experiences; on developing a "timely action programme" to complement its Early Warning System; and on strengthening its own agro-meteorological capability to assist countries with 'applied climate services' as envisaged by, and in association with, the World Climate Programme of the World Meteorological Organization.

112. Many delegations - notably Bangladesh, Fiji, Lao, and Malaysia, which drew attention in their statements to heavy losses incurred regularly from natural disasters - indicated the need for this new dimension of FAO's work.

Structural Reforms and Follow-up of WCARRD

113. All delegations were unanimous in their support for the Declaration and Principles of WCARRD. Many described national measures of implementation on which they had already embarked.

114. In Pakistan, a new high-level National Council of Local Government and Rural Development was recently established. This aims to involve people, at grass-roots levels, through their own elected representatives. In addition, a three-tier system of Local Government has been introduced at union, sub-district and district levels. Sri Lanka has introduced a new Agrarian Services Law to stimulate planning, decision making and provision of basic services

through Divisional Agrarian Services Committees consisting of officials and farmers. Nepal has decided to expand the Small Farmer Development Programme, launched by FAO's Regional Office, based on principles of small homogenous farmer groups as receiving mechanisms, into a national level programme.

115. Nepal proposed the creation of a separate regional fund for WCARRD follow-up. FAO was asked also to assist member countries in working out social indicators for monitoring agrarian and rural development programmes.

116. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Lao, and Mongolia reported that comprehensive land reform programmes had already been implemented and extensive cooperative movements are now in operation. The cooperative structure in Lao comprises at present; 2 800 small village scale groups most of which consisted of 30 to 40 families based on voluntary participation, common interests, democratic management and income sharing according to the contribution of members in work and inputs. This stage will be followed, in due time, by cooperative groupings on a progressively larger scale.

117. The Mongolian delegation considered the implementation of WCARRD of prime importance. After 20 years of experience, Mongolia now has a chain of 258 agricultural cooperatives. This covers the country in the form of large socialist farms engaged in a wide range of collective activities. They are contributing substantially to the productive capacity and participatory character of rural development.

118. The experience of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea can now point to an advanced cooperative movement engaged in the active promotion of a rural technical revolution. This seeks increasing modernization of all farming processes, as well as the progressive industrialization of the countryside.

119. Bangladesh suggested an innovative state approach to agrarian reform, which might be developed as the basic practical strategy for the eighties. This approach is based on the principle of establishing and channelling property rights, other than land, through group associations, unions and cooperatives of the most disadvantaged among the rural poor.

120. Most important of these non-land property rights among some countries was the group ownership and control over irrigation equipment and over the entire range of activities involved in irrigation: flood control, drainage and infrastructural services. This would provide the material base for both effective demand and solidarity among the land poor and the landless. It would lead to greater capacity for autonomous political participation and could constitute the essential preconditions, as well as generate meaningful political pressures, for eventual land reform.

121. The Japanese delegation expressed its strong support for the WCARRD Plan of Action in the areas of structural improvements in agriculture and rural community development. In this connection, it stressed the important role of the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) and offered further financial assistance in promoting CIRDAP's growth.

Water Resources and Management

122. Several delegations, among them Burma, underlined the vital importance of irrigation, water resources and water management, saying "water is the life blood of agriculture." For many countries, intensive irrigated agriculture was considered the main available strategy needed to bring about expansion in cereal production.

123. In Pakistan, the core of the New National Agricultural Policy is a master plan for harnessing the country's water resources through additional reservoirs, control over water logging and salinity, and more efficient water management. Given the massive investment resources needed, Pakistan is confident that it can make a significant contribution to both national and regional food security.

124. Nepal made a plea for FAO help in promoting regional cooperation in developing and managing the vast potential of the Himalayan watershed both for power and irrigation.

125. In Thailand, where major irrigation has been able to provide water for only 20% of cropland, efforts are now being concentrated on small and medium scale water impoundments at village levels and on the more intensive development of groundwater resources.

126. A similar concern with the problem of non-irrigated rainfed areas was expressed by many delegations. The Malaysian delegation in particular stressed very strongly the increasing need for more intensive search for water from non-traditional sources and specially groundwater. Many countries including Malaysia have little experience in exploring and tapping these sources.

127. Malaysia said it would welcome FAO's involvement - in association with countries such as India with decades of experience in these fields - in a special programme to promote underground water resource exploration and management.

128. On the critical subject of rainfed agricultural areas which still constitute the bulk of Asia's cropland, the Thai delegation reported the proposal made for the establishment of an ASEAN Cooperative Programme for the Development of Rainfed Agriculture. One of the major projects proposed is a rainfed rice pioneer project.

The Small Fishermen and Aquaculture

129. Several delegations welcomed the importance given at this Regional Conference to the development of fisheries, especially in the context of National Exclusive Economic Zones and the new Regime of the Seas.

130. The delegation of Sri Lanka called for the adoption of a firm resolution emphasising the need for adequate assistance to maximize the opportunities provided by the declaration of Exclusive Economic Zones.

131. Most delegations stressed the need to promote and safeguard the interests of the small fishermen and to pay due attention to aquaculture and inland fisheries,

under the EEZ development proposals. The Malaysian delegation in particular expressed this concern most forcefully. They said that in terms of protein nutrition, employment and supplementary income, aquaculture held out the greatest promise for the future and deserved the highest priority in the fisheries sector. They urged that the interests of the 'poor artisanal fishermen should not be made secondary to the EEZ.'

132. Pakistan has launched a three pronged drive to develop its still largely untapped national potential in fisheries. In this drive priority attention will be given to aquaculture, inland fisheries and to the problems of small fishermen engaged in coastal fisheries.

133. On the lines of the highly successful "Operation Flood", India plans an "Operation Aquaculture." This will organize small fishermen engaged in marine and inland fisheries, into an integrated network of cooperatives handling production, processing and marketing functions.

134. The Thai delegation drew attention to the difficulties currently encountered by the Thai fishing industry, due to the prevailing shortage of fuel for fishing vessels and the impending loss of traditional fishing grounds "due to territorial designations of the Law of the Sea." Thailand looks forward however to substantial recovery from these setbacks through closer technical cooperation with neighbouring countries both in marine and in inland fisheries.

135. In Fiji, the Government has seen the new declaration of its EEZ as an opportunity to embark both on an ambitious programme to assist small fishermen, as well as on large scale joint ventures between local firms and foreign companies, aimed at a rapid growth in export earnings from fish products.

136. Particular interest was expressed by the Japanese delegation in seeking opportunities to increase its assistance for the development of fisheries programmes in the Indo-Pacific Region.

New Forms of Rural Energy

137. Concern with the rising costs of petroleum-based farm inputs (fertilizer, pesticide, etc.) was expressed by many delegations. The search for new forms of low cost energy from local and renewable sources has begun in many countries.

138. China stated that, by the end of 1978, there were over seven million digesters providing bio-gas as fuel to 4.4% of all farm households in the country. China intends to make major efforts to extend the use of bio-gas as a fuel and manure source, and explore the possibilities of small bio-gas electrical power stations. In addition, China will intensify efforts to exploit rural bio-gas, fuelwood forests, small hydropower stations, small collieries, as well as wind, solar and terrestrial heat energy.

139. India reported on renewed efforts to exploit local manurial resources, bio-gas plants, green manuring, microbial fertilizers, the use of blue green algae, etc. A series of centres designed to harness renewable energy sources

is being planned. It was noted with appreciation that much assistance could be expected from the recently initiated UNDP/FAO Project on Increasing Soil Fertility through Organic Recycling.

140. The Australian delegation summed up the prevailing concern by stating: If the rate of increase in food production is to be speeded up so that it exceeds population by a significant margin, then increased development of energy resources, in non-oil producing countries, is essential.

Technical and Economic Cooperation within the Asian Region

141. The country statements revealed a rapidly increasing level of intra-regional cooperation.

142. The Vietnamese delegation referred appreciatively to the cooperation it has built up with India in developing buffalo breeding and rice research. In India, the national complex of 21 agricultural universities, 35 central institutes and bureaus and over 50 All India Coordinated Research Projects constitute a unique national TCDC system serving over 20 Indian States, many of them larger than most Asian countries.

143. Perhaps the most promising examples of TCDC are now emerging among the ASEAN group of countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Singapore. There is a consensus to move towards an ASEAN Common Agricultural Policy (ACAP) which includes: an ASEAN Quarantine Ring; arrangements for the pooling of ASEAN Research and Technology, sharing of training and extension facilities; an Agricultural Planning and Development Centre and cooperative arrangements for the procurement and supply of agricultural inputs. An ASEAN population/rural development programme, with United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and Australian support, is in operation.

144. Other possibilities to which national delegations drew attention were cooperation in measures for disaster preparedness and exchange of experience in the use of appropriate technology and rural energy resources.

Resources, Aid and Trade

145. Many delegations expressed concern that the flow of resources to Asia was not commensurate with the size of its population or the gravity and complexity of the issues it faces.

146. All delegations welcomed therefore the efforts FAO was already making to increase this flow of aid and investment. They reiterated support for the Director-General's proposal to request the International Monetary Fund to provide special financial facilities for food inputs. They also requested the Director-General to convey, both to UNDP and the Interim Fund for Science and Technology, their view that the proportion of resources for food and agriculture be increased substantially.

147. Australia, Japan and New Zealand offered further support to the developing countries in the Region. To Australia and New Zealand, the policies being pursued by some developed countries, especially in regard to Trade and Tariffs tended to be prejudicial to the interests of the countries of the Region. Agricultural production in Asia is now facing severe handicaps from two quarters: the "dumping" of surplus agricultural commodities of the developed countries on the one hand, and restrictions placed by them on the imports of Asian countries on the other.

STATEMENTS BY THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

148. Statements were delivered by representatives of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations Development Programme, World Food Programme, the International Labour Organization, the International Trade Centre (UNCTAD-GATT), the Holy See, The Asian Development Bank, the International Planned Parenthood Federation, and World Federation of Trade Unions.

149. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP said food deficits had become a chronic problem in many developing countries. Because of its far-reaching implications for national development, countries and the United Nations system continue to give top priority to the acceleration of growth in this sector. ESCAP and FAO were working, in close cooperation, in serving member countries through strengthening their material and manpower resources to find solutions. ESCAP's contribution to the UN Third Development Decade would place great emphasis on agricultural and rural development in the overall strategy. The ESCAP Secretariat is also proposing to initiate a feasibility study on food security systems on a regional/subregional basis in cooperation with the World Food Council, FAO, the World Food Programme and others.

150. He also said that ESCAP expects to step up and streamline activities in: (a) Effective local-level planning for rural development with emphasis on participation of low-income groups; (b) Improved monitoring and evaluation of rural development programmes with particular reference to the involvement of and impact on such groups. ESCAP was grateful to all agencies in Bangkok for cooperation and assistance given to the Interagency Committee on Integrated Rural Development set up under ESCAP.

151. The Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Programme said that until self-sufficiency in food was attained, food aid would be a critical element in current development plans and policies. Food aid needs would amount to between 17 and 18.5 million tons of cereals by 1985. So far, even the 10 million ton target, established by the World Food Conference of 1974, has not been met.

152. WFP also uses food aid, in partnership with governments, as capital for development projects. Thus, "project food aid" can help meet development requirements of recipient countries and the needs of the poorer segments of their populations. For the next biennium, the United Nations Annual Assembly and FAO set a financial target of \$1 000 million as a basic minimum. The pledging conference of 21 February showed the number of donors increasing their contribution substantially. A number of pledges have still to be announced.

153. Contributions from Asia and the Pacific have steadily increased to \$25 million for 1979/80. In 1979, emergency food aid reached a record level of over \$119 million. Kampuchea absorbed \$20 million. Assistance was provided to China for the first time to help the settlement of refugees in southern China. Last year, 52% of total WFP commitments were channelled to the Region. WFP activities are heavily oriented towards rural development, with the vast majority oriented towards WCARRD objectives.

154. The Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme in India said that it relies very heavily on the technical and managerial skills of FAO in the implementation of projects it helps to finance. It will be guided by FAO's counsel when selecting high-priority regional projects to support. UNDP recently approved a regional project, executed by the FAO for a "travelling workshop for the prevention of food losses." UNDP is ready to provide additional finance for broader programmes to prevent food losses. It is also supporting activities related to land reform and rural development, fisheries and forestry. UNDP said that the current IPF for regional projects for Asia and the Pacific was \$95m. He expressed the hope that this would be doubled for the years 1982-86. UNDP will concentrate on financing actual programme activities and expect that strengthening institutional frameworks for inter-country cooperation will be financed by governmental or other sources. UNDP is ready to respond to requests for support of increased regional cooperation.

155. The Asian Development Bank, its representative said, has continuously placed the highest priority on agriculture and rural development. Loans approved in 1979 amounted to \$1.26 billion. More than 30% of this amount was allocated to agriculture and rural development. This will be increased at an average of 20% each year between 1979 and 1982. ADB has continuously increased the volume of its technical assistance grant, more than half of which is directed towards agriculture and agro-industries. This grant has been expanded to include a project benefit monitoring system. ADB's strategy in agricultural and rural development in the 1980s will focus on food production, income distribution of small farmers, employment, linkages between agriculture and non-agriculture, and on trade in agricultural commodities.

156. The International Trade Centre (ITC/UNCTAD-GATT) Representative reviewed the WCARRD Plan of Action. ITC assists developing countries in promotion of their export trade and rationalization of their import trade. ITC recently formulated a trade promotion programme directly allied to rural development. It facilitates contributions to integrated national projects, in rural development, through the provision of inputs where an external trade component has favourable impact on the rural population. ITC is currently planning and implementing initial technical cooperation activities in three selected product groups in conjunction with cooperating agencies: hides and skins, fruits and vegetables, and handicrafts.

157. The International Labour Organization (ILO) Representative reiterated that the Organization's mandate committed it to improve the lives of all workers, including those in the rural sector. This included promotion of employment, particularly through development of small-scale enterprises; training of workers for non-farm occupations; organization of labour-intensive rural works; and the

choice of appropriate technology. Provisional ILO estimates indicate that by 1987, nearly 600 million more jobs will be needed in developing countries. Evidence of the ILO's commitment to rural development is seen in the steady increase of funds for that purpose in its budget. ILO confirmed its readiness to cooperate with governments and international organizations, particularly FAO.

158. The International Planned Parenthood Federation Representative said that family planning, and the acceptability of the small family norm, are but one factor that bears on the advancement of human welfare in a situation of limited resources. However, its promotion must proceed side by side with economic development. Estimates show the world's population is growing at about 2% per annum. At this rate, the present population of 4.3 billion would increase to 6 billion by 2000 A.D. No discussion of food production and the world food perspective can be meaningful without a simultaneous consideration of population and population increases.

159. The World Federation of Trade Unions Representative spoke about problems facing the millions of small farmers, sharecroppers and landless agricultural labourers. Only a minority had benefitted from the increased production. Agricultural labourers have benefitted the least. Rural development and agrarian reform efforts need to be intensified. This should involve the participation of the broad mass of the working people and small farmers in the management of production. It is necessary to establish public control over those industrial sectors which live off the agricultural sector. It is also necessary to achieve the expansion and stabilization of employment, putting an end to seasonal employment and migration of workers. The lack of involvement of non-governmental people's organizations at levels of planning and implementation, was deplored. These organizations could assist literacy programmes, especially using women and youth and other similar sectors.

160. The Holy See spokesman welcomed efforts being made by the Conference to redress the imbalance between the developed and the developing nations as well as to achieve self-sufficiency in food. Plans for regional and sub-regional cooperation in food production and trade were vitally needed. It commended efforts to orient activities towards benefitting small farmers and viewed WCARRD as a landmark. Technology does not exist apart from a value system. Therefore, it is important to stress genuine human values while preparing technical plans for food and agriculture.

REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

161. The Conference considered the Report of the Technical Committee which had earlier discussed the following agenda items:

- Progress Report on the Implementation of the FAO Programme, since the Fourteenth Session, including the Reports of Regional Technical Bodies;
- Regional Implications of International Action to Strengthen World Food Security;

- Review and Follow-up of the plan of Action of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD);
- Agriculture: Toward 2000. Regional Implications with special reference to the Third Development Decade;
- Increasing Rice Production in Asia and the Pacific, including under Rainfed Conditions;
- Increasing Preparedness of Agriculture in Drought and Flood-prone Areas in the Region.

162. The Report of the Technical Committee, as amended and adopted by the Conference, is presented below. A report of the Technical Committee appears in Appendix E.

Implementation of the FAO Programme in the Region

163. The Regional Representative introduced Agenda Item 2, Progress Report on the Implementation of the FAO Programme of Work in the Region. The document prepared for this item (APARC/80/2) also included a summary report of the major activities of the six regional technical bodies and of the supplementary activities. He cited the six priority areas mandated by Governments, at the 1972 Regional Conference, and reconfirmed by the subsequent conferences. This provided a cohesive framework for activities and cited constraints.

164. Funds for agriculture had not matched needs. Share of agriculture in UNDP's regional funds amounted to only 14%. He called the attention of the Conference to Resolution 54/218, approved by the United Nations General Assembly, establishing an Interim Fund for Science and Technology. He solicited the views of the Conference on the priorities that should be accorded to projects that could be supported by the Fund, within the region's priorities.

165. The Conference expressed appreciation for the good work FAO is carrying out in the Region. Among the programmes commended were those on: Small Farmers Development, Pre- and Post-Harvest Food Losses; Forestry for Rural Community Development, Aquaculture, Rainfed Agriculture Training as well as those on Population/Rural Development. Special mention was made of FAO's role in facilitating useful and practical technical exchange programmes and study tours.

166. The achievements were substantial. However, there was concern that resources, to date, did not match the needs of the Region.

167. The need to further sharpen the poverty-orientation of FAO's Programme of Work in Asia and the Pacific was recognized. It was stressed that the main development issue was how to increase the productivity and income of the poor. In asking this sharpening of orientation, delegations said that results could not be expected overnight. But in view of the unfulfilled needs, delegations felt that more direct intervention, to assist the poor sectors of the rural population, is called for in the coming biennium. Quick impact projects should

constitute an essential component of FAO's programme, such as reduction of pre- and post-harvest losses.

168. Specific suggestions on how FAO could strengthen its work among the poverty groups were offered. Among these were: expansion of the field action projects for small farmers, with assistance from investment agencies and the investment of rural youth and women. In this connection, mention was made of the support from the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) for Small Farmers Development Programme.

169. Integrated rural development should also give special focus to landless labourers and small farmers. This is necessary, some delegations stressed, because integrated rural development programmes tend to be limited to geographical areas and may sometimes not reflect adequate poverty orientation.

170. Stress should be placed on rainfed crops, specially coarse grains, pulses and oil seeds. These are primarily grown by small farmers and constitute the main source of protein for the poor. Special attention should be given to root crops and tubers. Cropping patterns adopted should be more labour intensive. Research efforts into these crops should be strengthened.

171. The Conference suggested that, in view of the high cost of commercial energy, emphasis ought to be given to developing bio-fertilizers as well as recycling of agricultural residues and wastes. Processing of crop residues and other agricultural wastes, for purposes of animal feed, should also be promoted.

172. The Conference urged that funding support for FAO's programme in pre- and post-harvest food losses be increased. FAO should also prepare a set of guidelines, to assist member countries, in their national programmes, to reduce food losses from farm to consumers.

173. Expansion of aquaculture programmes merited FAO's continued support. Small and artisanal fishermen should be the main beneficiaries of an expanded effort.

174. Shifting cultivation continues to be a major problem in the Region. The importance of environmental conservation, including forest development for local communities, was highlighted by delegates.

175. The conference stressed that supporting programmes for the regional priority areas must also be strengthened. Stress should be laid on assisting member countries to increase their national capabilities in agricultural planning, project analysis and monitoring of agricultural and rural development programmes. Suggestions were offered to improve the community level statistics, including food consumption surveys.

176. Training continues to be a vital need. FAO's role in developing projects for ASEAN, as well as individual countries, in population/rural development was appreciated.

177. The Conference commended the work of the Regional technical bodies and urged that the recommendations of these bodies should form the basis for programme development within sectors.

178. The Conference was informed of FAO's activities on Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries (TCDC) in agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Basic elements of TCDC were explained as well as the role of the United Nations systems in promoting TCDC. Examples were given of TCDC in the fields of technology transfer, nutrition, integrated rural development, agricultural credit, aquaculture, forestry for local community development, etc. Several project ideas had been developed in consultation with member countries.

179. Bilateral or group country arrangements are possible under TCDC. A considerable number of project proposals were made in this sector. A list of project ideas was to be made available on request.

180. The FAO Regional Office can play an expanded role in promoting TCDC in the Region. Particular mention was made of the need to provide information on TCDC to member countries as well as seed-money to facilitate exchange of expertise, through study tours, training programmes and institutional linkages.

181. The Conference expressed concern over the low share of agriculture in the UNDP Regional Indicative Planning Figure (IPF). It was stressed that the share of agriculture in Regional IPF ought to be increased to not less than one-third, in view of the importance of the agricultural sector in the economies of member countries and the need for increased productivity.

182. The Conference agreed that the food and agricultural sector must have a fair and equitable share in the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development.

Regional Implications of International Action to Strengthen Food Security

183. The Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department, introduced this Agenda Item. He emphasized that progress towards greater food security, since the 1974 World Food Conference, had been limited and uneven. Some countries in the Region had achieved relatively high rates of growth in food production. In others, it had barely kept pace with population growth or had even fallen behind.

184. Concerned about the inadequacy of the action taken since 1974 to implement the International Undertaking on World Food Security, the Director-General proposed a Plan of Action in 1979. This was subsequently considered and adopted by the Committee on World Food Security and the FAO Council. It was endorsed by the FAO Conference in 1979.

185. The Conference recognized the special food security problems of the Asia and Pacific Region which contained about half of the world's population and less than one fifth of the agricultural area. The Region was experiencing, this season, numerous and widespread emergencies, due to crop failures and other causes. This requires increased assistance from multilateral and bilateral donors.

186. A large part of the Region's food production took place in areas prone to droughts and floods. Thus, it remained particularly vulnerable to crop failures. The Asia and Pacific Region included large populous countries, vulnerable to disasters of a magnitude which, in certain circumstances, could have critical repercussions on world food security.

187. In spite of increased national and international efforts to strengthen food security, the situation has not improved significantly from what it was in 1974. Low-income developing countries, in particular, were facing severe problems. Their food production had not kept pace with the growth in demand. Their food gaps were widening, thus adding to balance of payment burdens.

188. Protectionist policies still followed by some developed countries, continued to make market access for agricultural products difficult. They limited foreign exchange earnings of many developing countries and adversely affected their food security.

189. World cereal stocks were expected to decline in 1980 from existing levels. Stocks were heavily concentrated in a few exporting countries. Logistic problems, in both exporting and importing countries, might limit their accessibility in emergencies.

190. The Conference felt that there was little prospect that the situation would improve over the medium term. Unless efforts were stepped up to substantially increase food production, particularly in the low-income countries, their cereal deficits would grow to levels which neither their export earnings nor food aid availabilities could be expected to finance.

191. The Conference noted that there were two mechanisms envisaged to strengthen food security. The first was negotiations for a new International Grains Arrangement. It would have contained economic clauses for stabilization of markets and prices. It also would have provided special arrangements and facilities to enable developing nations to play their full part. These negotiations had now ended in deadlock.

192. The second mechanism is FAO's Plan of Action. This included certain important directions in which national and international efforts could proceed towards assuring world food security. It was meant to be an interim and voluntary measure, pending the conclusion of a new International Grains Arrangement. But the prospects for such an Arrangement being dim, the Conference recommended that FAO's Plan of Action be regarded as a continuing framework of policies, refining them, wherever necessary, in the light of experience gained in its implementation.

193. The basic condition for obtaining long-term world food security is to achieve a substantial increase in food production. There is potential for increasing food production in the Region. This required a substantial increase in the flow of technical and financial assistance to supplement national efforts.

194. The decision of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to set up an ASEAN Food Security Reserve including an Emergency Reserve was timely. The

experience gained from this scheme could be of value to other countries. ASEAN countries were, at present, considering to raise the level of the Emergency Reserve.

195. Other subregions might wish to explore the possibilities of cooperating in setting up regional reserves, taking into account the experience gained by the ASEAN group of countries. In case any subregion comes to an agreement, in principle, to implement such a regional scheme, it may ask FAO for assistance in the elaboration of the scheme and for the mobilization of extra-budgetary resources for the necessary studies.

196. A number of delegates informed the Conference of their governments' food reserve and storage construction programmes, and the degree to which the targets had been achieved. One reason for the slow progress was the lack of infrastructure, including storage and transport. The services of the Food Security Assistance Scheme (FSAS) had been very useful to several countries in the Region, and the scheme should be further strengthened.

197. Greater priority should be given, both at individual and institutional levels, to the prevention of pre- and post-harvest losses in the allocation of funds, in research, training and development programmes, including joint action research projects, exchange of research results and development experiences. Women's training should be given high priority. Conventional methods of storage need special attention because of rising cost of materials.

198. The Conference recognized there was need for additional assistance to low-income food deficit countries which had to meet exceptionally large food import bills. It expressed the hope that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) would soon consider the feasibility of providing additional balance of payments support for this purpose, as requested in the FAO Plan of Action.

199. The flow of external resources to agriculture in developing countries should be augmented so as to enable these countries to implement appropriate national policies designed to increase their food production.

200. The Conference, therefore, recommended the following lines of action to improve food security in the Region:

- in all countries vulnerable to food shortages, governments should give high priority to national food security programmes within the context of their development policies;
- all countries in the Region should explore possibilities for developing joint ventures for the production of fertilizers and pesticides and other agricultural inputs;
- governments should consider, in a spirit of collective self-reliance, the need and feasibility of concluding long-term trade agreements in foodstuffs, with or without provisions for loan financing, as a means of assuring supplies to importers, and guaranteed market outlets to exporters;

- governments should establish and strengthen national food information and early warning systems, and exchange mutual experience and expertise within the context of TCDC;
- the IMF Board should be requested to give full and sympathetic consideration to the proposal contained in the Plan of Action concerning additional balance of payments support, bearing in mind the great need of the developing countries in the Region for special facilities to finance their food imports in case of domestic shortages or rises in food import prices;
- the FAO Food Security Assistance Scheme should be expanded and contributions to the scheme replenished on a regular basis;
- the food surplus countries and other countries in a position to contribute should participate in the Food Aid Convention and the International Emergency Food Reserve in such a manner that the targetted quantities which were already inadequate in comparison with needs were fully subscribed;
- greater emphasis should be given to the prevention of food losses in national programmes. The FAO programme on prevention of food losses, TCDC projects and the international assistance to the countries in the Region should be strengthened;
- there should be a critical country by country review of the measures necessary to improve logistics and infrastructure, such as transportation, port facilities, etc. as these very often act as major constraints in facilitating access to available food supplies.

Review and Follow-up of the Plan of Action for the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD)

201. The Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department, introduced this subject for discussion. He recalled the important contributions made by the Fourteenth FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East in the formulation of the Programme of Action that WCARRD had finally adopted. He reported on follow-up work done since the Twentieth Session of the FAO Conference which unanimously approved a resolution incorporating all the follow-up proposals made by the Director-General. He stated further that, in WCARRD follow-up, the harmonization and coordination of activities, by all the relevant UN agencies, were crucial. As the lead agency of the ACC Task Force on Rural Development, FAO has convened meetings with other UN agencies in all the regions. In this Region, an Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Committee on Rural Development has been functioning for the last few years. There are already informal links and contacts between this regional Ad hoc Inter-Agency Committee and the ACC Task Force on Rural Development.

202. One of the more important requirements for WCARRD follow-up was the resources at the disposal of FAO for assisting Member Governments. The Assistant Director-General thanked the People's Republic of China for making a concrete offer in this regard. Other countries, both developed and developing, were

requested to support the effort to raise extra-budgetary resources to implement the Programme of Action.

203. The Conference commended the Secretariat for the document Review and Follow-up of the Plan of Action of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural development (APARC/80/4).

204. It also endorsed the recommendations, made by the Asia and Pacific Inter-Country Consultation, held in Bangkok in October/November 1979. The most important of these recommendations are:

- establishment of National Co-ordinating Committees, at the highest political level where such committees have not been set up, to guide and coordinate activities of national institutions that will implement projects and programmes in agrarian reform and rural development;
- the National Coordinating Committee ought to have a strong back-up Secretariat, with ancillary national institutions for the implementation of the Programme of Action;
- acceptance of the following targets to be achieved by December 1980:
 - (a) establishment of a National Co-ordinating Body and Secretariat;
 - (b) completion of an inventory of action already taken by Governments, in relation to the items of the WCARRD Programme of Action;
 - (c) completion of, at least, the framework of a national plan of action for agrarian reform and rural development;
 - (d) a series of first-phase national programmes, where such programmes have not already been initiated, especially in the fields of income-generating projects in poverty areas, training of local personnel in key subject-matter areas, small farmers group action, etc.;
 - (e) establishment of benchmarks of physical, social and economic indicators in at least certain key programmes or project areas;
 - (f) establishment of adequate monitoring mechanisms in at least these key areas.

205. The Conference felt that establishment of National Coordinating Committees will help not only the coordination of national institutions and agencies, but also facilitate effective and efficient utilization of external assistance and the coordination of inputs from various UN agencies at the country level.

206. Some countries reported that they had formed National Coordinating Committees by reorienting, strengthening, or upgrading existing institutions so as to enhance their influence and decision-making role. The need for such coordinating institutions, at regional and local levels, was also emphasized.

207. The Conference also recommended the periodic and regular convening of similar inter-country consultations to review progress, exchange experiences and identify constraints. These regular inter-country consultations can be a source of useful inputs into the biennial FAO Conference where countries report progress in the implementation of the programme.

208. Special stress was laid on the need for monitoring and evaluation. For this purpose, it was considered necessary to collect and compile statistics at the community, sub-national and national levels, paying particular attention to micro-statistics, at programme and project levels.

209. The Conference felt that conventional techniques, now applied in project appraisal and based on economic cost-benefit analysis, are not in themselves adequate to appraise rural development projects. Social and cultural factors are of critical importance. Therefore, appropriate methods including indicators need to be evolved, as a basis for accurate social cost-benefit analysis, a few components of which may not be always quantifiable. This will supplement current methods of economic analysis. In such cases, their benefits can best be assessed by qualitative judgments based on small group decisions with a high degree of member-participation.

210. The Conference took note of the success achieved by FAO's Small Farmers Development Programme, based on small homogeneous units of the most disadvantaged farmers. This small initial programme had now been incorporated in expanded forms into the Nepalese Governments's Development Plan. This expanded Programme will be supported by IFAD. Similar expansion is planned in Bangladesh during its Second Five Year Plan.

211. The Conference felt that the problems and needs of rural people can be reflected in the rural development projects only when they are involved in the planning process. Therefore, the need for local level planning was recognized to be essential in rural development.

212. Adoption of small farmers group organization, on lines similar to the FAO project, with its techniques of multi-level field workshops was recommended. It appeared to be one of the more effective means of achieving the participation of rural people in the identification, formulation, implementation and evaluation of rural development projects.

213. Illustrations were provided by the various countries of the Region relating to the promotion of other small social groups, such as: People's Councils in Burma, the Neighbourhood Associations in Indonesia, the base level within the three-tier system of rural development in Pakistan, and the small settlement units, centred on village reservoirs in Sri Lanka. A number of countries are making efforts to organize cooperatives as an institutional framework for integrated rural development.

214. A cautionary note was sounded by some countries that rural development was a complex process. It should be approached, not through the application of one uniform system, but by the effective, location-specific combination of many systems.

215. Several countries underlined the need for special attention to developing programmes in organizing rural women and bringing them more meaningfully into the main stream of rural development. Notable instances of projects emerging in this field in Bangladesh and India were cited.

216. Concern for environmental considerations and ecological balance was recognized as another vital factor in rural development. Recognition of this would call for many socially and economically beneficial projects in community forestry, aquaculture, conservation of local natural resources, greater use of low-cost and renewable sources of energy, and the appropriate upgrading of traditional technology which maximizes the use of local materials.

217. The Conference stressed that self reliance should be seen, not merely in terms of food production, but in the broader totality of community life.

218. In promotion of rural development reoriented along these lines, training and supply of the right kind of village-level workers would call for special attention both by governments and non-governmental agencies.

219. There was general agreement that innovative and constructive ways should be found to involve national non-governmental organizations in WCARRD Follow-up Programmes. Efforts should also be made to associate NGOs in the work of National Coordinating Committees.

220. The Conference noted, with appreciation, FAO's on-going efforts in developing overall and sectoral guidelines, in relation to items in the implementation of the various components in the WCARRD Programme of Action. Countries expressed the need to seek FAO's assistance in the following broad areas:

- formulation and application of overall and sectoral guidelines to meet specific country situations;
- evolving new social indicators and techniques in project appraisal, monitoring and evaluation;
- in the expansion of small farmers development projects and other relevant projects relating to people's participation and organization in their framework of the WCARRD Programme of Action; and
- developing appropriate methodologies for participatory planning at local level.

221. To assist countries in these tasks, the Conference welcomed the suggestions that FAO would consider sending policy review missions to work closely with National Coordinating Committees. These missions could assist countries in formulating strategies and developing work programmes in appropriate areas.

222. The Conference expressed interest in exploring the possibilities of TCDC and ECDC in promoting agrarian reform and rural development. Many countries stressed the importance of exchange of information on experiences in rural development. In regional WCARRD activities, the Centre on Integrated Rural

Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) and other such institutions will have a constructive role to play. In this context, the important role of FAO and CIRDAP was underlined. Support for CIRDAP by countries was welcomed.

223. It was felt that there was need for further improvement in the harmonization and coordination of activities of the UN agencies in rural development. The Conference suggested that, to achieve close coordination, the Inter-Agency Committee on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific should establish formal links with the ACC Task Force on Rural Development of which FAO is the lead agency.

224. The Conference also recommended that FAO should serve as the lead agency in the regional inter-agency committee, taking due cognizance of existing mechanisms for coordination in the Region.

225. The Conference recognized that there had also been achievements in the area of coordination, in promoting and strengthening integrated rural development in the Region, as a result of various meetings, including the New Delhi Declaration of 1975, ESCAP Resolution 172/33, and other regional meetings.

226. The Conference fully recognized the need for greater allocation of domestic resources to rural development and appropriate increases in the level of availability of external resources. Following the suggestion made in the Inter-Country Consultation, the Conference endorsed the proposal for special regional funds for WCARRD Follow-up on a voluntary basis, to be utilized through the FAO Regional Office.

227. A suggestion was made that the next decade could be treated as Rural Development Decade, in accordance with the spirit of the WCARRD Programme of Action.

228. The Conference appealed to all the countries and donor agencies to increase the financial resources placed at the disposal of FAO for WCARRD Follow-up in the Region.

Agriculture: Toward 2000: Regional Implications with Special Reference to the Third Development Decade

229. In introducing this Agenda Item, the Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department, stressed that the global study Agriculture: Toward 2000 was still in provisional form. It would be revised, in the light of comments and suggestions received, including those of the FAO Expert Consultation on Regional Implications of Agriculture Toward 2000 held in Bangkok in early 1980 and those of this Conference.

230. The Conference commended FAO for the analysis presented in the Document APARC/80/5 and supported in general the recommendations made by the Expert Consultation.

231. Some delegates felt that the growth rates assumed under the normative scenario were high. They questioned the possibility of their achievement. The Conference was informed that in the revised version of Agriculture: Toward 2000, now under preparation, additional analysis on more modest economic growth assumptions in the range of 5.5 to 6 percent per year for the Region would be included.

232. As regards postulated higher agricultural growth rate, it was pointed out that a low key approach would be preferable involving an assessment of the existing potential and how quickly it could be realized. Examples were given of the differences between the yield potential of crop varieties already developed and the yields presently obtained. Optimum development strategy should elaborate ways and means of rapidly narrowing down the gap between the actual and the potential yields through greater concentration on extension, marketing, credit, farmers education, and various services.

233. The Conference emphasized the gravity of the challenge posed by population growth in most of the developing countries of the Region. It recommended that member countries should consider giving high priority also to the formulation and implementation of appropriate population policies.

234. High growth rate for rice production was essential for the Region. However, it was also necessary to give attention to other food crops which could be grown in given ecological situations. The Conference noted that the document had indicated the possibilities of higher growth rate for coarse grains, pulses and oil seeds in the Region. It felt that similar emphasis should be accorded to roots and tubers.

235. The absence of analysis of the development prospects for fisheries in the document was noted. It was suggested that in its revision, adequate attention should be given to present problems, future prospects and feasible action for development of fisheries in the Region. It was noted that the Region was the world's largest producer and consumer of fish.

236. While the constraints to expansion of livestock production were recognized, it was also emphasized that the demand for livestock products was increasing rapidly. The potential for increasing milk production, in the Region, through cattle and buffalo development, particularly in South Asia, was underlined.

237. Difficulties in the adoption of an input-intensive strategy under conditions of increasing scarcity and rising costs of non-renewable energy supplies were emphasized. The Committee was informed that a more detailed analysis of the role of agriculture in total energy economy of the Region would be undertaken in the revised version of the study.

238. Some delegates questioned the realism of the assumption of high growth rates for consumption of fertilizers, pesticides, and other inputs. They felt that some level of response could be obtained from more economic and efficient use of the inputs, without necessarily requiring high growth rates of input consumption. The Conference recommended that much greater attention should be paid in the future to more economic and efficient use of fertilizers, pesticides and irrigation water.

239. Several delegates felt that the investment requirements might be substantially higher than the estimates given in the document in 1975 prices, because of large investments that would be required for the development of linked infrastructure in other sectors. It was pointed out that agricultural development, at a fast pace, and consistent with overall economic and social objectives, could not be brought about cheaply.

240. Some delegates pointed out that achievement of the requirements was likely to be frustrated by the limited capacity for domestic resources mobilization in many countries and the inadequacy of the flow of external resources. Serious efforts would have to be made by the countries to mobilize domestic resources, supplemented by a substantial increase in the flow of external assistance to food and agriculture.

241. To increase the capacity of countries for absorbing external assistance in agriculture, the importance of training in project analysis was emphasized. Such training would strengthen the project preparation units or cells which countries had set up or were planning to constitute. Both FAO assistance and TCDC arrangements could play a catalytic role in this respect.

242. While emphasizing the objective of self-sufficiency in basic foods, the Conference suggested that due attention should be paid to comparative advantage, particularly in deciding on the appropriate mix of food crops for domestic consumption and non-food crops and other commodities for export.

243. Several countries stated that they have either formulated or were working on the formulation of perspective plans as a framework for preparing their medium term plans. By and large, these plans indicated the importance of irrigation expansion programmes in the development strategy.

244. Some delegates felt that 20 years was too long a period; that what was needed was a medium-term analysis which would help the countries in their planning effort. FAO's assistance to countries in the formulation of their plans was considered important and deserved priority.

245. The Conference recognized the considerable potential for cooperation among developing countries, particularly in various fields of production, trade, food security, research and training. Developed countries should support such programmes of cooperation. Countries should make every effort to seize these opportunities to develop inter-country programmes and projects. This should help developing countries to realize the goal of collective self reliance in the context of the New International Economic Order. 1/

246. The study, it was emphasized, should not be a once-and-for-all exercise. It should be periodically revised and updated so that it could serve as a regional framework for national plans and policies. There should be a deeper analysis of institutional, social and organizational aspects as well as of price policy than what has been attempted in the study.

1/ As adopted in Resolutions 3201 and 3202 of the UN General Assembly.

Increasing Rice Production in Asia and the Pacific including under Rainfed Conditions

247. The assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department, introduced this Agenda Item by noting that there are over a billion and half rice consumers in Asia and the Pacific. Lagging rice production is a critical food security issue in the Region. Studies reveal that rice production will worsen, in the near future, unless timely action is taken to raise overall paddy production, in this decade, by some 55 million tons over the present production. This would require boosting annual growth rate to around 3.39%. Between 1961 and 1976, the average growth rate was only 2.3%.

248. To achieve this goal, there are technical, economic and institutional constraints that need to be overcome. Increase of yields in currently cultivated areas is imperative and this objective could be summarized in a target figure, to raise average yield from the present 2 tons/ha to 2.8 tons/ha within a decade. Priority ought to be given to the improvement of existing irrigation systems in about 12 million hectares and 5 million hectares will additionally have to be irrigated. Investments needed for the next ten years for irrigation are estimated at US\$21 billion at 1975 prices.

249. Other inputs are also required and effective agrarian reforms are required in some countries of the Region to realize the full potential of rice production. Countries of the Region will need to be assisted.

250. The Conference commended the document prepared on this subject and unanimously agreed on the need to intensify efforts to increase rice production to meet increasing food demands of growing populations. It also concurred that rehabilitation and expansion of irrigation is a basic factor for intensification and stabilization of rice production. However, concerns were expressed by many delegates on the continuous increase in costs of irrigation development. FAO was requested for assistance in obtaining financial and technical support to undertake these investments.

251. The Conference strongly called for intensification of efforts in rainfed areas to increase productivity and, to some extent, yield stability. In this respect, the Conference emphasized the importance of strengthening regional and national efforts to achieve these proposed objectives.

252. Urgent needs for reinforcing applied research related to rainfed, upland, tidal and deep water rice production were identified in the following areas of work:

- development of superior varieties resistant and adapted to prevalent location-specific stresses;
- development of improved agronomic practices to overcome those limiting conditions.

253. The organization of appropriate mechanisms for the transfer of modern technology to narrow the gap between potential and farmer's actual yields, in both rainfed and irrigated areas, was identified as another area for attention.

254. In addition to investment for irrigation development, aid is necessary in rainfed areas to control damage from floods. Prevention of damages is also to be achieved by proper watershed management, afforestation and soil conservation measures.

255. Large areas of problem soils, specifically acid-sulphate, alkali and saline areas, need to be improved through a series of research and development action, with particular reference to agronomic practices and use of tolerant varieties. Improvement is also needed for tidal lands.

256. Due to the increasing cost of chemical fertilizers and energy, the Conference stressed the need for research on and application of organic and biological sources of nitrogen. Specific reference to introduction of legumes, azolla, and algae into rice production practices was made. Use of fertilizers has to be optimized to reduce costs and improve their efficiency.

257. It was noted that in a number of countries, diffusion of high yielding rice varieties is hampered by insufficient availability of seed. This constrains production. FAO was requested to assist in the development of sound and effective national seed programmes.

258. With increased costs of pesticides, the need to develop effective integrated pest control practices, including biological control and pest-resistant rice varieties, was underlined.

259. Substantial post-harvest losses of rice, particularly in rural areas, call for appropriate action, at both central and farm levels. FAO was requested to help member countries with the provision of increased technical guidance and assistance.

260. FAO was also requested to help in strengthening national extension services, with respect to effective transfer of appropriate production technology. This effort should take into consideration location-specific socio-economic and agro-ecological conditions. Promotion of farmers' institutions and group action for small farmers should also be actively pursued.

261. In marginal rainfed rice areas, there is a need to develop diversified cropping patterns. This will increase the earnings of small rice farmers and ultimately help alleviate rice shortages.

262. Recognizing the vital importance of rice to the basic economy of the Region, it was proposed that FAO should strengthen its regional activities to better assist member countries in their rice production programmes.

263. The Conference further suggested that the International Rice Commission should play a more active role in increasing rice production in South and Southeast Asia.

264. FAO was strongly requested to assist member countries in the Region to develop action programmes on rainfed agriculture to meet the challenge of rice and food problems of the decade. The following priority project ideas were proposed for FAO consideration:

- a. to establish a regional project to promote the development of new rice varieties which could better perform under agro-ecological stresses in rainfed areas. The project should include research on related appropriate farming systems to increase the productivity of small rice-based farming;
- b. to establish regional and national pilot development projects aiming at the improvement of transfer of adapted technology in the field of rainfed rice. These projects should involve national research institutions and extension services in order to provide simple packages adapted to local specific conditions.

265. In considering and implementing the above project ideas, FAO should coordinate its work with those of existing international research organizations.

266. The Conference further suggested that FAO consider designing a regional pilot project to promote low-cost energy utilization with available natural resources in rice farming. This would include improvement in the use of animal traction, use of wind and water power, biogas and solar energy.

267. A request was also referred to FAO for assistance for an ASEAN cooperation programme on development of rainfed agriculture.

Increasing Preparedness of Agriculture in Drought and Flood-prone Areas

268. The Chief of the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, Development Department, introduced this Agenda Item. He said that, in the recent years, vast areas in this Region had become chronically drought and flood prone. Deterioration of the Himalayan ecosystem and other examples were cited. In floods and droughts, all sections of population -- specially the poor -- are affected. Action plans -- staying and contingency plans and the institutional infrastructures required by action plans as well as long-term planning were explained.

269. The Conference commended FAO for the analysis of the problem and the action plans presented in the document. The Conference agreed that the countries that are disaster prone may consider establishing national disaster prevention councils where such councils have not been set up with regional and local

counterparts. These units ought to ensure community participation and preparedness. Infrastructural needs of contingency plans, among other things, should include: monitoring and early warning systems, disaster broadcasting systems, agro-meteorological monitoring systems for crop forecasting, etc.

270. The Conference requested FAO to assist in establishing a Regional Working Group on Flood and Drought Control to follow-up, discuss and help in operationalizing the action plan in this regard.

271. The Conference supported the plan of action and conclusions presented in the paper. Many delegates shared their experiences of increasing preparedness for flood and drought, both in a contingency and staying action plan, designed to further arrest deterioration of the land and worsening of the disaster consequences as well as on the infrastructure which some countries have built in the process. Some countries cited examples of how they involved large numbers of people in various stages of anti-flood and anti-drought action plans.

272. There was a general consensus that sharing of the experiences in increasing preparedness is a fundamental step to further developing regionwide action plans.

273. Some countries indicated that tropical cyclonic storms inflict heavy damage to life, property and standing crops in coastal areas. In the South Pacific countries, typhoons and hurricanes constitute a recurring problem. Action plans for meeting such disasters should be considered by the countries, assisted by FAO, where necessary.

274. Rainfed agriculture, soil and water conservation, as well as watershed management, in the upland areas, were given great emphasis. Some countries indicated that irrigation development, although highly expensive, contribute to drought proofing. Intensive exploitation of groundwater resources with the use of solar energy, was suggested, wherever possible.

275. The Conference called for inclusion, within integrated rural development, soil conservation, afforestation and watershed management programmes as well as measures for increasing preparedness, both for flood and drought.

276. The Conference referred to the need for insulating poor farmers against loss through appropriate crop and animal insurance systems. FAO was requested to develop an operational manual based on the available experience.

277. A strong plea was made to set up a Centre for Himalayan Studies to help conserve the eco-system in that particular area. The Conference endorsed the proposal to establish a High Altitude Agriculture Research Centre. It further recommended that the Centre, when set up, should expand its work to include studies on the Himalayan mountain-range eco-system as well.

278. There was a consensus that a TCDC approach with FAO help be followed by countries in sharing experiences and in increasing preparedness for flood and drought and other calamities.

279. The Conference considered that breaks in the summer monsoon rains lead eventually to droughts of varying duration and differing consequences. It also took note of recent scientific studies, suggesting a possible link between the monsoon circulation and the occurrence of a blocking high pressure system over East Asia. The Conference, therefore, recommended that immediate action be taken for development of an early warning system to forecast aberrant monsoon behaviour to minimize adverse impact on agricultural production.

280. It was proposed that FAO should organize two travelling seminars: one for flood-prone areas and the other for drought-prone areas. The seminars will discuss the collective experiences of the Region. This would contribute to the preparation of manuals outlining measures to be taken before, during and after calamities.

281. The Conference agreed that there was a need for integrated approach to watershed and range management, and thereby improve preparedness for flood and drought. A proposal was raised on establishing a regional fund which may be used by countries of the Region, in case of such disasters.

Impact of the new Ocean Regime on Fisheries in Asia and the Pacific

282. The Assistant Director-General, Fisheries Department, introduced this Agenda Item. Fisheries are of greater relative importance to the countries of the Asia and Pacific Region than they are elsewhere. The New Regime of the Seas impact will therefore be of tremendous importance to many countries of this Region. Direct consumption of food fish constitutes 35% of the animal protein intake of all Asian people--higher than any other region. It is twice the world average. About 45% of the world's catch of fish is taken by the countries of the Region providing jobs to an estimated 2-5% of the economically active population. There are well over five million fishermen living in small rural communities. Fish is a major item of trade among some countries. Production from traditionally used species could be increased by another 10 to 12 million tons in the years ahead, if fisheries management, within the Region, is improved and optimizes production.

283. Establishment of EEZ's has now been declared by over 90 countries. They cover an area of the globe approximately equal to the land area of the world and encompass 99% of the world's present fishing grounds. For coastal states, there is now the chance--for the first time in history--to plan the course, pace and scale of fisheries development. As it reduces international competition, extended jurisdiction provides the possibilities of rationalizing distribution of fishing effort and capacities so as to better meet selected social and economic objectives. Given the rapid population growth, the high per capita demand for fish, increasing fuel costs, fish supply will constitute a major problem before the end of the century. Four main lines for action were proposed:

- action to ensure that the opportunities for rational management presented by the new legal regime are effectively grasped so that yields from already-fished resources are maintained and where possible increased, and the potential social and economic benefits maximized;

- action to increase production from underexploited species;
- action to make fuller use of the fish presently being caught, i.e. reducing waste and diverting for direct human consumption production now used for animal feed purposes;
- action to develop and increase production from aquaculture and inland fisheries.

284. The Conference expressed its appreciation for the documentation provided by the Secretariat and for the supplementary information, brought to its attention.

285. All delegations emphasized the great importance of fisheries to the countries of the Asia and Pacific Region, from the viewpoint of nutrition and its contribution to social and economic development.

286. The Conference strongly endorsed the Director-General's "Comprehensive Programme of Assistance in the Development and Management of Fisheries in Economic Zones." Delegations emphasized that to harness the potential, countries must establish the basis for sound rational management immediately, including adoption of appropriate laws and administrative systems.

287. Special emphasis is to be given to the need for low-cost effective surveillance and enforcement procedures, within the new exclusive economic zones. The need for locating, identifying and quantifying of the stocks, lying within the national jurisdiction as well as stocks shared by two or more states, was also stressed.

288. In preparing and implementing fisheries policies and strategies, many of the countries stressed the need for balancing allocation of access to fish stocks between the capital-intensive, commercial fishing sector and the less mobile labour-intensive, traditional small-scale fisheries. With the total control which countries now have over fisheries in their exclusive zones, governments can make effective decisions on such issues, taking into account the location of stocks, the fishing skills of their various communities of fishermen, their market needs and overall economic and social policies for development.

289. A view was expressed that in formulating and implementing national fisheries policies, coastal states should take into consideration the concept of optimum use of resources, derived from the Law of the Sea Conference, in relation to foreign fishing activities.

290. The Conference endorsed the role which FAO regional fisheries bodies are playing in implementing the EEZ Programme. It took note of the decisions, taken by the Sixth Session of the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission (IOFC) to establish Committees for the Development and Management of Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal and in the South-west Indian Ocean.

291. It further noted, with satisfaction, the strengthening of the work of the Joint Indian Ocean Fishery Commission/Indo-Pacific Fisheries Commission Committee for the Management of Tunas in the Indian and South-west Pacific Oceans. In this connection, a proposal to establish a sub-regional committee for the development and management of fisheries in the South China Sea would be considered at the next meeting of the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Commission.

292. The Conference also noted, with satisfaction, that the four Sub-Regional Committees of the IOFC -- Indian and Pacific Ocean Tuna, Bay of Bengal, Gulfs and South-west Indian Ocean -- as well as the proposed South China Sea Sub-Regional Committee would be provided with multi-disciplinary technical support units. These are to be located in the region of concern to each Committee. These Committees would be the main channels for delivery of FAO's EEZ Programme for the preparation of reviews of national and sub-regional fisheries, formulation of options for fisheries development and management and promotion of technical cooperation among countries of the sub-regions.

293. The Conference further noted, with satisfaction, the support extended to the principles of TCDC and ECDC as effective vehicles for bringing about quick transfer of appropriate technologies for development of fisheries in the Region.

294. The Conference was informed that UNDP was expected to provide core funding required to finance the technical support units. Delegates were unanimous in calling upon UNDP and other donors to provide maximum support to these units and to the EEZ Programme in its third programming cycle. The Conference agreed that a resolution, drawing attention to the importance of the programme, and the need for adequate funding, over a sustained period of time should be adopted.

295. The Conference considered the sub-regional priorities and special problems of its member countries in the South Pacific. The area of the EEZ's in that sub-region is 25 times greater than the land mass of the island states and is an essential element in development.

296. Emphasis was placed on the encouragement of small-scale fisheries in this sub-region along the lines of the WCAARD Declaration of Principles. The opportunity for developing local fisheries on small tuna species, such as skipjack, and introduction of joint ventures to accelerate the rate of development in tuna fisheries was mentioned. Note was taken that the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency has been established. It is playing an increasingly important role in joint management measures. FAO is providing technical support assistance to the Forum Fisheries Agency.

297. In the South and Southeast Asia sub-regions, priorities include intensification of resource surveys to identify opportunities for increasing production. While conscious of the need to protect traditional fishermen, through allocation of exclusive areas of operation, commercial fisheries are also being encouraged for off-shore areas through joint ventures and other initiatives. Problems of enforcement -- especially that of protecting traditional fishermen's fishing grounds from poachers -- were of concern. The Conference recognized that control of enforcement costs is extremely important and had to be balanced with benefits.

298. In this sub-region, application of the WCARRD principles to fisheries, to protect and encourage improvement of the livelihood of small fishermen, was emphasized. It was suggested that special action for small fishermen be identified, with the WCARRD action plan, for both marine, inland fishing and aquaculture fisheries.

299. In the South Asia sub-region, there was support both for intensified in-shore fisheries development for the artisanal fishermen and increasing opportunities for encouraging more commercial scale developments in off-shore areas. Delegations from the sub-region emphasized the importance of intensive resource surveys in both in-shore and off-shore areas to better understand the potentials for production as a basis for development planning. Attention should be paid as well to the risk of over-capitalization in commercial fisheries, both at the level of fishing fleets and in the processing sector.

300. The Conference stressed that export and marketing development were an essential activity in the sub-region. These should be an integral part of the EEZ Programme. It emphasized the importance of diversification of fisheries development and the need to improve post-harvest technology to enable low-cost, high-volume fisheries to find a place on the market. Rational fisheries management could provide a further basis for justifying investments, in both the primary and secondary fishing sectors. This would also help ensure an adequate flow of funds from financial institutions.

301. FAO was asked to suggest upon request, guidelines for control over EEZ and joint venture strategies.

302. All delegations supported the Secretariat's views on the importance of encouraging and supporting the development of small-scale fisheries. These fisheries provided the great majority of national fish production.

303. The impact of the rising cost of petroleum-based energy on the economics of fishing was noted with concern. These costs should give further impetus to the encouragement of labour-intensive fishing and development of energy-saving fishing gear and vessels.

304. Small-scale and inland fisheries and aquaculture were not mutually exclusive. Integrating these activities was encouraged by the Conference. Many delegates emphasized the advantages of cooperation and exchange of information between the countries of the Region in upgrading the traditional fisheries, both in marine waters as well as in aquaculture.

305. It was explained that inland fisheries and aquaculture, though not included in this agenda item, were of major importance to the countries of the Region. The Conference took note of the importance FAO attaches to complementary fisheries programme areas since aquaculture and inland fisheries provided food, employment and income to several million people in the Region.

306. Aquaculture is of much greater relative importance in many Asian countries than in other parts of the world. Potential for expansion of production in this sector is great.

307. One of the major constraints to expansion of production from aquaculture is the lack of training and extension, particularly at the level of the small producer.

308. FAO is, therefore, proposing to expand and improve a number of existing programmes in the Region which contribute to both training and research in aquaculture. Specifically, FAO is proposing, for UNDP funding, a five-year extension of the training network of aquaculture centres in Asia located in China, India, the Philippines and Thailand. It is also requesting UNDP to extend for a further five years the Inter-Regional Aquacultural Development and Coordinating Programme. This Programme has been so successful in strengthening aquacultural development in Asia and the Pacific.

309. A new global Cooperative Aquaculture Research Programme is proposed in the next UNDP cycle. This seeks to strengthen basic knowledge of aquaculture development principles.

310. The Conference noted with satisfaction the above information as provided by the Secretariat. It recommended strongly that efforts to develop aquaculture as well as management and sustenance of inland fisheries should also be given due emphasis throughout the Region, particularly in landlocked countries.

311. The Conference emphasized that there are opportunities for integration of crop/fisheries/livestock production. It took note of the offers of some countries to exchange experience on these subjects.

312. A few delegations recommended that because of the importance of fisheries in the Region, a concurrent discussion of the fisheries item be arranged during Technical Committee Sessions. This could set up a sub-committee for fisheries. The Committee recommended that FAO consider this suggestion.

FAO Programme in the Region

313. The Regional Representative stated that the Secretariat had prepared the draft Programme of Work for FAO in the Region, in the light of priorities mandated by earlier conferences and the comments heard in the course of Conference discussions. He expressed appreciation for the insights and constructive suggestions.

314. The Conference agreed to retain the six existing areas as formulated. These are:

- promotion of active participation of small farmers in socio-economic development and increasing their productivity and income;
- development of rainfed and semi-arid agriculture;
- promotion of food security and prevention of pre- and post-harvest losses;

- promotion of crop/livestock/fish integrated farming systems;
- development of aquaculture and fishing and socio-economic improvement of small fishermen and
- promotion of forestry for local community development.

315. The Regional Representative thereafter noted there was a clear consensus that work within these six priority areas should, in the future, bear a sharper poverty-orientation. FAO programmes and projects, in the 1980-1981 biennium, will therefore be seen in the broader perspective of the principles and programme of action of WCARRD. The Regional Office would accelerate the momentum of WCARRD follow-up work and restructure its work accordingly.

316. There should be greater selectivity in the choice and timing of activities to be undertaken under each of the priority areas. In the selection of activities, FAO will be guided by the Technical Committee's Report, as confirmed by the Conference.

317. The small farmer development programme will be implemented in a way to reflect more clearly the orientation defined by the Conference. These would stress involvement of women and rural youth and development of effective mechanisms for participatory monitoring and evaluation.

318. In the second priority area -- rainfed agriculture -- work will be carried out through increased collaboration with existing research institutions, both in planning and implementing projects and programmes.

319. In this connection, the Conference urged prompt follow-up on its recommendations for increasing preparedness for agriculture in drought, flood and similar calamity-prone areas.

320. The Regional Office will follow-up on the offers for expanded assistance and seeking to incorporate a TCDC approach therein. This approach is to be incorporated in FAO work in priority areas three and four: namely -- promotion of integrated food security and crop/livestock/fish integrated farming system.

321. The Conference underscored that development of aquaculture and support for artisanal fishermen will provide, in fisheries, the poverty-orientation for FAO's work in the Region. At the same time, the FAO Regional Office will assist in implementing the EEZ programme.

322. In forestry, the Jakarta Declaration - which focusses on the role of forestry for rural development -- should constitute the Charter for the FAO's work in Asia and the Pacific.

323. FAO's activities in population, agricultural planning, and community level statistics for development are vital complementary activities. They should be strengthened and expanded.

324. Thereafter, the Conference was informed about the resources which are expected to become available from UNDP and from the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for future regional activities. It was also underlined that project proposals for the Interim Fund for Science and Technology must be prepared and submitted without delay.

325. It was emphasized in the next UNDP programming cycle (1982-1986) that the volume of resources is likely to be increased significantly over present levels. The agricultural sector's share in the current (1977-1981) regional Indicative Planning Figures (IPF) was considered totally inadequate. Thus, it was important for Member Governments to support a well-balanced regional programme which could be submitted to these funding sources. The programme priorities, which had already been endorsed by Governments at this and previous Conferences and at sessions of the FAO Regional Technical Bodies, could serve as a basis for orientation for the development of projects to be submitted.

326. The Secretariat also underlined that, in the implementation of the regional programmes in the future, special emphasis had to be given to TCDC approach. This would mean that national institutions would be the main instruments for implementing these programmes. Funding should strengthen these institutions as appropriate.

327. Since its earlier report, the Secretariat has already received a list of some 40 proposals for possible submission to UNDP. However, these need to be further developed.

328. The Conference agreed that the issue concerning regional project activities would be on the Agenda of future Regional Conferences.

329. Attention was drawn to the fact that the share of agriculture in the present regional programme of UNDP was low and well below the sector share in the national IPF. The Conference expressed its support for a meaningful and coherent programme to arrest and reverse this decline.

330. It was pointed out that the proportion of the allocation to the Region, from the FAO Programme of Work and Budget, amounted to 18.1%. This had declined from the 18.6% allocated in 1978-79 biennium. This Region accounts for 58% of the population of the developing countries. In this Region, about 500 million people live in poverty. Therefore, the Conference strongly recommended that additional resources be made available to accelerate the development of agriculture in the Region.

SUMMARY STATEMENTS

331. The Director-General and the Regional Representative delivered summary statements to the Conference.

332. The Director-General noted the high level of representation at the Conference. He said this underlined the importance that Member Governments gave to the issues of food and agriculture. He expressed appreciation for the thoughtful statements and constructive interventions. These enriched the Conference deliberations and were invaluable in shaping FAO's programme of work in the Region.

333. The Conference's concerns were strongly manifested in the unanimous request for sharpening further the poverty orientation of FAO's work in Asia and the Pacific, even as the Organization sought to upgrade the quality of its technical programmes. This reflected a healthy impatience over the slowness in attaining the social objectives of development programmes. The poor cannot wait. Nor will they settle for policies and programmes that merely redistribute poverty but do not face up to the issues of structural reform.

334. Anti-poverty programmes being implemented by countries reflect a significant sense of trusteeship, he said. It is clear all are convinced that the better-off have responsibility to care for those who have been called by Mahatma Gandhi as "the last, the lost, the lowest and the least."

335. The Director-General stressed that he fully concurred with the priorities that the Conference proposed. He welcomed the delegations' perception, as expressed by the Prime Minister of India, that "food is the foundation of life and food production must, therefore, be our first concern."

336. He further expressed appreciation for the unanimous support given by Governments to his Five-Point Action Plan for world food security and the Conference decision to adopt a resolution to request the International Monetary Fund to provide balance of payment assistance to meet imbalances caused by food imports. This resolution -- coming from the most populous region of the world -- will give additional weight to this initiative which is incorporated in the Five-Point Plan.

337. All countries agreed on the need to strengthen and expand FAO's work in pre- and post-harvest food losses, the Director-General observed. FAO will, therefore, continue to seek resources to expand and improve this programme, including sharing of experiences, in this vital field, on a TCDC basis.

338. He expressed appreciation to Australia for indicating interest in supporting this vital programme. He further thanked Japan for announcing additional contributions to regional programmes in the prevention of food losses projects that will be identified by FAO, Japanese experts and specialists from the recipient countries.

339. The USA, given its abundant resources, has a special role to play in the fight against hunger. FAO looked forward to the forthcoming report of the USA Commission on Hunger which will recommend that the USA make the attack on hunger the central focus of its relations with the developing world. He also expressed appreciation for the USA pledge of 4.5 million tons of cereal under the new Food Aid Convention.

340. Collective self-reliance is a key element of FAO's Five-Point Plan, specially in the building up of national food reserves. Thus, all appreciate what the Association of Southeast Asian Nations has achieved in setting up an emergency rice reserve, the Director-General stated. FAO stands ready to be of technical assistance if there are similar undertakings in other parts of the Region.

341. The Director-General took note of the deep concern, expressed by the Conference, over the declining share of agriculture in the allocation of UNDP resources under its regional programme. He welcomed the decision, by member countries, to approve a resolution requesting that allocation for UNDP's regional funds for agriculture be increased. This sentiment was best expressed -- and even quantified -- by the Indian Minister of Agriculture who suggested countries should assign "at least 40 percent" of the entire development investment from the various sources for agriculture and other allied programmes".

342. The Regional Office and appropriate technical divisions at Headquarters were instructed by the Director-General to assist countries in drawing up programmes and projects, within the priority areas outlined for FAO's programme of work in the Region. These project proposals could then be submitted for funding to UNDP, the Interim Fund for Science and Development and other sources in accordance with the decisions by countries.

343. The unanimous support for WCARRD, given by the Conference, was welcomed by the Director-General. This Region was the first to organize an inter-country consultation which outlined a specific time-bound action programme. It has been examined by the Technical Committee here and endorsed by this Conference. All were encouraged by the further substantial momentum given to WCARRD's Programme of Action in Asia and the Pacific.

344. FAO will marshal the supportive action needed for this work, he said. This will include: the second inter-country consultation by the Regional Office; policy review missions and support for projects and programmes, identified by governments through their national coordinating committees and other forms of national action. Encouraging response has already been received from some donors.

345. He noted the importance, attached by countries, to the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific's (CIRDAP) role in following up WCARRD recommendations. CIRDAP is now starting its work. The example, set by Asia and the Pacific, in this regard is leading to the creation of similar institutions in other regions.

346. Delegations had stressed that the core of rural poverty is in the rainfed areas. The Director-General said he was directing the Regional Office and the technical divisions in Headquarters to help design projects in this area.

347. FAO shared the deep concern, expressed by the Conference, on rising prices of agricultural inputs, specially those based primarily on non-renewable energy sources. The Director-General said the proposal by India to develop an international agreement on the limitation of prices of strategic agricultural inputs is innovative. It needs careful consideration, notwithstanding the complexity of the matter.

348. He noted that FAO's Commission on Fertilizers is currently engaged in developing price stabilization measures. So far, only limited progress has been achieved, through the setting up of an option system. Under this system, major fertilizer companies provide fertilizer for export, at prices not exceeding the domestic prices of their home countries. Long-term contracts have been pursued to limit short-term price fluctuations.

349. He welcomed the Conference resolution to strengthen the capacities of national governments to administer Exclusive Economic Zones. This is of special interest to the South Pacific countries.

350. He expressed particular appreciation for the way this resolution had been enriched by its stress on expanded action programmes for artisanal fishermen and aquaculture. It meets the special needs of landlocked countries and reflects the perception of the Region as to where the priorities should be given. In fact, Prime Minister Gandhi herself stressed the importance of coastal aquaculture.

351. Member governments were commended for drawing up an analysis of the regional implications of Agriculture: Toward 2000 with expertise drawn from the Region. Very constructive suggestions had been offered, specially on analysis of the social aspects of development.

352. All countries were concerned over spiralling energy costs, the Director-General noted. This led to a consensus for giving priority to programmes that conserve energy while developing farming systems that will shift reliance to renewable sources of energy, including recycling of wastes. This problem is intimately linked to containing the spreading damage to ecological resources. FAO is working with other agencies along these lines.

353. In compliance with the Jakarta Declaration, FAO has designed a programme to promote agro-forestry, silvo-pasture, energy plantation, integrated development of water catchments, etc. for improving the quality of life of rural people, he added.

354. The unique economic problem of the South Pacific were taken up by the Conference. The Director-General announced he had decided to establish an FAO office. For this area, this would look after special problems of Fiji,

Papua New Guinea and Samoa. The Regional Representative will be visiting the area soon to develop further FAO's programme for this vital region.

Regional Representative

355. In his summary statement, the Regional Representative noted that the tasks set out by the Conference cannot be carried out by FAO alone. Close collaboration with governments is imperative.

356. FAO's experience, over the years, in the implementation of programmes reveals it is necessary to seek an increase of resources for agriculture.

357. He noted there were member governments present who are also represented in the governing bodies of donor agencies. He requested the representatives of such governments to convey the sentiment of this Conference for increased flow of resources for food production.

358. Development, like charity, begins at home. National budgets will have to reflect also a greater share of allocation for agriculture. Thus, Ministries of Agriculture have a selling job ahead of them with their Parliaments. Efforts should be undertaken, at country level, to ensure that within the country programmes, agriculture is given a proportionate and meaningful share of the country funds.

359. This is basically the task of your Ministries of Agriculture, working in close collaboration with Planning Ministries, he said. FAO's country representatives stand ready to work with governments in this regard.

360. The priority areas reconfirmed by the Conference are couched in cold technical terms. But behind them run two main streams of thought: One was a clear-sighted appreciation among all the countries that, if they are to prevent a slide into a major food crisis in the future, the major and structural reforms required for social change will have to be undertaken with little loss of time.

361. The second main point is the technical work of those basically concerned with people and respect for their basic human rights, specially to adequate food. Despite the emerging mega-slums in our cities and the permanent insecurity that is the unsought legacy of the poor, poverty remains overwhelmingly a rural affliction.

362. He found in the Conference a keener sense of the unacceptable human cost of rural poverty. It is a condition of life, so constricted as to be, in the words of World Bank President Robert McNamara, "below any rational definition of human decency."

363. Change is inevitable, he said. There is no choice. The options are limited to have that change imposed by the chaos that hunger and poverty can unleash or, through our free decisions, to establish a just social order.

364. Both FAO and member countries are under no illusion that the programmes and projects planned, within the modest sources available to us, will banish rural poverty. Institutions and nations will have to heed the advice of Mahatma Gandhi "to produce our needs and reduce our wants."

365. But the consensus of the Conference points out the directions into which all must move, and each small step becomes a building block for the next step.

CONCLUDING ITEMS

Adoption of Resolutions

366. The Conference reviewed the recommendations made by the Technical Committee and after considering statements by various delegations during the Plenary, adopted unanimously the following Resolutions:

- Resolution 80/1 - World Food Security
- Resolution 80/2 - Inter-Country Programmes for Fisheries
- Resolution 80/3 - International Assistance Resources
- Resolution 80/4 - Increased Use of Chemical Fertilizers

367. The full text of these Resolutions appears in the section entitled "Resolutions and Recommendations."

Date and Place of the Sixteenth FAO Regional Conference

368. The delegates from Indonesia and Pakistan stated that their Governments would be pleased to host, in 1982, the Sixteenth FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific. The Conference expressed its appreciation for these offers and requested the Secretariat to transmit these invitations to the Director-General of FAO for his consideration.

Other Matters - Regional Representation on CGIAR

369. The Conference unanimously elected Indonesia and Pakistan to represent the Region on CGIAR until the end of calendar year 1982.

370. The Committee suggested that at its next Regional Conference, it should consider the research priorities and programmes which would serve as guidelines for the representatives from the Region on the CGIAR. Also, the representatives of the Region in the CGIAR should report to the Conference at that time on the progress of their representation.

Closing of the Conference

371. In their closing statements, all delegations stated that the constructive and candid exchange of views had enabled the Fifteenth FAO Regional Conference to draw up a practical and realistic programme of work.

372. All delegations expressed their appreciation to the Government of India, specially to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture, for hosting the Conference, as well as for the hospitality and the excellent organization of the Conference.

373. The Conference commended the Secretariat for the excellent quality of the documentation and its efficient work.

374. The Regional Representative, on behalf of FAO, thanked the Government of India, and the Indian and FAO Secretariats for their assistance in organizing the Conference.

375. On behalf of the Government of India, and the Chairman, His Excellency Rao Birender Singh, Minister of Agriculture, His Excellency R.V. Swaminathan, Minister of State for Agriculture, made the closing statement. He welcomed the approval of four constructive resolutions and expressed the hope that the various recommendations would be carried out speedily. He reiterated India's appreciation for being able to host the Conference. He then declared the Fifteenth FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific closed.

APPENDIX A

LIST OF DELEGATES - LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

MEMBER NATIONS IN THE REGION - ETATS MEMBRES DE LA REGION

AUSTRALIA-AUSTRALIE

P.J. NIXON Minister for Primary Industry	Canberra
T.J. KELLY First Assistant Secretary Development Division Department of Primary Industry	Canberra
Peter DAVEY Principal Private Secretary to the Minister for Primary Industry	Canberra
J.S. HOLLOWAY Acting High Commissioner of Australia	New Delhi
J.C.B. JACKSON First Secretary (Development Assistance)	New Delhi
G.M. LEACH Second Secretary	New Delhi

BANGLADESH

NURUL ISLAM (Major General (Retd.)) Minister of Agriculture and Forests	Dacca
A.Z.M. OBAIDULLAH KHAN Secretary Ministry of Agriculture	Dacca
ABUL EHSAN High Commissioner for Bangladesh	New Delhi
M. YOUSOUF ALI Additional Secretary Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock	Dacca
A.N.M. EUSUF Joint Secretary Ministry of Agriculture and Forests	Dacca

SHAHED LATIF Alternate Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to FAO	Rome
A.H.M. ABDUL HYE Director I.R.D.P.	Dacca
SHAMSHER M. CHOWDHURY Deputy Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to FAO	Rome
SYED TANWEER HUSSAIN Deputy Secretary Ministry of Agriculture	Dacca
MAHBUB HOSSAIN Research Economist, B.I.D.S.	Dacca
MOSTAFA F. MOHAMMED Deputy High Commissioner	New Delhi
S.M.H. ZAMAN Director Rice Research Institute	Dacca
RAZIUL HASSAN First Secretary Bangladesh High Commission	New Delhi

BURMA-BIRMANIE

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APPENDIX B

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

APARC/80/1	Provisional Agenda
APARC/80/1(a)	Provisional Annotated Agenda
APARC/80/2	FAO Programme in the Region: (a) Progress Report on the Implementation of FAO Programme; (b) FAO Programme of Work in the Region: 1980-81
APARC/80/3	Regional Implications of International Action to Strengthen World Food Security
APARC/80/4	Review and Follow-up of the Plan of Action of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD)
APARC/80/5	Agriculture: Toward 2000: Regional Implications with Special Reference to the Third Development Decade
APARC/80/6	Increasing Rice Production in Asia and the Pacific, including Under Rainfed Conditions
APARC/80/7	Increasing Preparedness of Agriculture in Drought and Flood Prone Areas in the Region
APARC/80/8	The Impact of the New Ocean Regime on Fisheries in Asia and the Pacific
APARC/80/9	Representation of Asia and the Pacific Region on the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

APARC/80/INF Series

APARC/80/INF/1	Information Note
APARC/80/INF/2	Provisional Timetable
APARC/80/INF/3	Provisional List of Documents
APARC/80/INF/4	Arrangements at the Conference Site
APARC/80/INF/5	Provisional List of Delegates and Observers

APARC/80/CONF Series

APARC/80/CONF/1	Statement by Dr. Edouard Saouma, Director-General of FAO
APARC/80/CONF/2	Opening Statement by Dr. D.L. Umali, Regional Representative of FAO for Asia and the Pacific

AGENDA

Technical Committee (5-8 March)

1. Election of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Technical Committee
2. FAO Programme in the Region:
 - (a) Progress Report on the Implementation of FAO Programme
 - (b) FAO Programme of Work in the Region: 1980-81
3. Regional Implications of International Action to Strengthen World Food Security
4. Review and Follow-up of the Plan of Action of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD)
5. Agriculture: Toward 2000: Regional Implications with Special Reference to the Third Development Decade
6. Increasing Rice Production in Asia and the Pacific, including Under Rainfed Conditions
7. Increasing Preparedness of Agriculture in Drought and Flood Prone Areas in the Region
8. The Impact of the New Ocean Regime on Fisheries in Asia and the Pacific
9. Representation of Asia and the Pacific Region on the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

Plenary Session (10-13 March)

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Statement by the Director-General
5. Country Statements
6. Consideration of the Technical Committee Report
7. Other Matters
8. Date and Place of the Sixteenth FAO Regional Conference
9. Adoption of the Summary Report

APPENDIX D

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE FAO REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Calendars, it has been said, are unreliable since life never falls into neat boxes. This is true, of course. Nonetheless, as I welcome you to New Delhi, I am aware that we stand before two of those time boxes: the Third Development Decade and the end of the Twentieth century shortly thereafter.

To assist us in our difficult task of collective planning for the decades ahead, the Government of India has kindly provided this lovely site with its excellent facilities.

May I, therefore, express - on behalf of the Food and Agriculture Organization, as well as Governments and agencies here present - our collective gratitude to the Government of India.

A word of special thanks goes to His Excellency the Minister of Agriculture Shri Rao Birendra Singh and his staff for the hospitality and assistance they extended to us.

Mr. Chairman, we begin today the initial session of our Technical Committee meeting. And we find the contemporary scene is dominated by anxious debate stirred by the report: "North-South: A Program for Survival".

The Independent Commission on International Development Issues, as you know, drew up this report. Former Chancellor of West Germany and Nobel Prize Laureate, Mr. Willy Brandt, chaired this Commission.

Copies of this two-year study were released to FAO and other international agencies, through the United Nations Secretary-General, just three weeks ago. A section of the report focuses on agriculture. A brief summary of its findings could possibly serve as a useful starting point for our discussions.

Pervasive rural poverty, according to Mr. Brandt and his colleagues, is at the core of the threat to world stability and peace.

On the international plane, this problem is reflected by the seemingly-unbridgeable - and still growing - disparities between two groups. On one hand are the industrially rich but sometimes material-poor nations of the Northern Hemisphere; on the other are industrially poor but often material-rich nations of the Southern Hemisphere.

There are huge poverty belts in the South. A full three-quarters of mankind subsists on one-fifth of the world's income. About 800 million men, women and children exist in absolute poverty. Half of these unfortunate people are concentrated in four Asian countries.

Consumption and expenditure patterns are skewed. And the arms race continues to siphon away scarce resources from vital development programmes.

The report uses some striking comparisons.

One American today, it points out, uses as much commercial energy as 9 Mexicans, 16 Chinese or 1 072 Nepalese. Life expectancy in the North is 70 years and only 50 in the South.

Our world now spends \$450 billion yearly on weapons. One-half of one percent of this expenditure would pay for all the farm equipment needed to increase food production and approach self-sufficiency by 1990.

Inevitably, my colleagues in FAO have come up with comparisons closer to home. Funds for one jet fighter, they note, could finance the post-harvest food losses programmes the world over for a year. Or one tank could underwrite technical cooperation projects in four countries.

Industry still offers the long-term hope for providing jobs to absorb swollen labour forces. But the wealthy developed countries control more than 90 percent of today's manufacturing capacity. They also bar, in increasing measure, imports of industrial goods from the poor nations.

The Commission sees our world in transition to a "post-oil economy". Transitions of this magnitude, as the Industrial Revolution showed, are rarely smooth. Leapfrogging oil prices have idled irrigation pumps, drained foreign reserves and triggered off double-digit inflation.

Thus, combined debt of the Third World spurted from \$70 billion at the end of 1970 to over \$300 billion today - and it is still climbing. In much of Asia and Africa, the energy crisis appears in the form of critical shortages of firewood.

The Commission proposes a long range programme. Its proposals range from an international tax on arms, new patterns of development financing, greater currency stability to a summit of world leaders. This is not the forum to discuss these proposals.

But the four-component "emergency programme" proposed for 1980-85, as an interim measure, merits our close attention.

The first element in this package is to sharply increase development aid.

Current aid provided by developed countries, mostly from the West, amounts to \$20 billion. This is about 4.4 percent of arms expenditures the world over. But aid fatigue has set in when an additional \$30 billion, possibly more, is needed. Some of the slack could be taken up by the Soviet Union and Eastern industrialized countries. Unfortunately, there has been little evidence of a response so far.

The International Monetary Fund is encouraged by the Commission to expand its gold sales. Proceeds could then subsidize loans to poor countries. And the World Bank and other international organizations could find a new channel for servively guaranteeing commercial bank loans to developing nations.

The second element is cooperation on energy.

The Commission calls for an "accommodation between oil-producers and consumers." Petroleum exporters would guarantee production levels; they would also avoid abrupt price increases. In return, industrialized countries would tighten their conservation programmes. They will also index oil prices to the real value of a basket of strong currencies. An all-out programme to discover new oil and gas deposits in Third World countries is to be supported.

(Parenthetically, this gives new significance to the plan drawn up by the OPEC Committee on Long Term Strategy revealed in London in the last week of February. Among other things, this plan would set down policy on prices and redefine relations with developing countries to help them meet rising oil bills. It proposes straight grants to the poorest countries, a "soft-loan" facility at favourable terms for middle-income countries. But we must await the implementation.)

A third component would be economic reform.

The proposals range from the creation of a new international financial situation, more stable exchange rates, orderly expansion of world liquidity, a new role for special drawing rights, etc.

And the fourth element - which is the main concern of our Conference - is food.

The Commission draws heavily on FAO studies, including Agriculture: Toward 2000, to focus on worrisome long-term trends.

Food production in all the developing countries, it notes, rose by over two and a half percent annually between 1950 and 1975 - a respectable performance. But demand for food, within that same period, surged to well over three percent yearly. Rapid population growth and increases in income fueled this demand.

As a result, developing countries found they had to jack up their imports of cereals. This has risen from relatively low levels in the 1950s to 20 million tons in 1960. It had reached 80 million tons in 1978.

The paper on Regional Implications of AT 2000 before you reveals that the shortfall in Asia and the Pacific was already 42 million tons in 1978. It could increase to 50 million tons by the end of the century.

The Commission felt that it is unlikely, within the prevailing economic climate, that these countries' own exports, or even additional aid, can finance such massive food imports.

And it goes on to add: Even if the financing problems can be solved, there are doubts - and there may be some debate on this - whether major grain producers could supply the amounts needed. But there is no debate that the suffering, unless something is done, will be appalling.

"At the beginning of a new decade, only 20 years short of the millennium, we must try to lift ourselves above day-to-day quarrels to see the menacing long-term problems", Mr. Brandt has said. "We see a world in which poverty and hunger still prevail in many huge regions. Elimination of (this) hunger is the most basic of human needs."

He goes on to add: "History has taught us that wars produce hunger. But we are less aware that mass poverty can lead to war or end in chaos. While hunger rules, peace cannot prevail. He who wants to ban war must also ban mass poverty."

Turning to the recommendations of the Commission for action on the food front, I think, it is fair to say that except perhaps in the proposal for a new food financing facility ^{1/} for times of crises, they are not new. Much of what is recommended has been proposed before in many fora, including this Conference.

But they are well-intentioned proposals. Many are practical. Most are specific and well thought out - and, therefore, they bear repeating.

Food self-sufficiency, the report says, must be the aim of all the world's major regions. Greater domestic production is the first priority of food policy.

Thus, the capacity of food-importing developing countries, particularly the poorest, to meet their food needs should be expanded and their mounting food import bills reduced through their own efforts, through larger financial flows for agricultural development.

Official development aid to agriculture is currently running at about \$4 billion yearly. FAO estimates assert this should be raised to \$8 billion by 1990. This must be matched by investments by countries, if a breakthrough is to be achieved. Yet, investment in food production pays off. It provides a 5 to 1 return over food relief.

Special attention should be given to irrigation, agricultural research, storage to cut food losses and increased use of fertilizer and other inputs.

The Exclusive Economic Zones programme of FAO can help developing countries obtain a fairer share in ocean fishing. (Our Conference has an agenda item on the EEZ).

^{1/} Proposed by the FAO Director-General, and submitted to IMF under Resolution 3/79 together with a supporting document from FAO and World Food Council.

Agrarian reform is an essential tool, both to increase agricultural productivity and to increase purchasing power of the rural poor. The World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development's (WCARRD) Programme of Action has set up yardsticks against which progress can be measured. (You have too our report on the regional follow-up on WCARRD).

International food security would be bolstered through the establishment of a food financing facility. A \$200 million facility could ensure cereal availability in the most seriously affected countries.

Food aid has to be increased. Current aid comes up to about 350 000 tons yearly - short of the 750 000 tons that FAO estimates will be needed by 1981.

Such aid ought to be linked to employment promotion and agricultural programmes and projects. But it must be ensured that incentives to food production are not weakened.

Finally, trade in food and other agricultural products within and between North and South must be liberalized. This would contribute to the stabilization of food supplies.

And the philosophy that underpins these proposals is eloquently summed up in the Commission statement that: "The idea of a community of nations has little meaning if the situation continues where hunger is regarded as a marginal problem which humanity can live with."

Earlier, I said these are not new recommendations. But it would not be realistic or fair to demand of such a Commission - or any other institution for that matter - new formulae for old problems. This borders on asking for painless panaceas. There are, unfortunately, no quick fixes in agriculture.

What we have from the Commission are concrete and practical recommendations. It is true much of these suggestions are already embodied in earlier documents from the World Food Conference, WCARRD or the Manila Declaration of 1976. The priorities for FAO work in this Region, first mandated by this Conference here in this city in 1972, also reflect these approaches.

But this report places the prestige and authority of its authors behind these recommendations - many of which have, in the past, been treated in the most perfunctory of manner.

It has also spotlighted the extortionate cost that this benign neglect exacts from vulnerable groups like children and lactating mothers. We simply cannot continue paying for lip service to the rural poor, if the yearly bill comes up well over 12 million infant deaths, directly related to malnutrition.

But what is perhaps significant - and new - in this report is the shift in perception of what is at stake in development issues. There are also shifts in emphasis. Even the vocabulary has altered with the shifts.

First, I find a deeper understanding of the capacity of food to unleash or dampen inflation. The trauma of the 1972-74 food crisis is evident in the report's stress that growth in food output is essential, if persistent inflation in food prices is to be avoided.

Such a concern is overdue. Inflation, we know, affects both the rich and the poor indiscriminately. But when food prices spiral, the hardest hit are the poor because they have little leeway. The rich merely rearrange their menus.

Inflation is a reality of this transition to a post oil economy. And it is sobering to note that the 1980 forecast, released last week by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), states that due to the spiral in energy costs, leading industrial countries are likely to experience zero growth this year, a current-account deficit of about \$65 billion, record unemployment and an inflation rate of over 10 percent.

Second, the report's concerns have moved from the old focus of growth to the grim theme of survival. Thus, the Herald Tribune was prompted to say editorially: "The Brandt Commission report is alarmist. But there is cause for alarm."

In the optimistic 1950s and 1960s, as you may recall, the basic preoccupations were with "growth" or "economic take-off" or fiddling with models for industrialization and rapid "trickle down" of benefits to the agrarian sector.

Poverty then was a peripheral concern. It was rarely the focus or concern of planning. Agriculture had lower drawer priority.

By the end of the 1970s, much of this naive optimism had dissipated. The mounting numbers of people, whose lives had been "marginalized" by penury, underscored the intractable nature of the problem. This also showed up the inadequacy of the response to date.

The theme that, therefore, runs through the report, as it looks into the years ahead, is that of simple survival. The perceptions and language are correspondingly bleak.

"Survival", as the old saying goes, "has a wonderful capacity to focus the mind."

This applies very aptly to the situation today, where countries of the North are understandably concerned about economic stagnation, (as indicated in the OECD forecast I cited earlier), erosion of living standards due to inflation and dwindling energy supplies.

But the South, as the Commission correctly notes, faces not just a threat to its prosperity but to its very existence. A slide to chaos and brutal confrontation is inevitable, if mass poverty and hunger are not eased. Such a confrontation would usher in worldwide collapse.

"East and West, North and South - all the world's peoples are threatened by economic instability which, in turn, creates political instability", Mr. Brandt has said. "Our world has become a dangerous place (but at least there) appears to be a simple common interest: That mankind wants to survive. (All have a far greater mutual interest in achieving economic revival together.)"

The issues of poverty, social injustice and other disparities are, in the view of many, likely to come to a head within the next two decades. These cannot be solved by confrontation. Urgent and drastic steps have, therefore, to be taken by all: governments, institutions and individuals - and this leads to what I feel is the third significant point in this document, namely: structural reforms.

Decades of neglect and self-interest have seen the problems of poverty and hunger, with its potential for conflict, grow. The patchwork measures of the earlier decades are no longer adequate nor even relevant.

On the threshold of the 1980s, the old vocabulary on "aid" or "trickle down" or "economic take-off" has become meaningless. What is now on the agenda is the issue of structural reforms and justice.

It is this issue of structural reform that, in my view, impinges most of our concerns for food production and rural development.

If we look at the historical evidence, can it be said that most of us in this Region have really faced up to the issue of rural poverty?

Our approaches - whether as policies or as programmes - have been fragmentary. They seek through devices like public works programmes, nutrition feeding, price controls, foodgrain subsidies and similar measures, to provide some relief.

We have no quarrel with such measures. They are worthwhile and the poor do need these. But these approaches deal merely with the consequences of poverty. They do not confront the causes of poverty.

Thus, our critics note, validly I think, that many countries seek to foster rural development by marginal increments in policies. But these changes tend to be cosmetic. In reality, they differ only minimally from existing policies that keep an iron grip on resources. There is really no attempt to recast institutions, processes and control of resources to ensure more equitable sharing of the benefits of production.

Given this resistance to sharing, it should come as no surprise that so-called rural poverty programmes fail. In fact, experience has shown that the benefits of the programmes are cornered by the better-off farmers who have access to more resources.

Sociologists explain that, in such a context, programmes undergo an ironic mutation. (They) develop a qualitative change and provide benefits to the very groups who were expected to help the less-privileged. Yet, it is a fact that we do continue to be surprised.

I have taken the liberty of drawing on the Brandt report because it hammers home the point that food will be produced only when the basic needs of the poorest are met, and their right to participate in decisions that shape their lives are fully secured by radical recasting of today's power structures.

It was Julius Nyerere, President of Tanzania, who effectively raised the issue of structural reform at the WCARRD Conference in Rome when, he said: "Development is people's development of themselves. It will not occur unless governments are absolutely committed to attacking poverty at its roots in the rural areas, and unless they create a capacity to carry out that policy despite the opposition of those who now batten on the rural poor. People cannot develop if they have no power, and development will occur if, and only if, the people can organize their own power in their own interests."

This giving of power to farmers and sharecroppers who are voiceless is what WCARRD was all about. This is what the EEZ is focusing on. This is the focus of the priority concerns of FAO to eliminate the alienation that poverty breeds. It is the underlying theme of all our discussions here.

Mr. Chairman: As we begin our work today, I am aware that there has been a deterioration in the world food situation.

The 1979 aggregate wheat and coarse grain output is now estimated to be 1 158 million tons or 48 million tons below trend. Paddy production estimated at 375 million tons is also 8 million tons lower than the 1978 level.

World carryover stocks of cereals will drop to about 18 percent of estimated annual world consumption at the end of the 1979/80 season compared to 19 percent of the previous season. This sets us just on the safety margin benchmark.

FAO Early Warning System notes, however, there were twice as many countries categorized as affected or threatened by abnormal food shortages as a result of poor crops, war, or difficult economic situations in 1979 as there were in the previous year. There are now 26 countries in this food shortage list and 5 are in the RAPA Region.

Food aid still comprises a substantial proportion of the imports of these grain deficient countries. As of now, 70 percent of the total import requirements of 1979/80 have been met. And of the total cereal imported, so far, a third is through food aid; compared to 37 percent for the whole of the previous year.

All these remind us how this is our margin of safety - and how urgently we need to address ourselves to the tasks ahead.

As we begin our work, it may be useful - and inspiring - to recall what the great Indian statesman Mahatma Gandhi taught: "All true ethics, to be worth its name, must at the same time be also good economics. An economics that enables the strong to amass wealth at the expense of the weak is a false and dismal

science. It spells death. True economics, on the other hand, stands for social justice. It promotes the good of all equally, including the weakest and is indispensable for decent life."

It is in this spirit that I welcome you all and open our Technical Committee deliberations.

Thank you.

REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The Technical Committee of the Fifteenth FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific opened its session on 5 March in Vigyan Bhavan Hall, New Delhi, India.

Representatives of the following Member Governments participated in the work of the Committee: Australia, Bangladesh, Burma, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United States of America, and Viet Nam.

There were observers from: Holy See, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT, International Labour Organization, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, World Food Council, World Food Programme, World Health Organization, World Bank, Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organization, Asian Development Bank, Asian Productivity Organization, Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific, International Confederation of Catholic Organizations for Charitable and Social Action - Caritas Internationalis, International Cooperative Alliance, International Planned Parenthood Federation, World Federation of Trade Unions, World Veterans Federation.

The FAO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific welcomed participants and observers. He expressed the gratitude of FAO, Governments and agencies present to the Government of India for hosting the meeting.

He then presented a brief summary of the findings, specially on food and agriculture, reached by the Independent Commission on International Development Issues, (Brandt Commission). He underscored the necessity for structural reforms to unlock the region's potential for increasing its productivity and meeting its food needs.

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

The Technical Committee unanimously elected Datuk Arshad bin Ayub of Malaysia as Chairman and Akrur N. Rana of Nepal as Vice-Chairman.

Drafting Committee

A Drafting Committee was constituted. The following delegates were appointed to this body: B.S. Raghavan (India), Chairman; M. Morimoto (Japan); Choung Phanrajsavong (Lao PDR); Manzur Ahamd (Pakistan); and Narong Chuprakob (Thailand). Members of other delegations who wished to contribute on specific items were coopted as appropriate.

(b) to impress upon all funding agencies, both multilateral and bilateral, the urgent need to increase the level of assistance for activities benefitting the food, agriculture and related sectors.

Resolution 80/4

INCREASED USE OF CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS

The Regional Conference:

Recognizing inter alia the importance of sustaining the increased use of chemical fertilizers in increasing food and agricultural production;

Concerned at the recent increase in prices of chemical fertilizers and the consequent burden on the already adverse balance of payments situation particularly on Least Developed Countries (LDC) and Most Seriously Affected Countries (MSA) of the Region;

Further concerned that the increase in prices of chemical fertilizers could retard food and agricultural production of these countries in general and the small farmers in particular;

1. Urges the member governments to promote the development and adoption of measures for efficient use of chemical fertilizers, the greater use of bio-fertilizers and the introduction of natural nitrogen fixing legumes in the cropping patterns;
2. Calls upon the FAO to assist member governments in carrying out studies required for action under paragraph 1 and promote exchange of intra-regional experiences in this connection;
3. Further requests the Director-General to ensure that the Fertilizer Commission at its next meeting further examines ways and means of stabilizing international prices of chemical fertilizers at reasonable levels for developing countries and in particular LDC and MSA countries;
4. Urges donors to increase fertilizer aid to LDC and MSA countries through their contributions to the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme (IFSS) or through their bilateral programmes.

B. Recommendations

FAO Programme in the Region and its Implementation

- (a) The following six priority areas must be carried out with a sharper focus on rural poverty groups:
 - i Promotion of active participation of small farmers in socio-economic development and increasing their productivity and income;
 - ii Development of rainfed and semi-arid agriculture;
 - iii Promotion of food security and prevention of pre- and post-harvest losses;
 - iv Promotion of crop/livestock/fish integrated farming systems;
 - v Development of aquaculture and fishing and socio-economic improvement of small fishermen; and
 - vi Promotion of forestry for local community development.
- (b) Activities in agricultural planning, community level statistics and population should be strengthened and expanded.
- (c) Regional programmes and projects should be based on the priority areas endorsed by the Conference and the regional technical bodies.
- (d) Quick impact projects should constitute an essential component of FAO's programme, such as pre- and post-harvest losses.
- (e) Stress should be placed on rainfed crops, especially coarse grains, pulses, oilseeds, root crops and tubers, more labour-intensive cropping patterns and on strengthening research on these crops.
- (f) Emphasis should be given to developing bio-fertilizers, recycling of agricultural residues and wastes to reduce dependence on fossil fuel energy.
- (g) Funding support for FAO's programme in pre- and post-harvest food losses should be increased.
- (h) FAO should prepare a set of guidelines to assist member countries in their national programmes to reduce food losses from farm to consumers.
- (i) Integrated rural development should give special focus to landless labourers and small farmers.

M-90
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