

Report of the

**EIGHTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE
FOR AFRICA**

Rose Hill, Mauritius, 1-17 August 1974



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

FAO MEMBER NATIONS IN THE AFRICAN REGION
(at 17 August 1974)

Algeria	Gabon	Malawi	Sudan
Botswana	Gambia	Mali	Swaziland
Burundi	Ghana	Mauritania	Tanzania
Cameroon	Guinea	Mauritius	Togo
Central African Republic	Guinea-Bissau	Morocco	Tunisia
Chad	Ivory Coast	Niger	Uganda
Congo	Kenya	Nigeria	United Kingdom
Dahomey	Lesotho	Rwanda	Upper Volta
Ethiopia	Liberia	Senegal	Zaire
France	Madagascar	Sierra Leone	Zambia

Date and place of FAO Regional Conferences for Africa:

First	—	Lagos, Nigeria, 3-12 November 1960
Second	—	Tunis, Tunisia, 1-10 November 1962
Third	—	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 3-15 September 1964
Fourth	—	Abidjan, Ivory Coast, 9-19 November 1966
Fifth	—	Kampala, Uganda, 18-29 November 1968
Sixth	—	Algiers, Algeria, 17 September - 3 October 1970
Seventh	—	Libreville, Gabon, 14-30 September 1972
Eighth	—	Rose Hill, Mauritius, 1-17 August 1974

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Rome, 1974

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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Some Aspects of Fishery Development in Africa

For Attention of FAO

1. Strengthen national and regional training programmes (58)
2. Improve collection of fishery statistics and appoint regional fishery statisticians (59)
3. Disseminate technical documentation on joint venture agreements (60)
4. Undertake appropriate studies to promote intra-regional trade (61)
5. Render assistance for improvement of artisanal fishing boats, fish processing, preservation and marketing (63)
6. Provide assistance in promotion of commercial fish farming (66)
7. Develop standards and methods of control for water quality and establish regional laboratory for pollution monitoring (67)

For Attention of Governments

8. Introduce appropriate management measures to prevent stock depletion and to ensure adequate returns to fishery undertakings (56)
9. Harmonize regional and sub-regional policies for development of fishery potential, management and marketing (57)
10. Cooperate in granting reciprocal fishing rights (57)
11. Improve national systems of data collection of fisheries (59)
12. Strengthen intra-regional trade in fisheries (61)
13. Promote artisanal fisheries (62)
14. Monitor pollution and water quality in inland waters (67)

Food and Agricultural Products Processing in Africa

For Attention of FAO

15. Promote and assist in regional market studies for processed agricultural products (70)
16. Disseminate continuing information and experience on products processing and on the equipment and technologies available (76)
17. Provide additional assistance in training of staff and the establishment of technology research institutes (77)
18. Undertake a study of the growth of agriculture processing in Africa (77)

For Attention of Governments

19. Cooperate to extend markets for processed products through trade agreements with neighbouring countries (70)
20. Make adequate market studies and arrangements for the provision of raw materials in planning new processing enterprises (71)
21. Ensure cooperation between services responsible for processing industries, raw materials supply, and marketing (74)
22. Give high priority in development plans to the development of the necessary qualified personnel and applied research facilities (77)

Medium and Long-term Strategies for the Development of Marginal Areas

For Attention of FAO

23. Assist governments in undertaking investigations and multidisciplinary research both at the national and regional level (82)
24. Assist in the use of remote sensing and satellite photo analysis and interpretation in regional pilot projects (82)
25. Assist in investigation and research for the proper utilization of water and soil resources (83)
26. Assist in training local technicians in the utilization of local resources and the adaptation of new technology (85)
27. Assist in attracting foreign investment (86)
28. Convene an African Conference on the development of marginal lands (87)

For Attention of Governments

29. Investigate all potentials for the development of marginal land including tourism, mining and artisanal work (81)
30. Give priority to systematic investigations and multi-disciplinary research programmes on national and regional levels (82)
31. Utilize new technologies such as remote sensing (82)
32. Give greater attention to research and use of water and soil resources (83)
33. Improve services and integrate people of the marginal areas in the national economies (84)
34. Encourage better structuring of the societies and change to more suited land tenure systems (84)
35. Make the necessary political decisions needed at the national and regional levels (84)
36. Make better use of the local resources both human and financial (85)
37. Work out medium and long-term rehabilitation and development programmes putting emphasis on social returns (85)
38. Work out new criteria for investment in the marginal areas (86)

The Role and Potentiality of Mechanization in
Agricultural Production in Africa

For Attention of FAO

39. Assemble experience in the improvement of hand tools (90)
40. Promote the development of a low cost tractor adapted to African conditions (94)
41. Assemble and disseminate information on performances and characteristics of different types of tractors (94)
42. Assist governments in carrying out studies to determine suitable conditions for mechanization and plan supporting infrastructure (95)
43. Analyse alternative forms of mechanization of agriculture in Africa (95)
44. Assist in the establishment of national mechanization centres (97)
45. Set up a regional Agricultural Mechanization Research Organization (97)

For Attention of Governments

46. Undertake integrated mechanization programmes with necessary supporting services (95)
47. Consider grouping of holdings for mechanized cultivation (96)
48. Set up national mechanization centres (97)
49. Support the establishment of the proposed regional Agricultural Mechanization Research Organization (97)

Food Security Programme for the Region

For Attention of FAO

50. Assist in providing agricultural inputs for increasing food production (102)
51. Develop appropriate food preservation techniques (103)
52. Provide assistance in improvement of food statistics (106)

For Attention of Governments

53. Give highest priority to increasing food production (101)
54. Improve marketing systems and provide greater incentives to farmers to produce more food (102)
55. Maintain adequate food stocks (104)
56. Reduce available losses and wastages (106)

The State of Rural Development in Africa

For Attention of FAO

57. Assist in training farmers, including women and youth (115)
58. Assist in studies to determine the causes and effects of migration in rural areas (115)
59. Assist in promoting farmers' organizations, associations and cooperatives (116)
60. Conduct in-depth case studies for promoting integrated rural development (117)
61. Help in the establishment of a Regional centre for research and training in rural development (119)

For Attention of Governments

62. Re-orient policies in favour of integrating the subsistence sector in the economy (112)
63. Allocate more resources for the provision of infrastructures and services to rural areas (115)
64. Give help to farmers' organization (116)
65. Make in-depth studies using national institutions (117)
66. Support FAO's proposal for establishing a Regional centre for research and training in rural development (119)

Credit Institutions and their Impact on Agricultural
Development in Africa

For Attention of FAO

67. Assist in training staff for agricultural credit institutions and field support services (122)
68. Hold an expert consultation on the scope for reducing credit risks by crop and livestock insurance (123)
69. Follow up of the regional credit seminar held in 1973 with country missions and workshops (127)
70. Take note of suggestions for the agenda of the World Credit Conference to be held in June 1975 (127)
71. Inform the International Agricultural Credit Confederation of the interest in an African regional association affiliated to it (128)

For Attention of Governments

72. Ensure a close integration of farm credit arrangements with extension, input supply and marketing (122)

73. Provide for the training of adequate staff for credit institutions and field support services (122)
74. Shift the emphasis in credit programmes from very low interest charges to greater availability of credit and better support services (124)
75. Develop rural savings programmes in close association with farm credit institutions (125)
76. Arrange for adequate national participation in the World Credit Conference in June 1975 (127)

Follow-up Studies - Agricultural Development through Trade Expansion
and Intra-Regional Cooperation

For Attention of ECA/FAO

77. Extend in-depth study to other countries (133, 135, 137)

For Attention of Governments

78. Make political commitment to promote cooperation and intra-regional trade (130)
79. Promote the consumption of products of African origin (130)
80. Encourage intra-African trade within context of international trade (134)
81. Support the proposed UNDP regional project in West Africa (136)

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Introduction

1. The Eighth FAO Regional Conference for Africa was held at Queen Elizabeth College, Rose Hill, Mauritius, from 1 to 17 August 1974. The Plenary Session of the Conference, which was held from 12 to 17 August, was preceded by meetings of Technical Committees I and II, from 1 to 6 August and 6 to 10 August respectively.
2. Delegates from 36 Member Nations in the Region, as well as Observers from Member Nations not in the Region, Permanent Observers of the Holy See, Representatives of the United Nations and Specialized Agencies and Observers from Intergovernmental Organizations attended the Conference. A full list of participants is contained in Appendix B of this report.
3. A complete list of documents prepared for the Conference is contained in Appendix C.
4. After welcoming the delegates and thanking the Government of Mauritius for its hospitality and the facilities laid down for the smooth running of the Conference, the Director-General invited the Acting Prime Minister to address the Eighth FAO Regional Conference for Africa.
5. The Acting Prime Minister of Mauritius, Hon. Mr. Veerasamy Ringadoo welcomed the delegates to the Plenary Session of the Eighth FAO Regional Conference for Africa. He expressed satisfaction that it had been possible to invite the newly independent country of Guinea Bissau as a full member of this Conference and called upon FAO to provide greater assistance to people still fighting for their independence. He then enumerated some of the major problems of agricultural development facing all African countries. Among these were: the increasing cost of production of agricultural commodities following the energy crisis; trade protectionism followed by some developed countries and the difficulties faced by African countries in gaining access to these markets and the deteriorating terms of trade and the widening gap between prices of manufactured goods on the one hand, the prices of raw products on the other. He then called upon FAO, in cooperation with other international agencies, to work out appropriate and practical measures for concerted action. Finally, he stressed the importance of self-reliance and regional consultation and then officially declared open the Plenary Session of the Conference.
6. The Hon. Mr. Satoam Boolell, Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment of Mauritius, was elected by acclaim as the Chairman of the Plenary Session. In a brief statement of acceptance, he cordially welcomed the delegates and then proceeded to summarize some of the major issues of common concern to agricultural development in Africa. In particular, he referred to the need for increasing crop yields, assuring the availability of fertilizers and other inputs, making optimum use of available water supplies, reviewing livestock development policies and fully exploiting fishery resources. He called for greater regional cooperation and appealed for international action for price stabilization and for measures to assure Africa of a greater share in world trade. He then outlined the current food and agriculture situation in Mauritius and described the policies of the Government aimed at increasing employment and income.
7. The Hon. Mr. Mamadou Amadou Diop, Minister of Rural Development of Mauritania, the Hon. Mr. J.J.M. Nyagah, Minister of Agriculture of Kenya and the Hon. Mr. Sidy Coulibaly, Minister of Production of Mali were then unanimously elected as first, second and third Vice-Chairmen respectively.

Adoption of the Agenda

8. The provisional agenda presented in ARC/74/1 was considered and it was agreed to take up items 10, 11, 12 and 13 in Committee I, and items 14, 15, 16 and 17 in Committee II (See Appendix A).

9. At the suggestion of the Chairman, the draft agenda was modified to include statements by the Secretary General of the World Food Conference, the Independent Chairman of the FAO Council, the Executive Director of the World Food Programme and an item on the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order. The agenda, which was then unanimously adopted by the Conference, appears in Appendix A.

SITUATION AND PROSPECTS OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA

Keynote Statement by the Director-General of FAO

10. Mr. A.H. Boerma, Director-General, in his opening address thanked the Government of Mauritius for the excellent arrangements made for the holding of the Conference. He welcomed the delegates from the Republic of Guinea Bissau, the latest African country to join FAO and he expressed pleasure in having, for the first time, the presence of Observers from the Liberation Movements recognized by the Organization of the African Unity.

11. In reviewing the recent changes on the world agricultural front, the Director-General indicated that the situation was still uncertain due to continued unfavourable weather in many parts of the world. Problems of increasing agricultural production had been compounded by the world shortage of fertilizers and pesticides together with rising costs of production. Dramatic increases in prices of food commodities coupled with existing balance of payment difficulties experienced by most developing countries, had severely reduced their import capacities at a time when various food aid programmes were also being curtailed. At the same time the demand for food was increasing as a result of population growth.

12. Pointing out that, despite technological progress in many areas, the large majority of the world's farmers remained at the mercy of the vagaries of weather, the Director-General expressed doubt if the 1974-75 harvest would replenish the run-down stocks of cereals which were below the minimum level considered necessary for world food security. He warned that a very serious situation could arise in case of a widespread crop failure in one of the world's major producing areas in 1974-75.

13. Problems of fertilizer production and distribution were then examined by the Director-General who referred to the Special Session of the General Assembly and of ECOSOC which requested FAO to draw up an emergency plan of operations for increasing the supply of fertilizers to developing countries. Following the Special Session of the FAO Council, an International Fertilizer Supply Scheme was launched under which FAO would act as a clearing house endeavouring to match fertilizer supplies with fertilizer deficits and with finance. As a basic target for the Scheme the Director-General proposed that no developing country should have, in 1974-75, a lower aggregate supply of fertilizers than it did in 1973-74 and that an increment of at least 12% should be achieved wherever possible. The Director-General informed the Conference of the establishment of a fertilizer pool, which was multilateral in character, consisting of voluntary contributions to FAO in fertilizers or in cash.

14. Pesticide production, according to the Director-General, was currently static if not actually declining largely related to the environmental restrictions and standards introduced in developed countries. Taking into account the increasing world-wide demand for pesticides, major difficulties are expected to arise when the present inventories are exhausted. To meet this situation of drastic shortage the Director-General called for an allocation system designed to ensure equitable distribution of available supplies.

15. The Director-General then referred to the coming World Food Conference to be held in Rome in November 1974 under United Nations auspices and hoped for political support for a World Food Policy. The first element of this Policy was the concept of minimum world food security based on a co-ordinated system of national policies for holding reserve stocks of cereals in both developed and developing countries. Other vital elements were: international understanding on price stabilization; expanded markets for developing countries and international agricultural adjustments; more rational and systematic longer-term food aid policies; an improved food information and outlook system and, above all, a massive drive to increase agricultural production in developing countries. The implementation of such a Policy, according to the Director-General, required a vastly increased investment of resources by both developing and developed countries and meant a commitment to provide the resources needed through domestic investment and foreign aid.

16. Turning to the African Region, the Director-General referred to the setback in agricultural development due to drought in certain areas, particularly in the Sahelian Zone and mentioned the relief operations of the United Nations system under which supplies had so far got through to most people in the stricken areas. He pointed out the need to restore the economies of the countries concerned and called for continued and more vigorous assistance by richer countries.

17. In view of the predominance of subsistence farming in African agriculture, the Director-General pointed out the need to direct the main efforts of agricultural development to the small farmer and the poorest people in rural societies generally. In this connection he called for a strategy of integrated rural development based on a variety of factors such as improvement in physical health, better nutrition policies, more education and training, development of roads and adequate rural water supplies, better income distribution, viable credit system, wider extension facilities and improved rural institutions.

18. The Director-General then summarized the action taken on the main recommendations of the last Regional Conference. Multi-disciplinary approach had been adopted on the selected ten problem areas and the work of Headquarters, Regional Offices and Country Representatives was integrated, so as to work as one in policy-making, planning, programming and determining of priorities. Referring to FAO's very extensive field activities in the Africa Region, the Director-General indicated that UNDP allocation to the region for 1977-81 was expected to go up by about 50 percent. In order to assist countries in the development of new projects, Country Perspective Studies were being undertaken and an Agricultural Operations Division was created to improve the delivery of field projects. There was a substantial growth in the FAO/Government Cooperative Programme financed from "multi-bi" sources as well as in the FFHC/Action for Development programmes. Special mention was made of the large number of regional and sub-regional projects. In cooperation with the African Development Bank and the World Bank Group, FAO's field activities in many cases had led to substantial investment in rural development of small farms, irrigation networks, animal production, rice production and forestry. Mention was also made of the opportunities under the FAO/Industry Cooperative Programme through which various multi-national enterprises are prepared to assist in the development of agro-based industries.

19. In conclusion the Director-General expressed his appreciation for the close relations which existed between FAO and other organizations inside and outside the United Nations system. Indicating that this was the last Conference he would be attending as Director-General, Mr. Boerma praised the courage, sincerity, human warmth and spontaneous gaiety of African people and wished them all success in their work ahead.

Statement by the Secretary-General of the World Food Conference

20. Dr. Sayed Marei, Secretary-General of the World Food Conference, briefly outlined the preparations being made by the United Nations-sponsored World Food Conference to be convened in Rome in November 1974. He called upon African countries to increase their food production and maintain a sustained rate of growth. He pointed at the urgency of a programme of priorities for making an immediate impact on the food situation by concentrating on some key ingredients such as increasing agricultural inputs; strengthening adaptive research and exchange of information on agricultural technology; undertaking integrated rural development by mobilizing farmers and increasing investment of resources in accelerated food production drives. A World Food Policy was needed for both developing as well as for developed countries. Special attention needed to be given to the least developed countries. The Secretary-General then summarized the important elements of a world food security programme as: establishment of food information and early warning system; co-ordinated system of stock policies; better arrangement for meeting food requirements and reorganization of food aid as a form of assistance. Speaking of the particular situation in Africa, Dr. Marei emphasized the need for allocating more land to cereal production by clearing fertile land now lying unused. In conclusion he appealed to African countries to give serious consideration to the issues before the World Food Conference and to ensure that they be represented by ministers with plenipotentiary powers.

Statement by the Administrative Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity

21. Speaking on behalf of the Administrative Secretary General, Mr. Mohamed Hanif Rajabally, Director of Health Division and Acting Head of the Scientific and Cultural Department of the OAU, extended a special welcome to the representatives of the African Liberation Movements who were attending the FAO Regional Conference for the first time and called upon FAO to provide speedy and massive assistance to the liberated areas. Recalling the importance that the OAU charter placed on cooperative efforts to achieve a better life for the peoples of Africa, he made a mention of a number of activities undertaken jointly with FAO in the fields of animal health, crop productivity, forestry, water resources, etc... Special mention was made of the work of the Joint OAU/FAO/WHO Regional Food and Nutrition Commission for Africa. On the subject of the drought, he paid tribute to all countries which had provided such generous assistance and called upon African countries to review their agricultural policies to avert the recurrence of such disasters in the future. He underlined the importance of the various items on the agenda of the Conference and stressed the importance of the role of FAO. In conclusion, he called upon Africans to be masters of their own destiny and work together for the socio-economic development of the continent and for enhancing the quality of life of its people.

Statement by the Independent Chairman of the FAO Council

22. Mr. G. Bula-Hoyos, in a brief statement, drew the attention of the Conference to the great efforts made by FAO in co-ordinating international aid to the drought-stricken countries of Africa and emphasized the importance of formulating a long-term action programme for bettering the conditions of living of people in that region. Referring to the challenges to be met, he called upon FAO to re-orientate its policy to be in line with recent developments and bring into the organization new men with new ideas. In particular, he proposed that FAO Country Representatives be appointed under FAO Regular Programme and that a beginning be made with the 1976-77 programme of work and budget. In conclusion, he underlined the importance of the coming World Food Conference and urged Member countries to define concrete policy and priority action programmes that they wish FAO to pursue in the Region.

Statement by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa

23. The Executive Secretary of ECA, Mr. R.K.A. Gardiner reviewed the close cooperation that had always been maintained between ECA and FAO through the Joint ECA/FAO Agriculture Division for the promotion of agricultural development in Africa. He indicated that he was looking forward to seeing the recommendations of this Conference so that they may be taken into account in formulating the future work programme of ECA in the field of agriculture.

24. Describing the current agricultural situation in Africa as characterized by acute food shortages and large price increases in food and food products, he called for a review of production and distribution systems and for linkage between developments in urban and rural areas. Referring to the price disparities between agricultural products and imported manufactured goods, the Executive Secretary pointed out that similar disparities existed between earnings of the urban worker and the peasant farmer, which contributed to the exodus from rural areas. Recent increases in world market prices of agricultural commodities had not been adequately reflected in the earnings of African peasants and this called for appropriate price stabilization and price support measures as incentives to farmers. It was necessary not only to increase the power to produce but also to increase the power to buy the production of others.

25. The Executive Secretary underlined the importance of research in agricultural modernization and called upon African countries to link up national research centres working in the same fields so that they may develop into principal research organizations.

26. Finally he expressed appreciation for the emergency aid provided by member states of the United Nations and donor organizations to the drought-stricken areas of the Sahelian Zone and Ethiopia and concluded that the drought had pointed out the need for increased food production and stock-piling of reserves. He called upon the Conference to undertake long-term measures for systematic management and conservation of natural resources and to formulate an African Plan to deal with shortages and emergencies.

Statement by the Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa

27. The Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative, Mr. Moïse C. Menssh, in introducing the background document ARC/74/2 reviewed the state of food and agriculture in the African Region and analyzed the performance of the agricultural sector in the biennium 1972/73.

28. He described the activities of FAO in Africa during 1972-74 under various regional problem areas which were identified by the previous Regional Conference. These were: (1) Policy formulation and planning; (2) Environment and conservation of natural resources; (3) Institutions and services for rural life improvement; (4) Education, training and dissemination of information; (5) Crop production and agricultural diversification; (6) Livestock production and industry; (7) Fisheries and fishery industries; (8) Forestry, forest industries and wildlife management and (9) National research programmes and services. He also described the programme of activities of the ECA/FAO Joint Agriculture Division.

29. Emergency relief operations in the Sudano-Sahelian West-African countries and in Ethiopia, coordinated by FAO on behalf of the entire UN System, were then reviewed and a brief report given on FAO activities concerning decolonization.

30. In conclusion the Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative invited the Conference to guide the future course of FAO in the Region and to identify areas of concentration, for the ensuing biennium, on a strictly priority basis.

Statement by the Executive Director of the World Food Programme

31. Mr. Francisco Aquino, Executive Director, briefly outlined the recent activities of WFP which had been heavily concentrated on different projects in Africa. Spiraling world market prices and shortage of food commodities had restricted the approval of new projects. In spite of this WFP was able to provide substantial aid to the drought stricken countries of Sahel and to Ethiopia. The nature of assistance had now shifted from outside aid to projects promoting rehabilitation and reconstruction. Food aid had also been provided to the newly liberated areas of Mozambique and Angola in addition to the help previously given to the refugees from these countries. As for the future size and scope of WFP operations, the Executive Director indicated that this would depend largely on the use developed countries were willing to make of multilateral channels for food aid. Subject to the availability of resources he anticipated that WFP will have a significant role to play including that of assisting countries in building up their food stock as a part of FAO's food security programme. In conclusion he expressed the hope that WFP will play an increasing role in the social and economic development of Africa.

Statements by countries

32. In their policy statements to the Plenary Session of the Conference delegates reviewed the precarious food situation in the world in general and in Africa in particular. They expressed concern for the plight of developing countries whose economies were subjected to heavy pressure and to the low prices of agricultural raw materials they exported and the rising costs of food commodities and of manufactured products which they had to import. The paramount importance of increasing domestic food production in Africa was stressed by all delegates and, underlining the principle of self-reliance, they called for greater production of all those commodities which could be provided economically within the Region. What was needed was a political will on the part of all governments to formulate and implement a co-ordinated production policy in the overall interest of the whole Region.

33. Injection of modern technology for raising crop productivity was considered to be an essential element in national strategy for agricultural development in different countries. Apart from greater spread of high-yielding varieties and making more efficient use of available water resources, other agricultural inputs needed to be stepped up to modernize the subsistence agricultural sector. In this connection, serious concern was expressed for the spiraling cost and restricted availability of chemical fertilizers. Support was expressed widely for FAO's proposal for an International Fertiliser Scheme and delegates hoped that developed countries would support the operation of the scheme fully so as to enable developing countries to meet their requirements of fertilizers at economic prices.

34. The need for large scale financial assistance was brought out by several delegates who suggested that international lending institutions simplify their requirements and procedures for considering and approving loan applications and that they provide loans on soft terms with low interest rates and easy terms of repayment so as not overburden the repayment debts of developing countries. The Director-General was requested to enter into the necessary consultations with lending institutions for this purpose.

35. Recognizing that the production of basic food commodities in the Region still depended very largely on the vagaries of the weather, delegates reiterated the importance of building up national and regional food stocks and therefore endorsed the Director-General's proposal for a world food security programme which should cover not only cereals but also other food commodities. The desirability of reducing losses and wastages in food production and the importance of developing suitable food preservation and storage techniques at all levels was therefore reiterated.

36. Optimum utilization of existing food resources including fuller exploitation of marine and inland fisheries resources requiring cooperation between neighbouring countries, was underlined by many delegates. Similar action was required for the protection of available resources through appropriate measures for soil conservation and reforestation programmes. Appropriate pollution control measures also needed to be instituted for the protection of the environment.

37. The vital importance and timeliness of the World Food Conference, to be held in Rome in November 1974, was pointed out by all delegates and they expressed the hope that a practical international strategy would be worked out to promote increased food production, ensure the availability of various agricultural inputs to developing countries and mobilize international assistance for this purpose. All countries expressed their intention of being represented at this Conference at the highest professional and technical level.

38. While emphasizing the importance of increasing food production in Africa, many countries stressed the desirability of promoting the growth of cash crops both for meeting the requirements of their domestic industries and for enlarging exports to earn more foreign exchange. Diversification in the cultivation of cash crops was being undertaken in many countries in order to reduce their dependence on very few export commodities, the prices for which were subject to large and sudden fluctuations.

39. An interplay of several economic factors including the monetary instability, energy crisis and world-wide inflation had hindered the efforts of many countries in achieving greater prosperity for their population. Greater cooperation between African countries and promotion of intra-regional trade in agricultural products was therefore considered to be essential. Efforts also needed to be made to facilitate trade and removal of trade barriers.

40. Development of agriculture was being given very high priority in the national development plans of most African countries, and a very high percentage of national budgets was being devoted to this important sector. Integrated rural development programmes and projects for the development of marginal areas were being undertaken in different parts of Africa with a view to promoting the transition of subsistence farming to commercial forms of agriculture. Cooperative farms and group farms were being set up in some countries particularly for facilitating the efficient use of farm mechanization. Agricultural machinery centres, tractor-hire services and appropriate repair facilities were being operated in rural areas. Establishment of remunerative guaranteed prices was being increasingly resorted to for providing the necessary incentive to producers. Improvement of infrastructure and increase in the provision of supporting services for extension, marketing and credit in rural areas was being undertaken in all countries. Support was being given to the establishment of agro-industries for processing of food and other commodities with a view to raising farm incomes and increasing rural employment. Development of marine and fresh water fisheries had also received the priority attention of many countries for the improvement of management techniques, promotion of commercial fish farming and for better preservation, processing and marketing of fish and fish products. Efforts being made for livestock development and improvement of forestry resources were also described by many delegates.

41. The need for accelerating training programmes at all levels was stressed by several delegates. Research activities also needed to be strengthened to adapt modern agricultural practices to the conditions prevailing in African countries. Mention was also made of the desirability of setting up a regional agro-meteorological centre and of making greater use of remote sensing techniques.

42. Technical assistance provided by FAO/UNDP for carrying out feasibility studies, attracting foreign investment, strengthening research activities, introducing new agricultural technologies and training of personnel was appreciated by all countries. A special mention was made of FAO's co-ordinating role in the supply of emergency relief assistance to the drought-stricken areas of the Sahelian zone and other drought affected areas. A most heartwarming feature of the drought relief operations was that food assistance had also been provided by a number of developing countries in Africa itself. Food aid provided by WFP not only to meet emergency needs but also to undertake rehabilitation and development projects, was also greatly appreciated. Some delegates suggested that the scope of WFP assistance be enlarged to cover the provision not only of food but also of agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, livestock, agricultural machinery, etc...

43. Admission of the newly independent Republic of Guinea-Bissau as a full member of FAO and the presence at the Conference of the representatives of various liberation movements, recognized by OAU, was warmly referred to by all delegates and they expressed the hope that these movements would be able to take their place as full members at the next FAO Regional Conference. Representatives of the liberation movements made statements expressing their appreciation for the assistance received from other countries and they thanked FAO and WFP for their help.

44. Several delegates referred to Resolution I of the Seventh FAO Regional Conference which had requested the Director-General to recruit more Africans in FAO at all levels. They felt that this resolution had not been implemented fully and they urged the Director-General to renew his effort to increase the number of African staff particularly at higher levels at Headquarters.

Concluding Statement by the Director-General

45. In his concluding statement the Director-General thanked the delegates for their distinguished contributions to the Conference deliberations. While indicating that, owing to financial limitations, it had not been possible fully to implement all the recommendations of the previous Regional Conference, he assured them that their recommendations would, as previously, be fully taken into account in formulating the next programme of work and budget.

46. On the subject of strengthening of Regional Office, the Director-General explained that under the unified programme concept, the Assistant Director-General/Regional Representative for Africa at all stages now had a real and effective voice in, and responsibility for, policy and programme formulation, and the implementation of programme elements. All staff contributed to this, wherever located.

47. The Director-General fully appreciated the desire of African countries to see greater African representation on the staff of FAO at different levels. In this connection he drew the attention of the Conference to the requirements for Regular Programme appointments, which stipulated, inter alia, that the number of staff should be in proportion to contributions to the RP budget of the Organization. On this basis, the African region as a whole was in fact over-represented, although many African countries were not represented at all. In addition, there were a number of Africans working in FAO but occupying posts charged to other programmes, notably the UNDP. Among the latter were a number of SAA/Country Representatives. The Director-General recognized the feeling of the Conference concerning senior positions and, in this connection, referred to the efforts he had in fact made in the past and to certain new appointments of Africans to senior posts. He would continue to do his best to meet all the various requirements involved in this complex and difficult problem.

48. The Director-General was grateful for the support he had received for the proposed world food security programme and the International fertilizer scheme. He stressed the importance of the World Food Conference as a forum for political discussions as the problems of food and agriculture were not only technical but also political. He recognized the need to strengthen assistance to the various OAU recognized Liberation Movements and indicated his plans for establishing direct contacts with them.

49. Finally, the Director-General welcomed the desire of the Conference to maintain continuing contact with FAO with regard to the implementation of its recommendations, but expressed doubt concerning the usefulness of any ad-hoc committee for this purpose, in view of the responsibilities of the FAO Council, on which there was an adequate African representation.

World Food Programme

50. The Conference examined Document ARC/74/3 which gave a brief summary of the activities of the World Food Programme in Africa. It was felt that a more comprehensive document giving information on the world-wide activities of the World Food Programme would have been more useful as it would have enabled the Conference to compare the share of World Food Programme activities in Africa in relation to the activities in other regions of the world. More information was also needed in relation to the details of the World Food Programme's internal activities especially in relation to the cost of administering assistance as related to the value of food aid provided.

51. The Conference was informed that the resource position of WFP had improved over the difficult year of 1973 but still it was far from being satisfactory in relation to demand and projects in pipeline. A target of \$440 million was pledged for 1975/76 and about 80 percent of this had already been achieved. The Conference welcomed the news that project agreement for WFP aid had recently been concluded with the Republic of Guinea Bissau, Angola and Mozambique for a total value of \$4.5 million.

52. Stress was laid on the desirability of the World Food Programme concentrating its activities on the promotion of food production in order to assist the efforts of African countries in achieving a greater degree of self-sufficiency. In this effort countries had a great need for assistance in the form of various agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, seeds, animal feed, transport facilities, etc. While noting that the present regulations of the World Food Programme did not permit it to provide such assistance, the Conference suggested that the World Food Programme re-examine its statutes so as to be able to provide assistance of this kind. The Conference was informed of the establishment of a "Non-Food Items" unit at World Food Programme headquarters which approached possible donors to meet the needs of requesting countries.

53. As food aid was mainly to be provided to promote agricultural production, the Conference underlined that WFP assistance should not be on a continuing basis. The possible depressing effect on the prices of commodities provided as aid by WFP had to be seriously considered and safeguards undertaken to avoid such effects.

54. With regard to the emergency operations of WFP, some delegates felt that the amount of ten million dollars per year set aside for this purpose at the present moment was not adequate and that a higher amount was necessary.

SECTORS OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION

A. REGIONAL ACTION IN PROGRESS

Some Aspects of Fishery Development in Africa

55. The Conference reviewed Document ARC/74/4 which indicated that fishery resources, taking the continent as a whole, were sufficient to meet the future demand in all African countries for the coming years. However, the full exploitation of these resources required further improvement in fishing methods, in the processing of the catch and in the marketing of fishery products.

56. Attention was drawn to the need for concerted action as regards resource exploitation and management between countries fishing the same stocks in the sea, the major lakes and rivers. Progress made by the Indian Ocean Programme and the Committee for Inland Fisheries for Africa was noted and it was recommended that additional emphasis be placed on the waters of east African region particularly the coral islands. A project for the Development of Fisheries in the Eastern Central Atlantic had now been set up. A number of fish stocks were now fully exploited and this called for the limitation of fishing effort in many cases in order to prevent depletion and to ensure adequate economic returns.

57. Because of the mismatch between the geographical distribution of marine fishery resources and markets, it was essential that countries should harmonize their policies for development of fishery potential, fishery management and marketing and in particular cooperate in granting of reciprocal fishing rights while safeguarding the interests of all concerned.

58. The shortage of competent staff and finances at the national level in all fields of fisheries and fish breeding constituted a major obstacle in the way of a fuller African participation in resource utilization and exploitation. The Conference accordingly called for a strengthening of efforts in education and training at all levels and in all sectors. This was all the more vital in view of developments currently taking place in the law of the sea, whereby coastal states were expected to assume and share larger responsibilities in the assessment and management of stocks. It therefore requested FAO to strengthen its programme for the award of fellowships, organization of training centres and provision of technical assistance to national and sub-regional institutions. In particular it expressed the hope that the seminar on Fish Processing, which was to have been held in Uganda, could take place soon.

59. The Conference also drew attention to the importance of statistics in fisheries planning and management. In view of the inadequate supply of animal protein-rich food, the Conference suggested that fisheries statistics in future should show the fish requirements of the African region in order to gauge the performance of the region in its endeavour to bridge the protein gap. In almost all sectors, statistics were insufficient, therefore special efforts were required to improve the collection of fishery statistics. The Conference appreciated the efforts made by FAO in this field, and recommended that fishery statisticians be appointed where needed and training centres be organized.

60. Many African countries still lacked financial and technical means for full exploitation of sea fisheries resources. They could benefit from establishment of joint ventures between countries with resources, technical know-how and/or markets could often be advantageous. Such formulas could equally well apply to land-locked countries and would permit them to have access to marine resources not otherwise available to them. FAO was requested to give assistance to African countries in working out collaboration arrangements of this kind, by disseminating technical documentation on the subject and providing technical advice in drafting or revising such agreements.

61. The development of African fisheries was in large measure linked up with the strengthening and reform of intra-regional trade involving the flow of commodities from the areas of production to the areas of consumption. The Conference acknowledged the work done by FAO here and urged the governments concerned to make their own efforts in that direction through bilateral agreements, alignment of customs systems, etc. It recommended that FAO undertake studies with a view to promoting intra-regional trade.

62. Mention was made of the obstacles that stood in the way of marketing of fishery products - inadequate road systems, and insufficient facilities for preservation. The Conference recognized the need to overcome these shortcomings in the distribution network and to ensure that processing and distribution costs were within the means of the broad mass of consumers. It further emphasized the beneficial effects of integrated development programmes (credit, transport, provision of technical guidance) in the promotion of artisanal fisheries.

63. The Conference expressed the urgency to develop artisanal fishing to more efficient forms and requested FAO to support the efforts of governments in this direction. Accordingly, a number of proposals were made - development of planked craft not subject to the limitations of canoe-type boats yet retaining the advantages of the latter, mechanization of credit facilities and improved infrastructure in general. The Conference hoped that FAO might strengthen the assistance already being provided to governments in fish preservation, processing and marketing.

64. On the question of inland fisheries, several delegates mentioned the conflicting demand for the use of the water systems for other purposes, e.g. irrigation and industrial needs. This called for a careful economic analysis of the respective advantages and disadvantages of the various development schemes.

65. The immediate and long-term effects of the current drought on fishery resources were also discussed. The gradual diminution of bodies of water had very serious consequences on

the reproduction and growth of fish. The Conference recognized that special measures would be required even after the flow of the rivers had returned to normal.

66. The Conference considered the prospects opened up by aquaculture and looked forward to publication by FAO, in the near future, of statistics on the contribution made by this sector to current production and possible future development. In view of the good results obtained so far in experimental terms, it was a matter of urgency that the obstacles still hampering the general adoption of commercial aquaculture should be eliminated. For this purpose, suitable and cheap artificial feed should be developed, population of fish farms should be regulated, and cost/benefit studies should be carried out. FAO was accordingly requested to provide assistance in these fields particularly in the provision of equipment to establish fish farms.

67. The Conference was aware of the danger to fisheries constituted by pollution. Although the effects of pollution were so far reasonably limited, it urged governments to ensure that quality of water be maintained, and requested that standards and methods of control be developed by FAO. The Conference requested the assistance of FAO in the establishment of regional laboratories and sub-stations for pollution monitoring in Africa. In this connection, the delegate of Kenya offered to host a laboratory for monitoring marine pollution for East Africa at Mombasa.

Food and Agricultural Products Processing in Africa

68. The Conference expressed its appreciation of the analysis of the situation of food and agricultural products processing in Africa prepared by FAO (ARC/74/5). It recognized the significant role that agro-allied industries based on processing and preservation of agricultural commodities can play in extending the markets for farmers' products, in promoting industrialization and in the creation of employment opportunities.

69. While some countries in the region had made progress in adding value to their raw material exports by undertaking the first stages of processing, many others still exported mainly raw materials and met their own needs for processed foods through imports. The substantial number of enterprises processing mainly imported materials was often associated with the trading interests of firms located in former metropolitan countries. Countries were urged to encourage greater use of locally available raw material in processing industries.

70. The difficulties being faced by African countries wanting to build up their own processing industries - limited markets, lags in production of raw materials for processing plants with the needed regularity of supply, quality and cost, and installation of over-elaborate or unsuitable equipment - were fully noted by the Conference. Domestic markets were often very limited and purchasing powers were low. In this respect the Conference underlined the importance of regional cooperation and trade agreements between neighbouring countries, and adequate sales promotion for meaningful planning of processing industries to serve larger markets and thus make these industries more viable. Needs and preferences of consumers had to be taken into account and the importance of undertaking thorough market studies to obtain realistic assessments of demand was stressed. FAO was requested to promote, through the FAO/ECA Consultative Group for the development of agro-allied and food industries in Africa, and other appropriate means, regional market studies to assess changing demands for processed agricultural products in different African countries, and inter-government cooperation for the establishment of agricultural products processing plants, serving markets on a sub-regional basis where this appeared advantageous.

71. Under-utilization of production capacity in processing plants increased the cost of the final product and rendered it less competitive with alternative sources of supply and could result in reduced domestic demand. Careful planning of plant capacity was therefore considered to be essential to maximize the use of machinery and thus keep down costs. Where governments preferred to install plants with larger capacity than justified by present demands, with the intention of avoiding larger expansion costs later, it was necessary to recognize that subsidies might be required to keep the plants viable.

72. Difficulties and delays involved in obtaining required spare parts and equipment were also mentioned and it was felt that the ultimate solution lay in the ability of African countries to produce domestically those parts which most frequently needed replacement.

73. The necessity to ensure a steady flow of raw materials to the processing plants at all times posed another difficulty. Production of some crops was often seasonal and there were problems in transporting raw materials over large distances. Crop delivery contracts and guaranteed prices were considered to be useful, but the need to ensure adequate incentive and economic returns to the producer was pointed out. Direct production of part of the needed supplies by the processing enterprise itself could help ensure continuity of suitable supplies but this would not benefit the general body of farmers unless adequate arrangements were also made for them to participate and eventually increase their share.

74. Introduction of new plant varieties suited for use in processing plants was often necessary. Generally a close integration between the processing enterprise and the services supporting production by the farmer—supplies - extension, credit, provision of seed, fertilizers and pest control materials was needed. It was up to governments to ensure that the maximum support was forthcoming from such services to processing enterprises initiated in the national interest. Government services dealing with production, processing and marketing in some countries were attached to different ministries and agencies. Suitable coordination in such cases was considered to be essential for the successful planning and implementation of agricultural processing projects.

75. With regard to technology, it was often desirable to take account of existing traditions and customs and introduce easily adaptable techniques to increase output and expand operations to meet growing local demands. For some new processing requirements it was best to apply technology proved to be efficient elsewhere and for which mass-produced equipment, which can be installed unaltered, was available, such as fruit juice concentrators, wheat mills, vegetable canneries, modern bakery ovens, sugar mills, etc. For other situations, new African technologies were being devised to handle specific raw materials, such as production of coconut oil and high-protein oil-cake, directly from fresh coconuts, date syrup, sisal waste and, of course, the industrial processing of African millets and sorghum worked out in Niger and Senegal, and the making of products such as bread, alimentary pastes, biscuits, baby foods and couscous out of the flour.

76. The Conference recognized the role of transfer of technology and promotion of exchange of information. It expressed appreciation to FAO for the preparation of numerous technical bulletins and requested it to continue and strengthen its dissemination of information and experience on food and agricultural products processing including notes on the applications, costs and benefits of different sizes and types of processing equipment.

77. To ensure the effective application of these technologies the Conference stressed the urgent need for training of additional personnel to operate processing equipment and manage processing enterprises. It underlined the importance of strengthening national research facilities to adapt known technology to local requirements and requested FAO to continue and expand its programme of assistance in setting up national facilities for the training of personnel and carrying out of technological and marketing research. The Conference also requested FAO to make a study in depth of the growth of agricultural processing in African countries, drawing out trends and conclusions that would be helpful to governments in planning future development.

78. Lack of finance was very often a major difficulty faced by many African countries in establishing processing plants. Suitable collaboration with international firms often facilitated access to finance and, with it, technical know-how, management expertise and established outlets. The role of FAO/Industry Cooperative Programme in this matter was recognized and welcomed, but some countries expressed preference for obtaining financial and technical help from multilateral sources.

79. Finally the Conference, in urging member countries to promote the establishment of appropriate agricultural processing enterprises, warned against going into prestige industries or show-window plants as what was needed was economically viable enterprises. It called upon countries to do, as far as possible, without imported processed products and, at the same time, pay greater attention to home processing and preservation.

Medium and Long-term Strategies for the Development of Marginal Areas in Africa

80. The Conference examined document ARC/74/6 which dealt with strategies for the utilization of all available resources for the economic and social advancement of marginal areas. Particular stress was laid on the urgent need to arrest on-going, and avert further, degradation of productive lands and their eventual loss and to promote the participation of the people living on marginal lands in development planning and in implementing action programmes in their areas. The main elements for a development strategy were discussed taking into consideration the economic and social conditions involved.

81. It was appropriate to consider not only marginal lands in the arid and semi-arid areas, but also land which for physical, geographical and ecological reasons had been less favoured with development potentialities. Marginalization could be the result of misuse and generally in such cases it was a reversible process. However, in a number of cases the process reached such proportions that the return of the land to productivity was not possible at least in the immediate future. Many marginal lands, though, which were not fit for agriculture or other related activities could become productive and be integrated in the national economies when other potentials were developed, such as tourism, mining and artisanal activities.

82. The Conference emphasized that strategies for the development of marginal areas had to be based on an intimate knowledge of all factors involved. For that purpose priority consideration needed to be given to systematic investigations and multi-disciplinary research programmes, for the development of these areas and for prevention of land degradation and soil erosion. FAO was requested in cooperation with other relevant agencies to assist member governments in this field both at the regional and national levels by establishing documentation centres where relevant information could be easily exchanged. Governments, on the other hand, were urged to provide adequate resources and finance to help support existing African research institutions and ensure suitable coordination to speed up results and avoid duplication of effort. The Conference recognized that these activities required large resources, both human and financial, and felt that considerable advantages could be derived from the use of advanced technology such as remote sensing, which could often reduce the cost of undertaking basic investigations and save much precious time. The observer from USA informed the Conference that information collected by them so far could be made available to requesting countries. FAO's assistance was requested to set up a regional pilot project for demonstrating this new technique and for training personnel in analysis and interpretation of satellite imagery. In this connection the delegate from Sudan offered to host this pilot project.

83. The Conference recommended that particular attention be given to both surface and underground water resources as lack of water was often one of the main problems in marginal areas. Identification of the size and location of this vital element in conjunction with the necessary investigation of land capability determined the broad basis for efficient land use. Measures for storing and conservation of water deserved increased attention by governments. Irrigation potentials had to be systematically investigated and put to use as soon as possible. The Conference emphasized that land and water resources affected not only individual nations but the whole region. There was therefore a strong need for regional cooperation and co-ordination and FAO's assistance was requested in this field.

84. The Conference recognized that large tracks of land were marginal due to the lack of essential infrastructure services and the necessary communications. This was in many instances an inherited situation from the colonial era which member governments should endeavour to rectify. Another factor was the prevalence of customary land tenure which although suitable and adapted to the balanced ecological situation in the past, was not conducive, in the present conditions, to proper and improve land use. Similarly the social structures which prevailed in these areas had a negative impact on development particularly on attitudes regarding for example ownership of stock based on the social structure and hierarchy. Governments were therefore urged to encourage to change these social aspects and structures so as to enhance access of the majority of the people in the marginal areas to resources. The need and importance of political decisions involved was recognized and governments were urged to follow these with concrete action programmes both at national levels as well as in cooperation and co-ordination at the regional level to promote self-reliance and solidarity.

85. The role of external emergency assistance in saving large numbers of the inhabitants of the Sahelian and other drought-affected zones, was recognized and appreciated. The Conference, however, reiterated that food aid was not a substitute to development. Examples of areas in similar ecological conditions in developed countries which were no longer marginal were cited in support of the argument. Governments were therefore urged to maximize the use of local resources both in finance and in technical know-how. FAO could help in training technicians on the use of local resources to improve present agricultural and animal husbandry practices and to adapt new technologies.

86. The Conference recognized the need for relatively large investments to develop the marginal areas and noted that in many instances investments were not attractive due to the anticipated low economic returns. It urged governments to work out new criteria where the social returns would create the necessary justification for developing these areas, especially since it was recognized that massive transfers of the inhabitants to other areas was not acceptable socially and economically. These criteria also needed to be accepted by external aid sources and international investors and the Conference urged FAO to assist in persuading investment institutions to finance the development of marginal areas.

87. Recognizing that the problems of development of marginal areas were complex and included several factors, the Conference underlined the importance of approaching it by integrating all the multi-disciplinary activities in a single and unified programme. Moreover, in view of the regional nature of the problems involved, it called for FAO's assistance in convening an African Conference on the development of marginal areas.

The Role and Potentiality of Mechanization in Agricultural Production and Productivity in Africa

88. The Conference considered document ARC/74/7 which reviewed the present status of, and constraints on, agricultural mechanization in the African region. This document indicated various approaches to mechanization, including improvement of hand-tools, development of equipment drawn by draught animals and use of two- and four-wheel tractors.

89. Conditions of agriculture in the region varied from country to country and the Conference recognized that each country had to formulate its own mechanization policy based on its particular agricultural conditions. Development of mechanization could not be considered in isolation from other economical, technical and social problems connected with agricultural development.

90. The wider use of improved hand-tools such as, wheel seeders and weeders, sprayers etc. could, in some countries, increase substantially the productivity of manual labour. This was well adapted to farming patterns characterized by large numbers of small holdings. Development of improved hand-tools had often been neglected and FAO's help was requested in this field to bring together all available experience.

91. In some countries the more extended use of draught animals and of equipment drawn by animals represented a potential avenue for development at relatively low cost. It was however recognized that this form of mechanization had its limitations. It was most easily adopted in areas where the farmers had established traditions of livestock raising and where sufficient animals and animal feed supplies were available.

92. The use of tractors permitted, of course, the cultivation of larger areas of land in a shorter time. Two-wheel tractors requiring relatively small investment had proved to be attractive to small farmers in some other parts of the world.

93. Four wheel tractors were advantageous where the land areas to be cultivated were sufficiently large to justify the cost. They had been used effectively in some parts of Africa for many years. To serve the needs of small farmers government machinery hiring services could be established. Both these and owner operated hire services still faced difficulties in achieving an economic level of output as much time was spent in moving from one piece of land to another. Use of tractors and similar power machinery also faced difficulties in maintenance and access to spare parts. Emphasis was placed on the establishment of local repair services with readily available spare parts throughout the agricultural areas so that farmers were not obliged to travel long distances and lose time to get them.

94. There was a real need to develop low cost tractors of suitable size which African farm families could afford and operate without much difficulty. Such tractors were already being produced in some African countries. Full use needed to be made of this experience and FAO's assistance in accelerating production of suitable models was welcomed. The availability of impartial information on performances and characteristics of different types of tractors was urgently needed and FAO could play a useful role in assembling and disseminating such information.

95. The Conference stressed the need for adequate planning of mechanization programmes and establishment of necessary supporting services. FAO was invited to help governments carry out studies to determine the conditions for effective mechanization. These studies should lead up to the formulation of mechanization policies or principles in which due allowance for the relevant constraints would be made. In this connection the Conference expressed the desire that FAO prepare shortly a detailed technical document cataloguing various possible forms that mechanization might take in Africa. The study would set out the different possible alternatives, indicating the advantages of each for specific sets of conditions and constraints attaching to each.

96. The pattern of land tenure in many parts of Africa was an obstacle to the efficient use of machinery. Ways of grouping existing holdings for mechanized cultivation would be needed. Some countries were pointing the way towards this through cooperative arrangements.

97. Agricultural mechanization centres could play a valuable role in testing the suitability of various types of machinery, training national personnel in the use, maintenance and repair of agricultural machinery and in working out in conjunction with agronomic and agricultural economic services the conditions under which the application of certain types of machinery was advantageous. Some governments had already established such centres. Others sought FAO assistance in establishing such testing and training facilities. It was important that the impact of mechanization on soil structure be taken into account. Under some soil condition indiscriminate mechanized cultivation could result in rapid deterioration. As a link between the various national mechanization centres being established the Conference welcomed the proposed Agricultural Mechanization Research Organization (AMRO) and stressed the merits of establishing sub-stations in different agro-ecological zones. The Conference expressed regrets that financial support had not been found so far. It urged governments and FAO to continue efforts to attract suitable financial support.

98. The Conference recognized that the introduction of mechanization in agriculture had important implications for employment. The social effects of the use of machinery must always be taken into account. In many situations in Africa, however, mechanization was more likely to promote employment in agriculture through expanding output and farm incomes, facilitating the clearing of land, the cultivation of heavy soils and timely preparation of land for seeding. It could also reduce the drudgery in farming which was one of the reasons for people leaving agriculture for other occupations and drifting to urban areas. The Conference welcomed FAO's initiative in organizing in Rome in February 1975 an expert meeting on the employment aspects of mechanization which would include African members. The terms of reference would be to study the impact of mechanization in agriculture on production and employment. The conclusions and recommendations of this meeting would be of great interest.

B. FUTURE ORIENTATION FOR REGIONAL ACTION ON MAJOR PROBLEMS

Food Security Programme for the Region

99. The Conference had before it document ARC/74/8 which described the background to the problem of world food security and outlined the action which the Director-General had taken on the decision of the Seventeenth Session of the FAO Conference, held in November 1973, for international action involving the adoption of national stockholding policies, consultation on adequacy of stock levels, establishment of a food information system and adherence to an international undertaking and agreed that this would be reviewed if the World Food Conference, to be held in Rome in November 1974, resulted in specific international commitments on the food security problem. It limited the commodity coverage of the World Food Security Programme mainly to wheat, rice and maize.

100. Some delegates regretted that the forthcoming World Food Conference had not been included as an item on the agenda of the present conference and felt that, in the absence of proper documentation, it was not possible to discuss an African stand on the subjects to be discussed at that Conference. The delegates were informed that the World Food Conference was being convened by the United Nations and not by FAO. However, since there was a joint UN/FAO Programme for agricultural development in Africa, the Regional Conference provided an ideal forum for the African governments to discuss all aspects of the world food problem as related to the African Region.

101. The Conference emphasized that an essential element of any food security system was increasing food production. It pointed out that the main problem lay in the inability of African countries to produce more food. It therefore recommended that the highest priority be given by all countries to programmes for increasing food production. Food reserves should best be established from surplus production rather than imports. In this respect, FAO had an important role to play in providing assistance to countries in their efforts to increase food production.

102. Increased availability to farmers, of modern agricultural inputs such as improved seeds, machinery, fertilizers and pesticides, coupled with improvement of the extension, marketing and credit services, was a crucial factor in promoting productivity and increasing the production of various food commodities. The present high prices of petroleum and petroleum products had raised the cost of production of inputs and, in some instances, had made the use of fertilizers uneconomical. FAO's assistance and that of the world community as a whole was therefore required to enable African countries to obtain the necessary inputs for raising the levels of their food production. Improvement of the marketing system was particularly important for providing incentives to farmers to increase their production and this could be combined with a price stabilization scheme.

103. Along with the programmes for increasing food production, measures for improving storage and preservation facilities needed to be taken. The techniques for preserving food grains under humid tropical conditions were still to be improved and FAO was requested to continue its studies in this respect. Related to this was the question of increased processing of food products, especially those products which were better stored in a processed form.

104. The Conference fully appreciated the importance of maintaining adequate food stocks to meet possible emergencies and help in stabilizing prices. It therefore urged Member countries to give due consideration to the building up of food stocks as a measure of self-reliance in spite of present production difficulties. It expressed support for the action being taken by FAO on world food security and food reserves. It considered, however, that wheat, rice and maize were not the only basic foods in Africa and recommended that the food reserve programmes in the region should include sorghum/millet, pulses, cassava, fish, meat and milk and other products in addition to wheat, rice and maize on which international action had been proposed.

105. The Conference welcomed the agreement of IBRD and ADB to provide assistance in establishing modern food storage facilities and recommended that international aid be extended to programmes for input supply and installation of production facilities (particularly fertilizers, agricultural machinery and pesticides) and for the strengthening of agricultural marketing institutions and the improvement of transportation systems. It also recommended that this aid be given in such a form as would promote self-reliance in recipient countries.

106. It underlined the importance of reducing losses to the minimum with a view to increasing the quantities of food commodities available for consumption and storage. It also suggested that action should be taken to improve the information system on agricultural production. FAO's assistance was requested in the improvement of national agricultural statistical services. Timeliness of production estimates was particularly essential for effective planning of food distribution. In this respect, meteorological and similar data could be effectively utilized.

107. Many delegates gave an account of the action which was being taken in their countries to increase food production. All the countries were giving emphasis to the expansion of the production of food crops and the products for local industries without neglecting the traditional export crops. The action being taken included the "Operation Feed Yourself" programme in Ghana, the cooperative and pre-cooperative development programmes in Guinea and Congo, the "village productivity Committee system" in Zambia, the "accelerated food production programme" in Nigeria, the "double production strategy" in Uganda and the special food production programme in Zaïre. The general approach was the mobilization of the farmers, the provision of necessary inputs for them to increase production and the establishment of stocks.

108. The Conference welcomed the proposal of an African Food Development Plan, made by the Eleventh Session of the ECA Executive Committee. This plan is expected to indicate the basic policies to be adopted by governments for increasing food production and for establishing food reserves on a national and sub-regional basis. These basic policies might be directed primarily to developing the small farmers, with a view of upgrading their production technology and making them become commercial farmers, as well as the formulation of a price policy that would be linked to food reserves and provide the means for ensuring appropriate balance between supply, demand and stocks. This would be linked to the study of agricultural development through trade expansion and multi-national cooperation.

109. In conclusion, the Conference expressed the hope that African countries would be able to formulate appropriate programmes for effective utilization of the resources that would be made available by both FAO and the World Food Conference for increasing food production and establishing food reserves.

The State of Rural Development in Africa

110. The Conference examined the document ARC/74/9 which presented and analysed the state of rural areas in the region and efforts made for their development. Consideration was given to the options and alternatives available to governments in planning and implementing related strategies and to measures and means for integrating the larger portion of the rural population into the overall economy. The document stressed in particular the importance of popular participation and the utilization of local resources.

111. The subject was considered to involve many aspects and to be complex in nature. This was due to the relatively large number of factors which influenced the development of rural areas. On the other hand, the view was expressed that there were certain basic objectives and concepts which formed the core for a systematic approach to the problem. It was agreed that objectives would best be attained through an overall plan which would integrate the rural population in a programme involving a multi-disciplinary approach to development.

112. The Conference underlined that trade patterns which had developed in the past, the increasing need for foreign exchange and the relative shortage of resources for investment had led to the establishment of a social and economic structure with a dualistic character. The Conference recognized that the subsistence sector, which represented the majority of the rural population and was the main food producer had been largely neglected in the past. This was considered to be unfavourable for a broad-based development and called for a reorientation of strategies and priorities for development in Africa. The need for reorientation was accentuated through recent changes in the world situation, due to shortages of fuel and supply of certain industrial commodities constituting agricultural inputs, such as fertilizers and machinery. While conditions inherited from the past still required that governments maintain their present effort in the production of cash crops for export sustained endeavours needed to be made at the same time for integrating the subsistence farmers into the economy.

113. It was pointed out that in order to reach that goal it was necessary to provide for a more equitable access to resources, to reinvest the socio-economic returns from production in services and securities, to involve the rural population in decision making at different levels and to ensure the proper management of natural resources.

114. The Conference stressed that the political will was a precondition for the development of rural areas; however, political decisions had to be followed by concrete and sustained action-orientated programmes. Consideration was given to the alternative strategies in the utilization of the meagre resources available to African countries; this was either by concentrating in selected areas or by utilizing these in broad-based, overall development programmes. It was suggested that the overall objectives for rural development were, to a large extent, similar in most countries. Under this point of view it was considered that the two approaches were not mutually exclusive.

115. Governments were urged, however, to allocate as much as possible of their resources for the development of rural areas, not only to increase agricultural production but also to promote other activities such as industry, commerce and handicrafts, in order to provide greater employment opportunities. The necessary infrastructure as well as production inputs and technical services, such as extension, credit and marketing, had to be provided. Emphasis was put on the need for increased assistance in training of farmers, including women and youth.

FAO was requested to help governments in these fields. Particular attention was given to different aspects of migration problems and FAO was requested to assist in carrying out studies in order to get a better knowledge of the relevant factors and effects.

116. In order to enhance the involvement and participation of the rural population in development activities, governments were urged to encourage the formation of organizations, associations and cooperatives and assist them by providing services and training. FAO was also asked to help in these activities. The Conference recognized that, in a number of cases, changes of prevailing agrarian and institutional structures were necessary to promote overall development. This was particularly so where the pattern of land tenure prevented farmers from having access to resources and thus reduced their incentives to raise productivity.

117. The Conference stressed the need for more in-depth investigations relevant to the promotion of integrated rural development using all available services including existing local institutions. FAO was urged to assist in this field by sponsoring case studies which were action-oriented and which could help governments in designing development programmes and strategies. The lack in resources to undertake such research on a large scale was recognized. Preference at this stage needed to be given to arid and semi-arid areas.

118. Mention was also made of the various research and training activities established through external aid in the African Region, and it was considered that these could serve a useful purpose. The Conference, however, emphasized that, in view of the specific character of rural development problems, it was essential to utilize the considerable amount of expertise available in Africa itself, especially in African universities and higher schools of agronomy.

119. The proposal made by FAO to establish a regional research and training centre for rural development was noted by the Conference. However, it was clearly pointed out that the centre should function mainly as a forum for exchange of ideas and information in support of the activities of the national research institutions. This goal would be attained through the organization of consultations, seminars, training workshops, and the provision of documentation services.

Credit Institutions and their Impact on Agricultural Development in Africa

120. The Conference considered the paper ARC/74/10. Based on the information presented to the seminar on agricultural credit for countries in Africa south of the Sahara held at Accra in December 1973, it constituted a succinct review of the agricultural credit mechanisms established to date in most African countries. The analysis it provided of the strategic role of credit institutions in accelerating agricultural development and of the limitations on their present effectiveness merited the careful attention of African governments.

121. There was ample evidence of the increases in output that could result from the ready availability of credit, when farmers had been shown how to use it and there was a stable market for their products. In view of this easy and timely access to credit was considered to be essential.

122. Financial institutions adapted specifically to meeting agricultural financing requirements had been operating in a number of African countries for some years. In other countries they were in process of being established. It was recognized that if they were to serve farmers throughout a country, especially the smaller farmers, there must be network of branches within reach of every village. They could also extend their coverage of small farmers by channelling loans to them through local cooperatives. For such a credit service to be useful, however, it must be integrated with extension, input supply, and marketing systems. Failure to recognize this had been the cause of much wastage of funds in the past. Where there was doubt about the availability of such support it might be best to begin with programmes providing credit as part of an integrated package of such services in designated areas. In any event relatively large numbers of trained staff would be needed, either directly attached to the agricultural banks or associated with cooperatives and government field advisory services. The help of FAO was requested in training these staff.

123. Lack of a title to land should not be allowed to block access by farmers to institutional credit. A production orientation was essential, with ability of farmers to repay through additional output of crops and livestock the main criterion for lending. It was pointed out that farmers should be able to meet their credit needs for subsistence and social obligations from the same source as their production credit requirements. Frequent contacts

with farmers by bank or collaborating government field officers were essential to ensure that credit was properly used. Procedures for assessing management ability were useful in guiding the allocation of credit to those who could employ it to the best advantage. Insurance of crop and livestock against losses due to storms, floods, drought and disease could reduce materially the risks in lending to farmers. The Conference endorsed the FAO proposal to organise an expert consultation to assess the feasibility under varying sets of agricultural conditions of insurance arrangements to reduce credit risks.

124. The Conference discussed at length the question of what should constitute the most appropriate rate of interest but could not arrive at a consensus. It was agreed however that for short term lending it was more important to the small farmer that he be able to obtain loans quickly, without elaborate forms and procedures and with convenient conditions for repayment, than that the interest rate be very low. Generally other costs of production - labour, fertilizers, etc. - were more significant.

125. Rediscounting facilities with central banks could help expand agricultural bank lending, but often these banks were cut off from other potential sources of finance. Access to funds in the hands of commercial banks was impeded. Mobilization of capital through voluntary savings systems was also slowed down. It had been demonstrated in various countries that appropriate savings institutions and policies could attract considerable funds from domestic sources. To help ensure that they were available for agricultural lending, and to keep down overhead costs it was desirable to maintain these functions in close collaboration.

126. The existence in a country of a well managed institutional credit system was not only essential to get capital into farmers' hands, it could also be a key factor in mobilizing funds from external sources.

127. The Conference was interested in the report and follow-up of the regional credit seminar held in 1973. It welcomed the proposals for missions and national workshops to work out training and other assistance programmes. Support was assured also for the World Credit Conference planned to be held in Rome in June 1975. It expressed the hope that all African governments would send their agricultural credit leaders and policy makers to this Conference. Bringing together those responsible for agricultural credit institutions and policies and representatives of national and international banks and financing agencies would be valuable for the opportunity to exchange views and experience as well as that of discussing proposals for additional external financing and related assistance. Specific issues meriting further discussion at this World Conference included the building up of adequate credit organizations, and their integration with essential supporting services, policies regarding the rate of interest charged, how far to lend to farmers for social purposes, and the relative role in small farmer loans of cash and kind.

128. The suggestion that an African regional agricultural credit association with technical support from FAO might be developed within the framework of the existing International Agricultural Credit Confederation was also welcomed by the Conference. It could organize periodic meetings and provide a continuing mechanism for contacts and exchange of information and experience. There were some specific requests for participation.

Follow-up Studies - Agricultural Development through Trade Expansion and Intra-Regional Cooperation *

129. The Conference had before it document ARC/74/11 which summarized the main aspects of the various studies undertaken on the subject in the last two years. These studies were: the pilot study on Agricultural Development through Trade Expansion and Multi-National Cooperation (covering Dahomey, Niger and Nigeria); the study of the Production and Marketing of Cereals in Chad, Central African Republic and Northern Cameroon; the Livestock Development study for Southern and Central Africa. Studies were also proposed on Livestock for West Africa and for Central Africa and on Food Reserves for East and for West Africa. The pilot study discussed issues of special importance with regard to the policy for agricultural and agro-industrial development as well as the basis for cooperation.

* Reference item "Intra-Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture" discussed at previous FAO Regional Conference.

130. The Conference reiterated its earlier decision that cooperation among the African countries was essential for the promotion of economic development and self-reliance among the countries. It considered that sovereignty over the economy and political will to cooperate were sine qua non to the achievement of this objective. Policies should also be directed to promoting the consumption of products of African countries since there were sometimes barriers against such products entering the markets of certain African countries and products imported from developed countries were not necessarily better. The OAU provided a forum for facilitating political decision which was largely a matter for individual governments.

131. While the document indicated the benefits which small farms and labour-intensive industrial processes had over large-scale and capital-intensive processes, it was noted that the latter also had important advantages and, in some cases, were inevitable. It was recognized, however, that small-scale and labour-intensive production would facilitate the achievement of sovereignty over the economy and, at the same time, help to ensure that all members of an economic grouping had equal opportunities to develop their economies and share in the fruits of cooperation.

132. The Conference considered that studies on economic cooperation and trade necessarily needed to involve studies on policies for agricultural production since trade could not take place without increased production. The proposal to base cooperation on free movement of commodities and, in respect of agricultural production, on a common price and marketing policy and, in respect of agro-industries, on a common industrial development policy based on the promotion of labour-intensive small-scale process were considered generally sound. This would promote expansion of production on the basis of comparative advantage while, at the same time, allowing for changes in technology and alteration in production pattern which would not be possible under the classical theory of comparative advantage.

133. In extending the study, information already available in some economic groupings should be made use of. Also the study should be extended to other issues that tended to hinder cooperation and trade such as the inadequate and unsuitable transportation system and the problem of means of payment. It was noted, however, that action was already being taken on such questions. For example, the Economic Commission for Africa was already promoting the construction of trans-African and trans-Saharan highways as well as the improvement of transportation systems in each sub-region. Also, the monetary question was being discussed by the Association of African Central Banks and positive decisions might be reached on this soon.

134. It was noted that the promotion of intra-African trade should not be pursued in lieu of trade with the developed countries; rather, intra-African trade should be promoted within the context of international trade. It would provide additional markets for agricultural products, particularly food products which were normally not being exported to the developed countries. The emphasis was, therefore, on the promotion of the production of food crops.

135. It was suggested that the study should indicate the commodities which should be produced in each of the countries concerned and which should constitute the basis for trade among the countries. It was, however, recognized that this might not permit alterations in the production and trade patterns as the production technology and weather conditions changed. The proposal to combine the general agriculture sector study with the study on commodities proposed for the UNDP financing was, therefore, welcomed.

136. It was noted that the limitation of resources did not permit a more comprehensive study being made. The Conference warmly welcomed the announcement made by the representative of the UNDP that the project on West Africa submitted to it would likely be included in the regional programme for 1975-76. The UNDP representative stated that only two of the fourteen countries concerned with the project had sent their official approval. The Conference urged that the remaining countries should do likewise as early as possible.

137. The Conference reaffirmed its support for undertaking the in-depth study and recommended that it be extended to other countries, including the Indian Ocean Islands.

FAO PROGRAMME IN THE REGION

Review and Appraisal of DD2 Performance in the African Region

138. In considering document ARC/74/12, the Conference reviewed the progress made by the agricultural sector in Africa during the opening years of the Second Development Decade. While the statistical and other information on which the document was based was necessarily incomplete and sometimes approximate, it served to indicate general trends between the early 1960's and the early 1970's.

139. Over the 1960-1969 decade, agricultural production in Africa achieved an annual average growth rate of 2.7 percent, accelerating from 2.4 percent in the earlier years to 3.0 percent in the latter part of the decade. In five of the countries considered, however, production actually declined between 1961 and 1971 and in fifteen other countries it failed to keep pace with population increase. Food production increased more slowly than agricultural production, yet twenty-two countries failed to reach the average growth rate of 2.3 percent for food production. For developing Africa as a whole per caput food production in 1973 was five percent lower than in the early 1960's which, even allowing for the fact that 1973 was an unusually bad year in many parts of Africa, was a matter of grave concern.

140. The position was even worse for cereals, a staple food in many parts of Africa and the main supplier of both calories and protein. The annual increase between 1961-63 and 1971-73 was only 1.5 percent with wide fluctuations from year to year due to climatic conditions, and in 1973 production fell by 17 percent compared with 1972, which itself was a poor year. This had resulted in progressively larger imports of cereals, with an increase of nearly 40 percent over the past ten years.

141. The target for agricultural production in DD2 was an annual growth rate of 4%. At the end of the 1960's a rate of about 3% had been achieved but performance in the early 1970's, for various reasons, had fallen off. The results in the remaining years of the decade would have to be exceptionally good in order to redeem the bad start and to reach a 4% growth rate in agriculture for the decade as a whole.

142. The purpose of the document was to enable the Conference to take stock of the present situation of agriculture as objectively and accurately as the available information allowed, and to relate this situation to the developments of the past decade and to the targets set in DD2.

143. The Conference agreed that the document gave a broadly correct picture of overall trends in the agricultural sector during the past ten years or so, though some figures were open to question and a few statements might be misleading unless qualified.

144. It was recognized that the picture that emerged was a gloomy one, though mitigated somewhat by the fact that climatically 1972 and 1973 were unusually bad years in many parts of Africa. Other negative factors over which member governments had little or no control were rising prices for imported industrial products and the declining trend in foreign grants and loans to African countries, together with a hardening in the terms on which they were given.

145. Some delegations however pointed out that bad weather and other external influences alone could not be made responsible for the stagnation of agricultural, and more especially, food production. Efforts to change the attitudes of rural people had so far met with little success, though it was noted that some countries attached great importance to involving the people in the planning process. In some cases governments had tended to underestimate the need to provide farmers with a strong incentive to produce more. Thus a policy of planned increases in producer prices might show returns in the form of larger marketed supplies. More indirect types of incentives also needed to be considered, such as stability of markets, security of tenure and the provision of inputs at reasonable prices. In view of the havoc brought by drought in many parts of Africa, the conservation of water resources, and their rational utilization for irrigated farming, should become an overriding priority.

146. The major conclusion drawn by the Conference from the preceding discussion emphasized a theme which had constantly recurred throughout the deliberations of the Conference: that African countries must do their utmost to produce the food they require within their own boundaries, or to obtain it from their African neighbours having a surplus. Only thus could Africa reduce its dependence on an unsettled world economy in which the developing countries in general were at a severe disadvantage.

Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order

147. The attention of the Conference was called to two resolutions passed by the Sixth Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly, April-May 1974, on Raw Materials and Development. These were: "Declaration on the Establishment of a new international economic order" (3201) and "Programme of action on the establishment of a new international economic order" (3202). The Conference was informed that as part of the Programme of Action the United Nations had launched a Special Programme, including emergency measures to mitigate the difficulties of the developing countries most seriously affected by the economic crisis and establishing a Special Fund to receive voluntary contributions from industrialized countries and other potential donors. The Secretary General had appointed Mr. Raoul Prebisch as his Special Representative for the United Nations Emergency Operations and FAO was already actively participating in the inter-agency group formed to assist Mr. Prebisch and the ad-hoc Committee on the Special Programme.

148. The establishment of the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme by the Special Session of the FAO Council, 15-19 July 1974, could also be seen as a specific action taken by FAO in furtherance of the objectives of the Programme of Action. The Director-General had also appointed a small working group within FAO to analyze the Programme of Action and its implications for FAO's Programme of Work and Budget.

149. The Conference expressed itself in complete accord with the philosophy and aims of the United Nations resolutions and was gratified that FAO was already participating in practical activities initiated under the Programme of Action. Member governments would study the resolutions very closely and make known their detailed views and suggestions in time for consideration by the next session of the FAO Council in November 1974.

CONCLUDING ITEMS

Any Other Business

150. The Conference considered the measures for improving the implementation of suggestions and recommendations made by Regional Conferences and adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION I. - IMPLEMENTATION OF REGIONAL CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS

THE CONFERENCE

Considering the authority, terms of reference and constitutional status of regional conferences;

Considering that part of the functions of regional conferences are to hold consultations at a high level to identify priority areas of need in their respective regions for action by the Organization and examine the adaptation of the policy objectives of the Organization to the need of the region concerned;

Recalling that, in previous sessions of the Regional Conference for Africa, priority areas of need in the region had been identified and brought to the attention of the Organization in the form of resolutions and recommendations;

Noting the need for more effective action on many of the resolutions and recommendations;

Concludes that there is need to establish an arrangement for monitoring the implementation by the Organization of the resolutions and recommendations of the Regional Conference for Africa;

Concludes that the Africa Group of Permanent Representatives to the Organization, by virtue of their presence at the Headquarters of the Organization, are in the best position to monitor the actions of the Organization;

Recognizes that Africa Region Member Nations of Council are in the best position to press collectively in the Council for effective action by the Organization;

Requests the Africa Region Member Nations of Council and the Africa Group of Permanent Representatives to work closely together to monitor the implementation by the Organization of the resolutions and recommendations of the Regional Conference for Africa;

Recommends that they constitute themselves into a committee to meet before each regular session of the Council.

Authorizes the Chairman to take up with the Director-General matters brought to his attention concerning the failure of the Organization to implement the resolutions and recommendations of the Regional Conference for Africa.

151. In considering the membership of future regional conferences, the Conference adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION II - MEMBERSHIP OF FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCES FOR AFRICA

THE CONFERENCE

Considering the need to make the membership of FAO Regional Conferences for Africa consistent with United Nations resolutions on decolonization;

Considering the desirability of limiting membership of the FAO Regional Conference to only sovereign African States in the Region;

Requests the Director-General to invite as members to future FAO Regional Conferences for Africa, only sovereign African countries in the Region and to invite other countries in the capacity of observers.

152. On the subject of the use of Arabic at future regional conferences for Africa, the Conference adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION III - USE OF ARABIC AT FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCES FOR AFRICA

THE CONFERENCE

Considering that Arabic is the official language of communication of six Member Nations of the African Region;

Considering that FAO has made Arabic an official language at sessions of the Governing Bodies of the Organization and at certain technical meetings organized by it;

Invites the Director-General to explore the possibilities of providing Arabic language interpretation and translation services to future FAO Regional Conferences for Africa.

Consideration and Adoption of the Report

153. The Conference considered the report of technical committees I and II and adopted it with some modifications. The text of the report as adopted appears in preceding pages under appropriate agenda items.

Date and Place of the Ninth FAO Regional Conference for Africa

154. The delegate from Sierra Leone recalled the invitation extended by his Government on earlier occasions for hosting the Seventh and Eighth Regional Conferences and expressed how the invitations had been withdrawn in favour of Gabon and Mauritius respectively. In renewing his invitation for hosting the Ninth Regional Conference, he expressed the hope that the invitation would be accepted this time.

155. The delegate of Lesotho also conveyed, on behalf of his Government, an invitation to host the Ninth FAO Regional Conference. He expressed that the holding of such a conference in Lesotho could be most opportune at a time when Africans in that part of the Region were struggling for their independence.

156. The Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa thanked the delegates of Sierra Leone and of Lesotho for their kind invitation and indicated that the Director-General, in consultation with all Member Nations, and while taking into account a number of factors which contribute to the success of the Conference, would give serious consideration to these invitations in arriving at a final decision.

Closing of the Conference

157. The delegates of Botswana, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Senegal and Uganda speaking on behalf of the entire Conference expressed sincere appreciation for the excellent arrangements made by the Government of Mauritius for the efficient operation of the Conference and the numerous facilities put at the disposal of delegates which had made their stay in Mauritius extremely pleasant and memorable. They also thanked the members of FAO secretariat and all others who had worked tirelessly for the success of the Conference.

158. Hon. Mr. Satcam Boolell, Chairman of the Conference then thanked all delegates for their valuable contribution to the proceedings of the Conference. He expressed sincere appreciation for the assistance given to him by the three vice-chairmen who had helped him at all times and which had made his task easy.

159. Reviewing the major outcomes of the Conference he stressed the importance of increasing food production in all African countries through the exercise of political will on a coordinated basis. He also appealed to the international community to extend the necessary assistance to developing countries particularly by making available the needed agricultural inputs at reasonable prices.

160. In conclusion the chairman reiterated the support of the Conference to the representatives of various OAU recognized liberation movements and wished them early success in their struggle for achieving independence for their people.

161. The Eighth Session of FAO Regional Conference for Africa was then declared closed.

A G E N D A

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

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

II. SITUATION AND PROSPECTS OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA

4. Keynote Statement by the Director-General of FAO
- 4.(a) Statement by the Secretary-General of the World Food Conference
5. Statement by the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity
- 5.(a) Statement by the Independent Chairman of the FAO Council
6. Statement by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa
7. Statement by the Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa
- 7.(a) Statement by the Executive Director of the World Food Programme
8. Statements by Countries
9. World Food Programme

III. SECTORS OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION

- A. Regional Action in Progress (Committee I)
 10. Some Aspects of Fisheries Development in Africa
 11. Food and Agricultural Products Processing in Africa
 12. Medium and Long-Term Strategies for the Development of Marginal Areas in Africa
 13. The Role and Potentiality of Mechanization in Agricultural Production and Productivity in Africa
- B. Future Orientation for Regional Action on Major Problems (Committee II)
 14. Food Security Programme for the Region
 15. The State of Rural Development in Africa
 16. Credit Institutions and their Impact on Agricultural Development in Africa
 17. Follow-up Studies -- Intra-Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture

IV. FAO PROGRAMME IN THE REGION

18. Review and Appraisal of DD2 Performance in the African Region

18.(a) Programme of Action on the Establishment of a new International Economic Order

V. CONCLUDING ITEMS

19. Any Other Business

20. Consideration and Adoption of the Report

21. Date and Place of the Ninth FAO Regional Conference for Africa

22. Closing of the Conference.

APPENDIX B

ANNEXE B

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

Chairman
Président

Satcam BOOLELL
(Mauritius)

First Vice-Chairman
Premier Vice Président

Mamadou Amadou DIOP
(Mauritanie)

Second Vice-Chairman
Deuxième Vice Président

J.J.M. NYAGAH
(Kenya)

Third Vice-Chairman
Troisième Vice Président

Sidi COULIBALY
(Mali)

Independent Chairman of the Council
Président indépendant du Conseil

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS

MEMBER NATIONS IN THE REGION

ETATS MEMBRES DE LA REGION

ALGERIA
ALGERIE

Abdelhamid OUELBANI	Directeur départemental de l'Agriculture, Annaba
Semaïne MOUNA	Attaché au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères

BOTSWANA

E.S. MASISI	Minister of Agriculture
T.S. MADISA	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture
F.A. MAMABOLO	Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture
Gordon BOSSON	Senior Planning Officer, Ministry of Finance
Harold METTRICK	Chief Agricultural Economist, Ministry of Agriculture

BURUNDI

Pierre BIGAYIMPUNZI	Ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Elevage
Raphael REMEZO	Directeur-général de l'Agriculture
Alphonse NYARUHIRIRA	Directeur de la Station de Recherche Agronomique
Jean NTawe	Directeur du Département du Génie rural

CAMEROON
CAMEROUN

Robert E.G. BURNLEY	Technical Adviser, Ministry of Agriculture
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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
REPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE

Badékara Gabriel DOTTE	Conseiller technique auprès du Ministre de l'Agriculture Directeur du Bureau d'Etudes et de la Coordination, Ministère de l'Agriculture
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CHAD
TCHAD

Madj-Ser MADIENGUE	Directeur de Cabinet, Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Elevage
Wajri Houli LERE	Directeur de l'Agriculture
Dounia DAOUNAYE	Docteur vétérinaire, Direction de l'Elevage
Honimadji HOINATHY	Ingénieur, Direction des Eaux et Forêts

CONGO

Joseph TCHICAYA	Ministre plénipotentiaire
Christophe N'GOKAKA	Chef de Service de Pêche et Pisciculture
Paul-Michel BIABATANTOU	Membre de la Cellule de Planification du Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Elevage

DAHOMY

Moussa DJIBRIL MORIBA	Ministre du Développement rural et de l'Action coopérative
Issiakou KOUTON	Directeur-général de l'Action rurale

ETHIOPIA
ETHIOPIE

Mulugetta BEZZABEH	Director General, Ministry of Agriculture
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FRANCE

Bernard PECRIAUX	Chef de Service des Relations économiques, commerciales et monétaires à la Direction de l'Aide au Développement, Ministère de la Coopération
Omar TAMOU	Ministre du Développement rural, Gouvernement des Comores
Jacques CHOUILLOU	Sous-Directeur au Ministère de l'Agriculture

GABON

Bonjean François ONDO	Ministre de l'Agriculture
Louis LAPEBY	Inspecteur-général du Ministère de l'Agriculture et du Développement rural
Etienne OSSINGA	Directeur des Pêches
Joachim RADJOUNBA-NONO	Chef du Service P.A.M. au Ministère de l'Education nationale
Hervé H. ANIMBO	Premier Conseiller, Représentant permanent du Gabon à la FAO

GAMBIA
GAMBIE

Hon. Alhadji Yaya CEESAY	Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Francis M'BOGE	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Thomas REUBEN ADEBOUR	Assistant Director of Agriculture
John MALICK ABDUL KARIM	Director of Hydrometeorology Department

GHANA

Joseph KYEREMEH	Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture
Hugh K. QUARTEY-PAPAFIO	Deputy Director of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture
Albert A. LARYEA	Permanent Representative of Ghana to FAO
Samuel SEY	Deputy Governor, Bank of Ghana

GUINEA
GUINEE

Mamadu Bobo BALDE	Ambassadeur extraordinaire et plénipotentiaire
Bernard KOUNDIANO	Directeur-général de l'Agriculture, Ministère de l'Agriculture
Jean CAMARA SYROGIANIS	Représentant Permanent Adjoint auprès de la FAO

IVORY COAST
COTE D'IVOIRE

Koffi ARROBRA	Secrétaire d'Etat chargé des Parcs nationaux
Marcel PAUL-EMILE	Secrétaire général du Comité national pour l'Alimentation
Hyacinthe LEROUX	Directeur des Aménagements ruraux, Ministère de l'Agriculture
Vieyra ABDOU	Directeur de la Pêche continentale et de la Pisciculture, Direction des Pêches
Ladji KAMARA	Directeur des Pêches artisanales, Direction des Pêches

KENYA

J.J.M. NYAGAH	Minister for Agriculture
Joseph Gilbert KIBE	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture
J.L. LIJOODI	Head of Economic Planning Division, Ministry of Agriculture
I.E.M. MUSUVA	Officer-in-Charge, Farm Management Branch, Ministry of Agriculture
P.N. KAMANDE	Assistant Director of Fisheries (Marine)

LESOTHO

Joel Mojalefa MOITSE	Minister of Commerce and Industry (representing Minister of Agriculture, Cooperatives and Marketing)
Khetla T.J. RAKHETLA	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture
Norman Napo RADITAPOLE	Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

LIBERIA

Florence YNACY	Assistant Minister for Planning, Ministry of Agriculture
Alfred FROMOYAN	Director of Extension Services, Ministry of Agriculture

MADAGASCAR

Jean-Jacques MAURICE	Chargé d'Affaires a.i. de la République Malgache à Port-Louis
Laurent ANDRIAMIHAJA	Conseiller d'Ambassade de Madagascar à Port-Louis
Jocelyne SYLLA	Attachée commerciale, Ambassade de la République Malgache à Port-Louis

MALI

Sidi COULIBALY	Ministre de la Production
Ouedji DIALLO	Conseiller technique, Ministère de la Production

MAURITANIA
MAURITANIE

Mamadou Amadou DIOP	Ministre du Développement rural
Cheikh BENANI	Directeur de l'Agriculture

MAURITIUS
MAURICE

Satcam BOOLELL	Minister of Agriculture
Ramsoundur MODUN	Minister of Fisheries
Gowtum TEELOCK	Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Environment
Lutchun PURMESSUR	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Environment
France EMPEIGNE	Director, Ministry of Economic Planning and Development

Michel Benoit AROUFF	Secrétaire au Développement industriel
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MAROC

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Représentant permanent du Zaïre à la FAO

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Lundondo MUMEKA

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Conference Affairs Officer Administrateur	F. ROSSANO
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P. NIEMEYER	Liaison Officer, Regional Development
S.C. SAR	Chief, Africa Bureau, Field Liaison Division

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

A. General Information

ARC/74/INF/1	Information Note
ARC/74/INF/1 (a)	Registration Form
ARC/74/INF/2	Provisional Timetable (Plenary Session)
ARC/74/INF/2 (a)	Provisional Timetable (Technical Committees)
ARC/74/INF/3	Provisional List of Documents
ARC/74/INF/4	Recommendations of the Seventh FAO Regional Conference for Africa
ARC/74/INF/5	List of Participants
ARC/74/INF/6	Main Policy Lines with the Director-General's Introductory Statement to the Regional Conference
ARC/74/INF/7	World Food Conference
ARC/74/INF/8	Extract from the Report of the Sixty-third Session of the Council
ARC/74/INF/9	Transports
ARC/74/INF/10	Opening Address to Technical Committee I by Mr. Moïse C. Mensah, Assistant Director-General, FAO Regional Representative for Africa

B. Background Documents

ARC/74/1	Provisional Agenda
ARC/74/1 Rev.	Provisional Agenda
ARC/74/1 Rev. 2	Agenda
ARC/74/1 (a)	Provisional Annotated Agenda
ARC/74/2	Regional Representative's Review of FAO's Activities
ARC/74/3	World Food Programme
ARC/74/4	Some aspects of Fisheries Development in Africa
ARC/74/4 Corr.1	(English only)
ARC/74/5	Food and Agricultural Products Processing in Africa
ARC/74/6	Medium and Long-term Strategies for the Development of Marginal Areas in Africa
ARC/74/7	The Role and Potentiality of Mechanization in Agricultural Production and Productivity in Africa
ARC/74/8	Food Security Programme for the Region

ARC/74/9	The State of Rural Development in Africa
ARC/74/10	Credit Institutions and their Impact on Agricultural Development in Africa
ARC/74/11	Follow-up Studies - Intra-regional Trade and Economic Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture
ARC/74/11 Add.1	(English only)
ARC/74/12	Review and Appraisal of DD2 Performance in the African Region
ARC/74/13	Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order

C. In-session Documents

ARC/74/CONF/1	Keynote Statement by the Director-General of FAO
ARC/74/CONF/2	Statement by the Administrative Secretary-General of OAU
ARC/74/CONF/3	Statement by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa
ARC/74/CONF/4	Statement by Dr. Sayed Marei, Secretary General of the World Food Conference
ARC/74/CONF/5	Statement by the Independent Chairman of the FAO Council
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ARC/74/CONF/7	Statement by Mr. Francisco Aquino, Executive Director of the World Food Programme

Ref. 2 Report of Technical Committee I and II

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APPENDIX D

OFFICERS OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE I, 1 - 6 August 1974

Chairman	Mr. K. Lutchmeenaraidoo Acting Chief Agricultural Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and the Environment, Mauritius
First Vice-Chairman	Mr. Sidi Mohamed Daniel Dioury Ambassadeur du Sénégal auprès de la FAO à Rome
Second Vice-Chairman	Mr. T.S. Madisa, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Gaborone, Botswana
Third Vice-Chairman	Mr. Abdelhamid Ouelbani Directeur Départemental de l'Agriculture, Annaba, Algérie

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE II, 6 - 10 August 1974

Chairman	Mr. J. Camara Syrogianis, The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Guinea to FAO, Rome
First Vice-Chairman	Mr. Albert A. Laryea, Permanent Representative of Ghana to FAO, Rome
Second Vice-Chairman	Mr. Lumbala Kabuyi, Directeur des Etudes, Département de l'Agriculture, Kinshasa, Zaïre
Third Vice-Chairman	Mr. Samuel S.M.K. Sengendo, Assistant Commissioner for Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Kampala, Uganda

