

Report of the

**TWELFTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE
FOR AFRICA**

Algiers, 22 September to 2 October 1982



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

FAO Member Nations in the African Region (as at 2 October 1982)

Algeria	Guinea	Rwanda
Angola	Guinea-Bissau	São Tomé and Príncipe
Benin	Ivory Coast	Senegal
Botswana	Kenya	Seychelles
Burundi	Lesotho	Sierra Leone
Cameroon	Liberia	Sudan
Cape Verde	Madagascar	Swaziland
Central African Republic	Malawi	Tanzania
Chad	Mali	Togo
Comoros	Mauritania	Tunisia
Congo	Mauritius	Uganda
Equatorial Guinea	Morocco	Upper Volta
Ethiopia	Mozambique	Zaire
Gabon	Namibia	Zambia
Gambia	Niger	Zimbabwe
Ghana	Nigeria	

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
Ninth	—	Freetown, Sierra Leone, 2-12 November 1976
Tenth	—	Arusha, Tanzania, 18-28 September 1978
Eleventh	—	Lomé, Togo, 16-27 June 1980
Twelfth	—	Algiers, Algeria, 22 September — 2 October 1982

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SUMMARY OF THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

Implementation of the Agricultural Part of the Lagos Plan of Action: Problems and Prospects

For the attention of FAO

1. The Director-General is requested to accord a key role to high-level training in the Organization's PWB for 1984-85 (para. 90).
2. FAO should make available an assessment of its experience in training in Africa at the Thirteenth FAO Regional Conference (para. 92).
3. FAO is requested to conduct a survey of existing agricultural training facilities in Africa and make its results available to member countries to promote TCDC (para. 93).
4. With reference to the "new dimension" approach, FAO should conceive projects in a manner to facilitate participation of farmers in various aspects of economic life, production, processing and marketing (para. 97).
5. The activities proposed by FAO at the country and inter-country levels and related to the objectives of the LPA should be allocated the necessary financial resources by UNDP and other donors (paras. 100 and 172).

For the attention of Governments

6. Governments are urged to review and reorient national and inter-country training programmes to give priority to the manpower requirements of the LPA (para. 91).
7. In their national development plans, governments should allocate the necessary domestic and external resources for achieving increased production and food self-sufficiency, in conformity with the priorities of the LPA (para. 95).
8. Governments should develop the necessary manpower, institutions and mechanisms required to facilitate the effective and equitable use of resources; to eliminate disincentives to food production and give political and material support to intergovernmental organizations operating in the field of food and agriculture (paras. 95 and 168).
9. Governments should give the widest publicity to the LPA to familiarize all those concerned with its content and implications (para. 96).

Follow-up to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development:
Progress Report

For the attention of FAO

10. The Conference accorded high priority to training and indicated that training programmes should cover all disciplines relevant to rural needs (para. 106).
11. FAO is requested to assist in analysing rural exodus and its repercussions on the future of farming patterns, and to disseminate relevant information (para. 107).
12. FAO should assist in the preparation of a progress report on agrarian reform and rural development since 1979, to be presented at the 1983 FAO Conference (para. 109).
13. FAO should assist in the mobilization of additional resources to support the follow-up to WCARRD and rural development activities at the country level, and continue its support for CIRDAFRICA (para. 110).
14. FAO should promote the exchange of information and experience relating to rural development and agrarian reform (para. 113).

For the attention of Governments

15. Governments should publicize the "Peasants Charter" (para. 103).
16. Governments should accord high priority to access to land and its rational utilization by farmers (para. 104).
17. Governments should promote the important role of women in rural development through giving them better access to production inputs, services and particularly training (para. 105).
18. Governments should accord high priority to training at all levels and implement training programmes covering all disciplines relevant to rural needs (para. 106).
19. Governments should assess the impact of rural exodus and its effects on the future of farming patterns (para. 107).
20. Governments should improve national institutions to reach the rural poor as well as to improve machineries for delivery of inputs and services (para. 108).
21. Governments should prepare national progress reports on agrarian and rural development since 1979, for presentation at the 1983 FAO Conference (para. 109).
22. Governments are urged to join CIRDAFRICA and give the Centre their full financial support (para. 111).
23. Governments should support the work of NGOs and involve them in implementing rural development programmes (para. 114).

New and Renewable Sources of Energy for Agriculture and Rural Development

For the attention of FAO

24. The Conference stressed the importance of draught-animal power and recommended improvements in this field (para. 117).
25. The Conference stressed the importance of wood for energy and recommended programmes to be developed (para. 118).
26. FAO should assist in the further development and wider application of activities involving other new and renewable sources of energy (para. 120).
27. Differences and similarities among countries and possibilities of inter-country cooperation should be taken into account in promoting new and renewable sources of energy (para. 121).
28. FAO should assist member countries in various ways and in line with the recommendations of the 21st Session of the FAO Conference and the Nairobi Programme of Action (para. 124).

For the attention of Governments

29. Governments should consider giving high priority to draught-animal power, as appropriate, and wood for energy and develop the necessary programmes (paras. 117 and 118).
30. Governments are urged to participate in celebrating World Tree Day (para. 119).
31. Governments are requested to develop further other new and renewable sources of energy (para. 120).
32. Governments are urged to ensure that new and renewable sources of energy contribute as much as possible to meeting the increasing energy needs for food production and rural development, and develop integrated national and rural energy policies, plans and systems (para. 122).

33. Governments should exercise great care in developing liquid fuel from biomass to avoid detriment to food production (para. 123).

Report on the Preparation of the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development

For the attention of FAO

34. The Conference Agenda should also cover the problems and prospects of inland fisheries and aquaculture (para. 126).

35. The Conference agreed that the following matters deserved particular attention in the preparation of the Agenda:

- (a) adoption or adjustment of national policies, principles and techniques of management and development based on scientific and economic data, and development strategies to take full account of the extension of national jurisdiction over fisheries;
- (b) problems and prospects of inland fisheries and aquaculture;
- (c) improvement of the socio-economic conditions of small-scale fisheries and resolution of possible conflicts between small-scale fisheries and industrial or semi-industrial fisheries;
- (d) fishery monitoring, control and surveillance;
- (e) conditions of access to living resources of exclusive economic zones and role of joint ventures and bilateral agreements;
- (f) protection of the marine environment and control of pollution affecting fisheries;
- (g) impact of energy issues on the fisheries sector;
- (h) reduction of post-harvest losses;
- (i) establishment or improvement of internal marketing and distribution systems;
- (j) development and rationalization of trade in fish and fishery products and increased participation of developing countries in such trade;
- (k) special needs and problems of developing small island states;
- (l) promotion of cooperation among states in the same sub-region or region, in the field of research, management, harmonization of legislation, control and surveillance, particularly with respect to shared stocks; and
- (m) harmonization of the activities of governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with fisheries.

36. The Conference should help formulate strategies for all aspects of fisheries management and development which should include integrated training programmes (para. 131).

37. FAO should seek the active participation and support of bilateral and multilateral donor or financing agencies, both in the preparations for the Conference and in the implementation of its recommendations (para. 131).

38. The Conference should display technology used in fisheries production and management, and exhibit relevant documents and publications (para. 132).

For the attention of Governments

39. Governments should cooperate fully with FAO in the preparations for and the holding of the World Fisheries Conference (para. 125).

Contribution of Soil Conservation to Increased Agricultural Productivity in Africa with Emphasis on the Problems of Shifting Cultivation

For the attention of FAO

40. The Organization should continue activities related to the production and utilization of organic materials (para. 138).
41. FAO should assist in more research and development in sand-dune fixation, fuel-wood production and protection of agricultural and pasture lands (para. 140).
42. Appreciating FAO activities in improvements of alternatives to shifting cultivation, the Conference emphasized the need for comprehensive research on prevailing and possible improved farming systems in the region (para. 143).
43. FAO is urged to intensify training at all levels in land development and conservation (para. 146).
44. FAO should attach high priority to programmes and activities in soil conservation and continue its assistance in this and related fields, including the following:
- formulating a soil conservation policy in countries which so request, and preparing and launching concrete projects;
 - the transfer of knowledge and techniques and the exchange of experience among countries;
 - training within countries and at international level in all aspects of the conservation of renewable natural resources;
 - stimulating general awareness on the dangers of soil erosion and on possibilities to cope with them;
 - strengthening or establishing the institutional implementation of a soil conservation programme;
 - development of legislation on soil conservation.

For the attention of Governments

45. Governments should establish land-use policies, based on comprehensive land-use planning in accordance with land capability and national/rural development needs (paras. 136 and 141).
46. Governments are urged to further develop integrated production systems and agro-forestry programmes (paras. 137 and 139).
47. Governments should undertake more research and development in sand-dune fixation, fuelwood production and the protection of agricultural and pasture lands (para. 140).
48. Governments should create awareness of the seriousness of soil degradation and losses and of possible remedial measures (para. 142).
49. Governments are urged to intensify training at all levels in land development and conservation (para. 146).
50. Governments should give priority to programmes in soil conservation and related fields and to the full participation of the rural population in such programmes (paras. 148 and 150).

Composite Flours: Their Potential in Overcoming Food Shortages

For the attention of FAO

51. FAO is urged to continue the composite flour programme with particular attention to technologies facilitating the use of traditional forms of food (para. 153).
52. FAO should consider strengthening food technology research institutes in the Region which should give priority to improved methods of preparation, processing, preservation and packaging of local staple foods (para. 156).
53. FAO should assist member countries to develop composite flour programmes on request (para. 157).
54. FAO should pay special attention to constraints in launching composite flour programmes in African countries (para. 158).

For the attention of Governments

55. Governments should pay attention to integrated policies requested for the production and marketing of local staple foods and composite flour products (para. 152).
56. To encourage local cereal production, coordination is necessary between countries in the development and implementation of legislation and strategies on cereal imports (para. 159).

Strategies for Animal Health in Africa

For the attention of FAO

57. The Director-General is requested to take action, in collaboration with OAU and OIE, on the immediate implementation of the Rinderpest Eradication Campaign and the mobilization of funds for the Campaign and its follow-up (para. 162).
58. FAO should provide assistance through Preparatory Assistance Missions to Governments (PAG) for the control of African animal trypanosomiasis and also assist in the multiplication and distribution of trypanotolerant breeds (para. 163).
59. FAO is requested to assist in the establishment of four reference centres for training and research on the control of ticks and tick-borne diseases (para. 164).
60. The Conference suggested a meeting to be convened on veterinary education and training to identify the needs for veterinary training centres and to strengthen regional cooperation and coordination in veterinary manpower development (para. 165).
61. Noting the need for a survey of both diagnostic laboratories and vaccine production laboratories, the Conference drew attention to the need for establishing regional and sub-regional reference laboratories with due consideration of geographical distribution (para. 166).

For the attention of Governments

62. Governments should give high priority to the implementation of the Rinderpest Eradication Campaign and its follow-up (para. 162).

Development and Operation of Regional Programmes and Projects

For the attention of FAO

63. The Director-General is requested to take into account the need for increased TCP resources when formulating his draft PWB for 1984-85 (para. 171).

For the attention of Governments

64. Governments contributing to UNDP should take steps to remedy the inadequacy of UNDP resources earmarked for food and agriculture in the region for the period 1982-86 (para. 170).

Representation of the Region on the CGIAR

65. FAO is requested to assist in the provision of information on regional and sub-regional research priorities for the benefit of regional representatives on the CGIAR (para. 177).

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Organization of the Conference

1. The Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Africa was held at the Palais des Nations, Club des Pins, Algiers, from 22 September to 2 October, 1982. The Technical Committee meeting, which preceded the Plenary Session was held from 22 September to 26 September 1982.
2. Delegates from 42 Member Nations, as well as observers from Member Nations outside the Region, Permanent Observer from the Holy See, Representatives of the United Nations and Specialized Agencies, and observers from both inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations and representatives of National Liberation Movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) attended the meeting. A full list of participants is given in Appendix B.

Election of Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur

3. At its first working session, the Conference elected Mr. Selim Saadi, Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Revolution of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, by acclamation as the Chairman of the Plenary Session. In a short acceptance speech, Mr. Saadi thanked the distinguished delegates for having confided in him by electing him as Chairman.
4. The Conference then unanimously elected Mr. Enock Simelane, Minister of State for Establishment and Training of Swaziland, Alhaji Usman Sani, Minister of State for Agriculture of Nigeria and Mr. Anastase Niaziryayo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture of Rwanda, as first, second and third Vice-Chairmen respectively. Mr. A.G. Ngongi Namanga, Agricultural Counsellor, Cameroon Embassy in Rome, was unanimously elected as Rapporteur.

Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

5. The Conference considered and adopted the Provisional Agenda and Timetable. The agenda as adopted is reproduced in Appendix A.

Inaugural Ceremony

6. In his opening remarks, the Director-General of FAO, Mr. Edouard Saouma, welcomed all delegates and observers participating in the Conference. He expressed his satisfaction at the presence of so many Ministers leading delegations, which showed the importance they attached to the Conference, and of many Permanent Representatives of member countries to FAO. He then invited His Excellency Selim Saadi, Member of the Central Committee of the Party and Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Revolution of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, to formally inaugurate the Conference, on behalf of the Head of State, His Excellency President Chadli Benjedid.
7. In his opening address, Minister Saadi welcomed the delegates and observers on behalf of the Head of State, the Government and people of Algeria. He observed that the aim of the Conference was to tackle the many and complex rural development problems confronting the Continent in order to achieve self-sufficiency in food and to consolidate national independence.
8. Referring to the Ottawa and Cancún meetings and the lack of progress in North-South negotiations, he said that the Conference was taking place at a time of political and economic crisis and deterioration in international relations.
9. The deteriorating agricultural and food situation in Africa endangered the life and health of the population and independence of African states. By the year 2000, it was estimated that more than 120 million people would suffer from food shortages compared to 70 million in the mid-1960's. The solution of the food problem required new policies and strategies suited to the socio-economic and cultural conditions of each country and restructured external cooperation and trade relationships with stress on equity.
10. The transformation of agriculture, with priority assigned to food self-sufficiency, would particularly require heavy investment beyond the reach of most countries in the region, but prospects for achieving self-sufficiency in food were good if the available human

resources were developed and mobilized. In this regard, he observed that the mobilization of farmers would be possible if they felt that they were actively participating in development activities, including the planning and implementation of programmes, and were the primary beneficiaries of development.

11. Although national resources were unevenly distributed in Africa, Minister Saadi said that the total resources of the Continent developed through regional cooperation and the promotion of inter-African trade could more than satisfy the food requirements of Africa's population. The development of trade based on the complementarity of resources of Africa required the political will for wider and long-term inter-African economic and technical cooperation.

12. Referring to food security, the Minister recognized the need for food aid but stated that such aid should not discourage domestic agricultural production, nor be accepted as the only solution to the problem of hunger. In spite of the country's limited agricultural land, and dry climate, the Minister stated that the objective of his country was to achieve self-sufficiency in major foodstuffs as far as possible. To this end, since independence, the Government had been implementing an agrarian reform programme and various technical, institutional and economic measures.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Statement by the Director-General of FAO

13. In his keynote address, the Director-General of FAO paid tribute to the Government and people of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria for hosting the Conference. He thanked them for the excellent Conference facilities and for their hospitality. He welcomed the Ministers, Heads of delegations as well as observers. He referred to the cordial relations and fruitful cooperation with OAU (Organization of African Unity) and ECA (Economic Commission for Africa) which FAO continued to enjoy.

14. Reviewing the food and agricultural situation in Africa, the Director-General described the development in the food and agricultural sector as most disappointing. Per caput food production had dropped by more than 10 percent in the past ten years and the average dietary energy supplies had been barely maintained at 6 to 7 percent below nutritional requirements. Food imports had more than doubled in volume and had risen five times in cost. The decline in production had been particularly serious in the least advanced African countries.

15. In the past two years, many countries of the Sahel and Eastern and Southern Africa had experienced abnormal food shortages and in Eastern Africa the situation had been worsened by an influx of millions of refugees and displaced persons.

16. The deterioration of the food and agriculture situation was caused inter alia, by unfavourable climatic conditions, especially in the Sahel, and by pests and diseases. Most disturbing of all had been the dislocation of production and distribution caused by wars and civil strife in several countries.

17. Pricing policies that favour consumers at the expense of producers had contributed to low productivity of agriculture in many countries. The Director-General therefore urged governments to give priority to pricing policies and other measures that would encourage farmers, especially small farmers, to produce more than their subsistence needs, in order that food self-sufficiency could be achieved.

18. The recession in the industrialized countries and its effects had aggravated the food and economic crisis. The arms race through the diversion of vast resources from food and agricultural development had also been a contributory factor.

19. To improve the present unsatisfactory agricultural and economic situation, African countries should substantially increase domestic food production and their export earnings, mainly from agricultural products.
20. Referring to the Lagos Plan of Action (LPA) which gave top priority to agriculture, the Director-General stressed the complete harmony that existed between the objectives and priorities of the LPA and those of FAO Programmes in Africa. FAO was fully and firmly committed to the implementation of the LPA.
21. The Director-General said that the main obstacles to FAO's implementation of the LPA was the limited volume of available resources. He expressed the hope that the Conference would make specific recommendations that would help mobilize the needed internal and external resources. In this connection, he reminded the Conference that the OAU Summit Conference held in Nairobi in 1981 had adopted the document "Famine in Africa" and urged every effort to be made to implement its recommendations.
22. This document, jointly prepared by OAU and FAO, which critically analyzed the problem of hunger and famine in Africa and spelled out the concrete measures that must be taken to improve food security in the region, was a practical guide for political decisions.
23. Turning to the role of FAO, the Director-General emphasized the priority attention which FAO would continue to give to the Africa region in terms of resource allocation. Excluding expenditure of global incidence, 40 percent of FAO's effective regular budget of US\$ 368 million for 1982-83 was of direct and exclusive benefit to Africa, and almost the same percentage of extra-budgetary resources had been allocated to Africa. FAO was operating 580 field projects of various kinds in Africa valued at more than US\$ 460 million. In terms of projects and resource allocation, the Africa region was similarly the principal beneficiary of various Action Programmes, including the Technical Cooperation Programme, Seed Improvement and Development Programme, the Fertilizer Programme and the Programme for the Prevention of Food Losses. FAO had also continued to provide substantial financial and material resources for refugees and displaced persons and for victims of food shortages in the Sahel.
24. With regard to WCARRD (World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development) follow-up, FAO had oriented its programme to put much greater emphasis on rural development and the effective participation of people in development. The high-level multi-disciplinary and inter-agency missions were organized for this purpose under FAO leadership.
25. The Director-General stated that FAO assistance to the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Africa (CIRDAFRICA) would continue until the Centre was fully operational. He urged member countries to join the Centre and to support it financially to enable the Centre achieve its objectives.
26. On the subject of energy, the Director-General drew attention to the rising cost of energy against the background of the need for increased use of inputs derived from oil to improve agricultural productivity. Under the circumstances, it was urgent to make better use of pesticides, and mineral fertilizers and to exploit supplementary sources of energy - draft animals, biological nitrogen fixation and recycling of organic waste. The shortage of fuelwood and charcoal, the principal source of energy in the region was critical and to remedy the situation, countries should give greater attention to increasing the productivity of existing fuelwood resources and to reforestation.
27. The Director-General then referred to the new opportunities offered by the establishment of 200-mile exclusive economic zones, for the development of fisheries to improve the economic situation of coastal countries. He drew attention to the FAO special programme to assist coastal African countries in formulating and implementing policies and programmes for the optimum management of their fishery resources. He expressed the hope that member countries would participate actively in the forthcoming World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development which would take place in two stages: at the technical level in 1983 and at the political level in 1984.
28. The Director-General also highlighted the problems of accelerating soil erosion and rapid decline in soil fertility and productivity with special reference to ever increasing pressure on land under shifting cultivation. He urged governments in their agricultural

plans to give high priority to improved soil conservation and to improving shifting cultivation or replacing them by other types of farming capable of maintaining soil fertility. At the same time the protective and productive functions of the forest must not be neglected.

29. Referring to the increasing wheat and wheat flour imports - which reached 15 million tons valued at 3 billion dollars in 1980, the Director-General drew attention to the possibilities of composite flours from traditional food crops for bread-making or the preparation of local dishes in order to cut down wheat imports and save foreign exchange and also to stimulate the increased production of traditional food crops.

30. In the field of animal production, the Director-General observed that the high incidence of diseases was one of the most important factors limiting production in the region. He invited member countries to support FAO's priority programmes in animal health and to intensify their own efforts for controlling animal diseases. He observed certain obstacles to the remunerative marketing of livestock products and recommended the setting-up of regional and sub-regional institutions to overcome them. The Director-General also stressed the rational use of grassland to ensure soil conservation and control of desertification.

31. The Director-General informed the Conference that FAO Regional Programmes and projects had three main objectives: to promote collective self-sufficiency in food; to encourage development of common resources through TCDC (Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries) and to provide aid to least advanced, land-locked and other disadvantaged countries. He expressed concern that their implementation could be jeopardized by a sharp reduction in UNDP funding.

32. The Director-General requested member countries to allocate more of their IPF's to the food and agricultural sector and said that member countries might wish to appeal to UNDP to give higher priority to implementation of the regional programmes.

33. The Director-General advised African countries not to rely only on international solidarity in the field of food security but to set up their own national and regional stocks. In this connection, he referred to FAO assistance to CILSS (Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahelian Zone) to prepare a study for the establishment and management of national and regional grain reserves and in financing a million-dollar project for related training. FAO was ready to carry out similar studies for other countries or groups of countries. Besides, member countries could receive assistance under FAO's Food Security and Assistance Scheme.

34. The Director-General stressed the absolute need of strengthening regional and sub-regional cooperation to improve the prospects of African countries for attaining a satisfactory level of self-sufficiency in food. OAU had an important role to play in this and FAO considered it particularly important to strengthen its cooperation with it. FAO unreservedly supported the recommendations of the LPA which called for strengthening of existing regional institutions in all fields of agricultural development and the Director-General cited the exemplary cooperation with CILSS and the generous offer of the Italian Government to launch a 500 million dollar programme to fight hunger and promote rural development in the Sahel, in collaboration with FAO and CILSS.

35. In conclusion, the Director-General assured member countries that in spite of its limited resources, FAO stood ready to intensify its work for the development of agriculture in Africa.

Statement by the Representative of the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa

36. The representative of ECA delivered a statement from the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa. He emphasized the need for joint and committed efforts by Member States, ECA and FAO, if the objectives of the Regional Food Plan and the Lagos Plan of Action were to be achieved. In this regard, he cited a number of programmes and projects undertaken by his organization and FAO to implement the LPA and WCARRD Programme of Action.

37. The Conference was informed of the progress being made by a number of inter-governmental organizations, with the assistance of ECA, to promote intra-African trade and improve related infrastructure and food distribution systems.

38. ECA continued to complement FAO's activities at the country level by promoting inter-country cooperation in agricultural research. In this regard, it planned to organize in 1982 an Expert Consultation on monitoring collaboration and coordination of livestock research in Africa. A Consultation on agricultural research institutions, especially those working on agronomy of food crops, was also planned.

39. The statement also referred to ECA's continued collaboration with FAO, UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) and other inter-governmental organizations like UNSO (United Nations Sahelian Office) to combat drought and desertification.

Statement by the Executive Director of the UN/FAO World Food Programme

40. Mr. J.C Ingram, Executive Director of WFP, said that the aim of the World Food Programme was to make the greatest possible contribution to increase food production and to promote development generally in the region. In 1981, WFP had committed over US\$ 250 million to African countries and this figure was expected to reach US\$ 300 million in 1982. WFP assistance to Africa represented over half of its annual commitment. WFP projects were in operation in 45 African countries and half of WFP field staff were deployed in Africa.

41. Mr. Ingram stated that by 1981 over 80 percent of WFP commitments were directed to agriculture and rural development; food aid used in this way made a valuable contribution to development, while it also met the immediate needs of the hungry, and promoted rather than discouraged domestic food production.

42. He said that the impact of food aid could be increased by its integration into larger projects in which WFP supplied food while other donors provided cash, equipment and technical assistance and he gave examples of successful integrated projects of this kind.

43. Referring to the threat of soil erosion to food production, Mr. Ingram informed the Conference that WFP had supported over 25 highly effective integrated forest/soil conservation projects in a number of African countries. These projects helped demonstrate the value of soil conservation to both governments and farmers.

44. WFP had been also active, in collaboration with other agencies, in the field of food security. In eight African countries WFP was committed to provide about 100 000 tons of grain for food security and price stabilization projects.

45. He further stated that in 1981, the Director-General of FAO had approved emergency food aid of US\$ 45 million from WFP regular resources, in addition to US\$ 133 million under the International Emergency Food Reserve. Over one third of these resources were allocated to Africa. Currently, there were emergency operations in 20 African countries.

46. Referring to the refugee problem, Mr. Ingram stated that in the last three years, WFP allocated almost US\$ 80 million to refugee assistance projects, over 85 percent of this sum to Africa, to help the rehabilitation of refugees.

47. Ever since WFP was set up, emphasis had been placed on purchase of food supplies from developing countries, where possible. Since June 1981, the Programme had purchased 265 000 tons of maize from Zimbabwe, to support development projects and emergency operations in 15 African countries.

48. As more African countries generated food surpluses, WFP could undertake similar operations, depending on the availability of cash donations for purchases. He expressed the hope that helpful financial support already given by the OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) Fund might stimulate other new contributions for this purpose.

49. In conclusion, Mr. Ingram stated that WFP was ready to assist governments in the task of coordinating and rationalizing their food aid receipts and strengthen management.

Summary of Country Statements

50. In their statements, all delegates expressed deep concern at the persistent deterioration of the food situation in Africa. Food availability in Africa was now 10 percent less than 10 years ago. If present trends continue, by the year 2000 an unacceptable percentage of the export earnings of African states would have to be spent on the importation of agricultural products. This situation had developed despite the availability of abundant land, water, livestock, fishery and human resources on the continent. It was also stressed that food imports requiring scarce foreign exchange retarded overall development. Many delegates stated that real independence could not be achieved if the Continent was not self-sufficient in food.

51. Delegates observed that the worsening food situation of the African countries was due to imbalance between population growth and agricultural production and that the low level of agricultural productivity was caused by natural disasters, lack of trained manpower and inputs, lack of proper infrastructure, services, etc. These internal factors were further negatively influenced by deterioration of the world economic situation, rising costs of inputs, limited international trade due to protectionism and insufficiency of international assistance, both technical and financial.

52. All delegates fully supported the agricultural part of the Lagos Plan of Action which was considered as a blueprint for food self-sufficiency for the African countries. Delegates re-affirmed the importance which their governments had attached to agricultural production and food self-sufficiency and reported on some measures necessary in this respect considering their local conditions:

- (a) Preparation of food strategy and food security programme, with assistance from FAO and others.
- (b) Utilization of new areas of arable land for food production.
- (c) Creation of special organizations responsible for integrated development including cash and food crops production.
- (d) Encouragement of cooperatives and farmers associations at the village level for decentralization of administration and better self-governing of the rural population.
- (e) Emphasis put on full participation of the rural population in conception and execution of programmes and projects concerning rural development and agricultural production.
- (f) Emphasis on water management and irrigation.
- (g) Stress on agricultural research and extension and on introduction of new and high-yielding varieties of crops and disease resistant animals specifically adapted to various ecological conditions in Africa.
- (h) More attention to be paid to roots and tubers, bananas and plantains, the staple food for many African countries.
- (i) Development of proper infrastructure and services for food production, feeder roads, credits, marketing, storage, processing, etc.
- (j) Efforts should be made to develop local, sub-regional or regional productions of agricultural inputs from raw materials available on the African continent.

53. All delegates appealed for international assistance necessary for full implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and for support to their own financial efforts in this respect. UNDP and other donors were requested to take into full consideration the food and agricultural priorities expressed by African states in the Lagos Plan of Action and increase their contributions to the food and agricultural sector accordingly. Delegates expressed their appreciation for the special contribution of 500 million US dollars pledged by the Government of Italy to help CILSS countries in their fight against hunger and expressed the hope that other countries would follow the example of Italy.

54. Delegates unanimously supported FAO's leading role in the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and called on UNDP and other donors to help FAO in fulfilling this role. They expressed their appreciation of TCP and requested that its resources be increased to meet the requirements of Member States for the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action.

55. In the field of fishery resources, delegates underlined the important role of fish in supplying protein food to the population and indicated steps being taken to improve maritime and inland fisheries and aquaculture. It was stressed that the programme of the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development should also include inland fisheries and aquaculture.

56. Delegates indicated that the problem of energy remained crucial. As fuelwood was the principal source of energy, reforestation programmes had to be developed and executed in every country. The use of solar and wind energy, biogas as well as other sources of energy were also of great importance but could not be fully utilized without external assistance. Forestry was recognized as an important factor for development of rural areas and an integrated approach towards forestry development was recommended. It was also suggested that African countries should develop their own wood industry in order to limit the exportation of logs.

57. Delegates supported FAO activities in the implementation of WCARRD Programme of Action and indicated the actions taken by their countries in land reform and rural development according to the situation prevailing in their respective countries. Many delegates considered CIRDAFRICA as an important institution for the implementation of WCARRD resolutions and appealed to FAO to continue its technical assistance and financial support to this Centre. There was a general appeal to African countries to join CIRDAFRICA. Some delegates informed the Conference of the decision of their Governments to ratify the agreement establishing the Centre.

58. Land and soil were considered the most important elements of agricultural production and many delegates expressed concern for their proper use and protection.

59. Many delegates fully supported the joint OAU/FAO/OIE campaign on Rinderpest Eradication in Africa and some of them also suggested vaccination at the same time against contagious bovine pleuropneumonia. Delegates supported FAO's Programme for the control of African Animal Trypanosomiasis and Related Development and considered it a very important element for livestock development in Africa. They called for more extensive introduction of trypanotolerant cattle in Africa. Some countries offered to supply such cattle to countries interested provided they obtained financial support to multiply these cattle.

60. All delegates advocated sub-regional and regional cooperation to develop intra-African trade on the basis of complementarity between the countries. Cooperation in training covering animal health, land and water management, diseases and pest control and maritime fishing should be intensified. Food security and joint ventures in industrial development for production of agricultural inputs from local raw materials were recommended. Delegates recommended that such cooperation be developed through the existing regional and sub-regional IGO's, such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) and others. Considering the importance of the regional and sub-regional cooperation and the role of IGO's in this respect, delegates requested that more external assistance from various sources be allocated for these activities. This South-South cooperation would further promote the African solidarity.

61. Several delegates expressed interest in the composite flour programme and some countries requested immediate FAO assistance in its implementation. At the same time delegates stressed the importance of industrial production of indigenous convenience foods from local products.

62. All delegates welcomed the participation of Zimbabwe in this Conference for the first time. The delegate of Zimbabwe expressed the willingness of his country to fully participate in regional activities and to offer all possible assistance to development of food production in African countries.

63. Delegates stressed the need of training of personnel at all levels for agricultural production, with special accent on high-level professional training of planners, research workers and managers and requested FAO to establish a special programme for this purpose.

64. The Conference expressed its complete satisfaction with FAO activities in Africa and expressed full appreciation and gratitude to the Director-General of FAO for his continuing interest and personal involvement in the development of African agriculture.

Other Statements

65. Some member countries outside the region participated in the discussion and pledged their support for the Lagos Plan of Action and its priorities, since they believed that the Plan would help African countries to forge their own paths toward greater self-reliance and a higher standard of living of their people. They felt that the LPA formed a good basis for their cooperation with African countries. There was strong support for national grain reserves, and regional and sub-regional cooperation to control pests and diseases, exchange of agricultural information and expansion of continental trade.

66. Support was also given to the follow-up of the WCARRD Programme of Action and its emphasis on small farmers. They further urged the greater use of the immense resources of the private sector to modernize the production and marketing of food and agricultural products. The FAO Regional Programmes for Africa were fully supported. They emphasized the important role of training to which the Conference attached top priority as the key to long-term and secure gains in agricultural development.

67. The representative of IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development), in his statement, stressed the importance of the availability of agricultural inputs and consumer goods for increased agricultural production and rural development in spite of foreign exchange constraints facing most African countries. By the end of 1982, IFAD's total commitment would reach \$1.6 billion in loans and grants for 119 projects. Out of this, Africa would benefit from 49 projects, representing 40 percent of the projects and valued at \$ 550 million. On-going projects would directly benefit several million families, essentially small farmers.

68. He said that half of IFAD's initiated projects in Africa had also attracted an additional \$ 130 million from other bilateral and multilateral funding agencies. The representative drew attention to cooperation with the FAO Investment Centre in project identification, preparation and appraisal.

69. The representative of the European Economic Community (EEC) stressed EEC's preoccupation with the food and agriculture situation in Africa. EEC's assistance in the food and agriculture sector included food aid, implementation of food sector plans and strategies, specific projects such as reforestation and rational use of fuelwood and food security especially in least developed countries. He referred to the EEC proposal to develop a kind of global Rural Development/Food Security Contract and outlined the elements of this type of cooperation, including the commitments of EEC and beneficiaries under the scheme.

70. The representative of the African Groundnut Council highlighted the economic importance of groundnuts and groundnut products as sources of food and foreign exchange for a number of African countries. Since the 1970's, the economies of their countries had been seriously hit by continuing decline in production, competition from substitutes and protectionist policies of developed countries. He noted with appreciation the inclusion in the proposed FAO Regional Programme for Africa, 1982-1986, of a project for the control of aflatoxin. He appealed to bilateral and multilateral donors to support his organization's efforts to reverse the downward trend in groundnut production and to improve the quality of the crop.

Concluding Remarks of the Director-General

71. The Director-General expressed his sincere thanks for the inspired policy statements and the constructive contributions directed to the success of the Regional Conference.

72. He reiterated his thanks to the Government of Algeria for its generous hospitality, to the Chairman of the Conference and to the Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur. He also thanked the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Officers of the Technical Committee.

73. Indicating his appreciation of the report of the Technical Committee, the Director-General expressed his positive reactions to the main issues and recommendations, in particular those on training, follow-up to WCARRD, energy, the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development, soil conservation, animal production and health, and the particular strong support enjoyed by the Technical Cooperation Programme.

74. The problems of the African agriculture had to be reviewed in the historical context, the conditions of the member countries at the time of and since their independence, the reliance on food imports, the burdens of external debt servicing, the needs for training, the natural drawbacks of soil and climate, and the relative poverty of most countries in the Region.

75. The problems of agriculture, therefore, did not have any instant solutions, and reliance was not enough on either plans and strategies or on additional external assistance which, in any case, give an indication of declining.

76. The Director-General then indicated his thoughts on the next Programme of Work and Budget of FAO. While the increases for the last three budgets had been modest, his proposals for the next one may have to be even lower. The few major donors were increasing their pressures to limit the budget level. Arrears in contributions had reached an all time record.

77. In the circumstances, it would not be realistic to formulate a proposed budget level which would correspond either to the needs or to FAO's capacity to assist. A more effective utilization of scarce resources would have to be ensured. Africa however would continue to be the priority focus of FAO's action.

78. Despite the complexity of the problems, the challenge had to be faced with resolve. Agriculture should have priority even at the personal level of Heads of State.

79. For all these reasons, regional and sub-regional cooperation were vital.

80. In concluding, the Director-General stressed his links with Africa, paid tribute to Dr. S.C. Sar who had retired after many years of distinguished service to FAO, latterly as Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa. He was certain that member countries would accord the same confidence and support to his successor, Mr. J.A.C. Davies.

Implementation of the FAO Priority Programme in the Region

81. In a brief statement, Mr. J.A.C. Davies, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa, introduced document ARC/82/11 which dealt with the implementation of FAO Priority Programmes in the Region. Activities highlighted in the presentation included the Programme for the Control of African Animal Trypanosomiasis and other Animal Diseases which continues to receive high priority in FAO activities in the African Region. Also presented were WCARRD follow-up activities, support for Agro-based Industries, Economic Planning Assistance and the Forestry and Fisheries programmes.

82. Reference was also made to the FAO Special Action Programmes or schemes for the Prevention of Food Losses (PFL), Food Security Assistance and Forestry for Local Community Development. Special mention was made of a number of field programmes executed in the region, with special reference to the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) under which FAO has been able to respond promptly to numerous requests from member countries. Finally a brief description was given of FAO cooperation with several international, regional and sub-regional organizations. The Conference noted these activities with satisfaction.

FAO Programme in the Region - 1982-83

83. Mr. J.A.C. Davies, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa, presented document ARC/82/12 which gave an account of the FAO Programme in the region for the 1982-83 biennium, including the policy framework for its elaboration and implementation. He examined the priority areas of FAO's work for the biennium as well as medium- and long-term objectives in the implementation of programmes in such areas as Natural Resources, Crops, Livestock, Research, Rural Development, Nutrition, Food and Agricultural Information,

Planning, Fisheries and Forestry Development. He highlighted FAO activities designed to assist in the formulation, implementation and review of strategies aimed at increasing food production. Emphasis was also put on FAO supporting services in the fields of marketing, agro-based industries, agricultural research and farm management, promotion of increased investment in the agricultural sector, farmer training and agricultural education as well as Programme for the improvement of rural living conditions. The Conference noted the proposed programme of work with satisfaction.

Activities of FAO Regional Bodies

84. Mr. J.A.C. Davies, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa, introduced document ARC/82/13 which presented the activities, problems and possibilities of eight FAO regional bodies and Commissions operating in the Africa Region. He recalled the importance which the Council and the Conference have attached to the proper functioning of these bodies, in particular, from the viewpoint of Member States' effective participation. In this connection he informed the Conference of a review initiated by the Director-General of these bodies and commissions, in response to the relevant General Conference resolution and his own concern and as a means of establishing a solid basis for the Regional Conference's future assessment of the bodies, with the view to their eventual possible rationalization. He expressed the hope that Member States would cooperate in particular in ensuring that the review being undertaken on the instructions of the Director-General would achieve its objective of assisting them in making the relevant recommendations for their reinforcement and/or rationalization. The Conference unanimously supported the proposed review.

Implementation of the Agricultural Part of the Lagos Plan of Action: Problems and Prospects

85. The Conference examined document ARC/82/2 which highlighted the significance of the Lagos Plan of Action; its objectives and recommendations relating to the food and agriculture sector, the critical constraints which hindered the achievement of its objectives and FAO's role and contribution to the implementation of the Plan. In presenting the document the Secretariat referred to supplementary FAO documents entitled "Agricultural Chapter of the Lagos Plan of Action" and "The Contribution of FAO to the Implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action Parts I and II.

86. The Conference noted with satisfaction the political will and commitment of the African Heads of State and Government expressed in the Lagos Plan of Action to assign top priority to food production; to carry out essential re-orientations and reforms of economic and social systems; to channel a greatly increased volume of resources to the food and agriculture sector; to formulate and implement policies that would induce higher productivity in agriculture and to set up effective institutions for the formulation and implementation of relevant programmes and projects. It however expressed deep concern at the continuing deterioration of the food situation in Africa.

87. The Conference noted the significant contribution of FAO in the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action: These contributions include:

- (a) using every available opportunity to inform the world community of the serious implications of the food problem in Africa;
- (b) concrete steps to increase and improve its support to African countries in their efforts to reverse the declining trends of food production and supply;
- (c) devoting, in support of the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action, up to almost 40 percent of its Regular Budget for 1982-83 biennium and of its extra-budgetary resources;
- (d) focusing the main thrust of its "Special Action Programmes" on priority areas of the Lagos Plan of Action namely prevention of food losses, food security, African animal trypanosomiasis, improved seeds, fertilizer production for food crops, livestock and fisheries;
- (e) organizing and fielding sectoral review/project identification missions to some 40 countries in the past two years in order to assist governments in translating the LPA into concrete programmes and projects valued at US\$ 1 000 million. In this regard, the Conference appreciated the efforts of FAO and expressed its concern about the lack of adequate material and financial resources to support the implementation of these project proposals.

88. The Conference was deeply concerned by the immense shortage of trained manpower in all areas of the Lagos Plan of Action, especially in the sector of agriculture, and considered that the removal of this critical constraint constituted the first objective in the implementation process of the Plan.

89. It further considered that FAO had an important role to play in the area of higher-level training, particularly in research, planning and execution of agricultural and rural development activities and programmes. The Committee fully recognized, with deep appreciation, the role played by FAO in supporting countries' self-reliance and the significant focus placed on training in all of FAO's programmes and activities in Africa, particularly in its TCP and Special Action Programmes, and also with extra-budgetary projects. It stressed that the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action especially required the development of higher-level manpower of African professionals.

90. The Conference therefore requested the Director-General to consider according a key role to programmes for higher-level training in Africa, in formulating his proposals for the Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85.

91. The Conference urged African Governments to review and reorient their national and inter-country training programmes in order to place priority on the manpower requirements of the Lagos Plan of Action, especially in the higher echelons of technical and professional personnel for policy-making and implementation of agricultural and rural development programmes.

92. The Conference acknowledged with appreciation the work of the FAO Inter-Departmental Working Group on training and requested the Director-General to make available an assessment of FAO's experience in training in Africa, for consideration at the next Regional Conference.

93. Fully recognizing the potential and advantages of South-South cooperation in training available within Africa, the Conference requested FAO to conduct a survey of existing agricultural training facilities in Africa and make it available to interested member countries.

94. The Conference emphasized the crucial importance of regional cooperation in research, food trade, disease and pest control and natural resources development (e.g. river basin development) to meet the exigencies of the Lagos Plan of Action and its food self-sufficiency objective.

95. The Conference recommended that governments should respect LPA priorities, taking account of them in national development plans and allocating to them national and external resources, including UNDP/IPF's to increase production and achieve food self-sufficiency. It further recommended to governments, that had not done so, to develop necessary manpower, institutions and mechanisms, to facilitate the effective and equitable use of resources allocated to the food and agriculture sector; that national policy reforms should be undertaken to do away with any present disincentives to food production especially by small farmers and that inter-governmental organizations operating in the field of food and agriculture received the political and material support adequate for their functions.

96. The Conference noted with concern that two years after its adoption the LPA had not been sufficiently publicized in African countries and more particularly among rural-level technicians and planners. It commended FAO for the efforts it had made in documenting and disseminating the agricultural section of this historic document and urged governments to ensure the widest national campaign to familiarize all those concerned, with the content and implications of the LPA.

97. The Conference also expressed its satisfaction with FAO's application of the principles of the 'new dimensions' approach to project implementation, with the involvement of national experts and institutions in project management and reiterated the hope that the Organization would not relent its efforts in this area. It was further recommended that projects be conceived in a manner that facilitated participation of farmers in all the various aspects of economic life, production, processing and marketing.

98. The Conference expressed its appreciation for the Director-General's efforts in the mobilization of bilateral and multilateral resources for the implementation of the LPA and accorded its full support to his continuing endeavours to this end.

99. Noting that external donors were still not allocating adequate funds for food production, the Conference strongly appealed to both bilateral and multilateral donors and private investors to redouble their support for the development of food and agriculture in Africa in conformity with the principles and priorities embodied in the LPA.

100. The Conference fully supported the actions taken and proposed by FAO to promote the food and agricultural objectives of the LPA. It urged UNDP and other donors to allocate the necessary financial resources for the activities proposed by FAO at the country and inter-country levels so that FAO could bring the full weight of its experiences and expertise to bear on the implementation of the LPA.

Follow-up to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development: Progress Report

101. The Conference reviewed the detailed progress report in document ARC/82/3 on the activities undertaken by FAO, as well as the updated information provided by the Secretariat, at the country and regional levels, in response to the recommendation of the Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Africa. FAO assistance to Member Nations included the fielding of inter-agency missions to review their agrarian reform and rural development policies, support to peoples' participation in rural development, the integration of rural women in development, the expansion of education, training and extension and strengthening access to inputs and services. Assistance was also given to the development of systems for evaluation and monitoring of rural programmes and the support given to the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Africa (CIRDAFRICA).

102. The Conference expressed its full satisfaction with the progress made by FAO in the follow-up to WCARRD, reiterated its support to the WCARRD Programme of Action and commended FAO for the assistance rendered to African countries in the implementation of the Programme of Action. The Conference indicated that there was a close link between the LPA and WCARRD Programme of Action and both should be closely considered in formulating integrated national rural development policies and programmes. Both programmes emphasized the need for national policies aimed at increased agricultural production and productivity giving proper balance to the concepts of growth with equity.

103. The need to disseminate the Declaration of Principles and the Programme of Action of WCARRD was also mentioned. The Conference took note that FAO had translated this basic text, which is known as the "Peasants' Charter" into eight languages, and recommended that Member Governments should make every possible effort to publicize it in the context of their social and political systems in order that the peasants of each country became aware of the principles contained in it.

104. The Conference accorded high priority to access to land and its rational utilization by farmers as a means of increasing agricultural production and equitable distribution of income. It recognized that political will was necessary to formulate and implement rural development policies and programmes. Agrarian reform was mentioned as a crucial element to be considered in implementing rural development strategies.

105. Analysing the basic concepts to be taken into consideration when implementing the WCARRD Programme of Action, the Committee stressed peoples' participation as an important tool to involve the most disadvantaged groups in national development programmes. The Conference fully agreed that rural women played an important role in rural development and could play an even greater role if they had better access to production inputs, services and particularly training.

106. The Conference emphasized strongly the importance of education, training and extension to upgrade the manpower capacity of African countries. It accorded high priority to training at all levels for successful rural development and indicated that training programmes should cover all disciplines relevant to rural needs.

107. A number of delegates expressed concern about the increasing rural exodus, especially involving youth, to the detriment of agricultural production and social stability. The Conference felt that further analysis should be conducted by governments to assess the impact of this problem and the repercussions that it would have on the future of farming patterns in the Region. It requested FAO to assist in such analysis and to disseminate relevant information.

108. The Conference also placed emphasis on improving national institutions to reach the rural poor as well as to improve national machineries for the delivery of inputs and services.

109. The Conference supported the efforts made by FAO to assist countries in the preparation of benchmarks and the socio-economic indicators that could be applied in the African countries. It reiterated the importance of the preparation, at the national and international levels, of a comprehensive report to be presented at the 1983 FAO Conference, assessing progress made in agrarian and rural development since 1979.

110. The Conference stressed the need to mobilize additional resources to support the follow-up of WCARRD, as well as the rural development activities that should be organized at the national level. It called upon donor countries and/or agencies to commit the necessary additional resources, either through the UN System or through direct bilateral assistance.

111. Considering the promising role and potential of CIRDAFRICA in rural development, the Conference urged Governments which had not yet adhered to or ratified the Agreement for its establishment to do so and, as members, to meet fully their financial obligations towards the Centre. Recognizing with appreciation the steady and continuing support given by FAO, the Conference further urged interested UN agencies, NGO's, international and bilateral donors to participate in and support the work of the Centre. It appealed to donors to contribute financial and material aid directly to the Centre or to selected aspects of its work programme.

112. The Conference noted the high-level missions that FAO had been organizing to assist countries in the implementation of the WCARRD Programme of Action. It stressed that these missions should be multidisciplinary and should include as many UN agencies and national experts as possible that could cover various aspects of rural development. It urged the collaboration of other UN agencies such as ECA, WHO, ILO and Unesco with FAO in this respect.

113. The Conference emphasized the need for the exchange of information and experience relating to rural development and agrarian reform processes among African countries, eventually through CIRDAFRICA, and between Africa and other regions, and requested that this type of activity should be promoted and supported.

114. The Conference stressed the importance of non-governmental organization being actively involved in the implementation of national policies for agrarian reform and rural development. The Conference recommended that Governments support the work of NGO's, especially in promoting peoples' participation and involve them as fully as possible in implementing rural development programmes.

New and Renewable Sources of Energy for Agriculture and Rural Development

115. In introducing document ARC/82/4 on this agenda item, the Secretariat stressed that although the agricultural sector consumed only a small proportion of total commercial energy, the assured supply of petroleum-based inputs to meet existing and increasing energy needs of food and agricultural production was vital. Consequently, energy policies to meet agricultural and rural development needs must ensure equitable access to energy at reasonable prices. The efficient use of petroleum-based inputs in agriculture and the development of new and renewable sources of energy for food production and rural development was stressed. The Conference fully agreed with the analysis of the energy issues concerning agriculture and rural development in Africa and supported the measures proposed in the document.

116. The Conference particularly stressed the importance of draught animal power and wood for energy as areas for immediate action since the techniques involved were already well developed and these sources of energy already played an important role in food production and rural development in the Region.

117. In discussing the importance of draught animal power, the Conference stressed the need for selecting and promoting suitable animals, together with equipment well adapted to local conditions and reflecting the socio-economic needs of small farmers. The need for suitable training was also stressed. The Conference observed that draught animal power was unsuitable for certain countries where motorized motive power may be preferable.

118. The Conference further stressed that fuel-wood and its derivatives would continue to be a major source of renewable energy for the Region, particularly for rural populations and the poorer sections of urban populations. It underlined the need for intensified programmes of production and rational use of fuel-wood particularly in areas where there were existing or imminent deficit situations. These programmes should include both wood-lots and village plantations, planned, managed and exploited by rural people, as well as large-scale plantations using fast-growing and multi-purpose tree species. In addition, the programme should include schemes for improving the management of existing forests.

119. The Conference urged governments to participate fully in celebrating the World Tree Day established by the Seventh World Forestry Congress in 1972 to increase awareness of the importance of forestry resources and their potential.

120. The Conference stressed the importance of other new and renewable sources of energy, in particular biogas, bio-fertilizers, wind, solar and hydro-energy. It noted that various activities involving some of these sources of energy had been initiated and were in progress, including experimentation and demonstration, but recognized the need for further development and wider application and requested FAO's assistance in this respect. The Conference further stressed the need for intra-regional cooperation through TCDC and emphasized the importance of ensuring that the cost of energy systems that were introduced was reasonable in general and in particular to the small farmers.

121. The Conference agreed that the differences and similarities among countries as well as possibilities for inter-country cooperation should be taken into account in promoting new and renewable energy sources in the Region.

122. The Conference also emphasized the importance of the efficient use of all energy inputs particularly commercial inputs in view of the increasingly high cost of fossil fuel derived energy inputs including fertilizers and pesticides. It urged member countries to ensure that new and renewable sources of energy contributed as much as possible to meet the increasing energy needs for food production and rural development. In this respect, emphasis was placed on the need for the development of integrated national and rural energy policies, plans and systems. The Conference also suggested the development of regional raw materials for fertilizer production through inter-country cooperation.

123. While liquid fuel could be obtained from biomass, the Conference particularly stressed that great care should be exercised to ensure that both food and resources normally used for food production should not be diverted. In this respect some delegates referred to the great potential offered by existing forest biomass for energy production in the Region, without competition with food production.

124. The Conference recalled the recommendations of the 21st Session of the FAO Conference and taking into account the specific requirements of the Region within the framework of the Nairobi Programme of Action, requested FAO to:

- (a) assist both individual countries and/or collectively those countries with similar conditions in the development of long-term energy policies and plans;
- (b) support a network of national institutions to produce and disseminate an inventory of simple proven and promising technologies on new and renewable sources of energy (biogas, bio-fertilizers, wind, solar, wood energy) which could be used by rural populations. Such exchange of information could be achieved through TCDC within Africa and between the Asia and the Pacific Region and the Africa Region;

- (c) assist in intensifying programmes of reforestation, improved management of existing forests and the efficient use of wood energy;
- (d) assist in the development of suitable mechanization systems, particularly those based on draught animal power and the use of minimum tillage, but also bearing in mind the needs of countries where motorized mechanization was more appropriate;
- (e) support national activities designed to achieve the efficient use of fertilizers and integrated pest management through appropriate farm management techniques;
- (f) assist in training programmes on rural energy assessment and planning as well as on proven and promising technologies on new and renewable sources of energy.

Report on the Preparation of the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development

125. The Conference considered this item on the basis of document ARC/82/5 and of the additional information provided by the Secretariat, and by the FAO Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic. The Conference expressed its strong support for the convening by the Director-General of the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development, and delegates pledged the full cooperation of their countries in the preparations for, and the holding of the Conference in two phases: a technical one in October 1983 and a high-level policy one in May 1984.

126. The Conference considered that the Conference would be both timely and essential in view of the fundamental changes in the regime of the oceans with regard to fisheries, as embodied in the Convention of the Law of the Sea adopted on 30 April 1982. At the same time, it emphasized that the Conference should not only play an important role in the practical implementation of the new regime, but also cover the problems and prospects of inland fisheries and aquaculture. In this respect, it pointed out that the African continent comprised a very large number of land-locked states whose nationals depend largely on inland fisheries and aquaculture as sources of employment and nutrition and for this reason greater emphasis should be placed on inland fisheries and aquaculture. It also noted that the yield from inland fisheries and aquaculture in both land-locked and coastal countries could be increased significantly and thus make a substantial contribution for the production of protein-rich food.

127. The Conference endorsed the broad objectives of the World Fisheries Conference as outlined in document ARC/82/5. It agreed that major ones should include the formulation of strategies and programmes to achieve optimum utilization of fishery resources, the promotion of the self-reliance of developing countries, the transfer of appropriate technologies and, generally, the attainment of higher economic, social and nutritional benefits from rationally managed fisheries. In this connection, it stressed the need for countries of the region to participate more fully in the exploitation of fishery resources off their shores.

128. The Conference reviewed in some detail the items and issues which could be considered by the World Fisheries Conference. While noting that it might prove necessary to be selective, it stressed that fisheries management and development should be considered in an integrated manner from harvesting through processing and marketing to distribution, bearing in mind the possible contribution of fish and fishery products to national self-sufficiency in food and world food security.

129. Recognizing that the identification of subjects which should be considered on a priority basis would constitute a basis for the drawing up of an agenda for the World Fisheries Conference, the Conference agreed that the following matters would deserve particular attention:

- (a) adoption or adjustment of national policies, principles and techniques of management and development based on scientific and economic data, and development strategies to take full account of the extension of national jurisdiction over fisheries;
- (b) problems and prospects of inland fisheries and aquaculture;
- (c) improvement of the socio-economic conditions of small-scale fisheries and resolution of possible conflicts between small-scale fisheries and industrial or semi-industrial fisheries;
- (d) fishery monitoring, control and surveillance;

- (e) conditions of access to living resources of exclusive economic zones and role of joint ventures and bilateral agreements;
- (f) protection of the marine environment and control of pollution affecting fisheries;
- (g) impact of energy issues on the fisheries sector;
- (h) reduction of post-harvest losses;
- (i) establishment or improvement of internal marketing and distribution systems;
- (j) development and rationalization of trade in fish and fishery products and increased participation of developing countries in such trade;
- (k) special needs and problems of developing small island states;
- (l) promotion of cooperation among states in the same sub-region or region, in the field of research, management, harmonization of legislation, control and surveillance, particularly with respect to shared stocks; and,
- (m) harmonization of the activities of governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with fisheries.

130. The Conference shared the views of the Director-General that while the World Fisheries Conference would provide a unique forum for the exchange of knowledge and experience, it should lead to practical and concrete outcomes.

131. The Conference recommended that the World Fisheries Conference should help formulate strategies for all aspects of fisheries management and development which should include integrated training programmes. It recognized that this would require the definition of immediate and longer-term objectives, as well as a calendar. It also stressed that FAO should be invited to assist in eliciting the active participation and support of bilateral and multilateral donor or financing agencies, both in the preparations for the World Fisheries Conference and in the implementation of its recommendations.

132. A suggestion was made that the World Fisheries Conference might provide an opportunity to display the technology used in fishery production and management, as well as to exhibit documents and publications relating to the objectives of the Conference.

The Contribution of Soil Conservation to Increased Agricultural Productivity in Africa with Emphasis on the Problems of Shifting Cultivation

133. The Conference reviewed document ARC/82/6 which aimed at increasing awareness among policy-makers, planners, administrators and farmers of the possibilities and problems of shifting cultivation within the overall context of judicious land use. The document underlined the role of soil conservation and improved cultural practices as means of improving land productivity and conserving this important resource for future generations.

134. The Conference recognized fully the danger of destruction of productive ecosystems and loss of productive soils in the region resulting from increasing pressure on the land by rapid population growth, bushfires, etc., made this problem even more serious.

135. The Conference therefore agreed that soil conservation implied the rational use of soil resources, combining technical, economic and social measures with activities relating to the conservation and enhancement of the productivity of land. In this way soil conservation should be considered as a fundamental part of rural development and soil conservation practices should be treated as an integral part of the general process of economic and social development.

136. The Conference stressed the importance of a well established land use policy for long-term development. This policy should be based on comprehensive land use planning in accordance with land capability and national and rural development objectives. The Agro-Ecological Zones approach developed by FAO was noted with particular appreciation.

137. The Conference stressed the importance of reconciling productivity with soil protection and conservation. This had become particularly important in areas under shifting cultivation but also in more permanent forms of land use. Some delegates described the benefits of integrated production systems in use in their respective countries and the Committee urged further development in this field.

138. The Conference emphasized that in lands under cropping, sound agronomic practices should play the main role in soil conservation and related activities such as: multiple cropping, crop rotation and strip cropping. The use of organic manures and biological nitrogen fixation could be helpful in relation to productivity and conservation. Within these concerns, the Conference emphasized the need for appropriate attention to be paid to the production and utilization of organic materials where applicable and urged FAO to continue its activities in this area.

139. The Conference noted the activities in agro-forestry described by some delegates and emphasized their positive effects on soil productivity and conservation and their contribution to food and fuel-wood.

140. The Conference called for intensified activities in sand dune fixation and noted activities going on in this field in some countries. Although interesting results in dune fixation, fuel-wood production and the protection of agricultural and pasture lands had been obtained, the Conference recognized that more research and developmental work was needed.

141. The Conference underlined the primary responsibility of governments in any comprehensive programme in land improvement and conservation since land and water resources are national assets and their use, development and conservation must form part of national land use policies.

142. The need was emphasized to create awareness amongst governments, farmers and the general public of the seriousness of soil degradation and losses and of possibilities to deal with the problem effectively.

143. The Conference noted with appreciation on-going FAO activities on improvement of alternatives to shifting cultivation being conducted in Africa in close collaboration with national institutions. It welcomed these activities and emphasized the need for comprehensive research on prevailing and possible improved farming systems in the region, from both the productivity and the conservation points of view.

144. The Conference drew attention to the situation of the mangrove formations which are under strong pressure for alternative uses. The Conference emphasized that mangrove formations should be subjected to multi-purpose management taking into account their agricultural, forestry and fishery production potentials.

145. The Conference underlined the important role of forestry in soil conservation and in supporting rural development by producing essential products, such as fuelwood, fodder and timber, and in protecting arable and pasture lands.

146. The Conference mentioned the severe shortage of specialized staff and financial resources in land development and conservation and urged countries and FAO to intensify training at all levels in this field.

147. The Conference noted that legislation on soil conservation, forestry and related fields as well as the institutional facilities were available in some countries but inadequate in many cases and should be adjusted and strengthened in order to implement adequately current policies and meet present and future requirements.

148. The Conference emphasized the urgent need for comprehensive programmes in soil conservation and related fields at the country level as a matter of priority. It recommended that rural populations be closely involved in the planning and execution of all processes relating to soil conservation and improved soil management.

149. The Conference recognized (a) that the conservation of the renewable natural resources is a pre-requisite for development and that conservation of soils and water is vital for ensuring the general well-being of the community; (b) that soil degradation and

erosion had already disastrous consequences on food production and the environment in some parts of Africa and (c) that increasing pressure on areas under shifting and permanent cultivation had led to additional severe soil losses.

150. The Conference therefore recommended that governments accord political and technical priority to the immediate development and implementation of integrated and permanent programmes in soil conservation and improvement of shifting cultivation and permanent cultivation aimed at obtaining a sustained increase in food production. Such programmes should include action at national, watershed and farm levels in order to:

- create awareness amongst administrators, farmers and the general public of the dangers of soil erosion for the community and of possibilities to cope with the problem;
- provide social and economic conditions and organizational facilities for a successful soil conservation programme;
- develop and implement appropriate systems to combat soil degradation and farming systems for the stabilization and improvement of areas under shifting cultivation;
- train farmers and technicians in the use of soil conservation methods;
- give priority to soil conservation programmes in the assignment of public funds and in providing incentives to farmers for soil conservation measures;
- make soil conservation an integral part of national development plans and rural development policies.

151. The Conference further recommended that FAO attach high priority to programmes and activities in soil conservation and related fields; continue its assistance and strengthen it as resources permit. This assistance in the region should inter alia include the following:

- formulating a soil conservation policy in countries which so requested, and preparing and launching concrete projects;
- the transfer of knowledge and techniques and the exchange of experience among countries;
- training within countries and at international level in all aspects of the conservation of renewable natural resources;
- stimulating general awareness on the dangers of soil erosion and on possibilities to cope with them;
- strengthening or establishing the institutional implementation of a soil conservation programme;
- development of legislation on soil conservation.

Composite Flours: Their Potential in Overcoming Food Shortages

152. In considering document ARC/82/7, the Conference noted the limited options available to developing countries in reducing their imports of wheat and other cereals. The promotion of traditional staple foods through industrial processing and the use of composite flours were among these. However, now that the technological problems regarding the production of composite flours had been overcome, the concrete policy elements involved need to be considered and reviewed carefully by the governments interested in launching national programmes. The production and marketing of local staple foods and composite flour products required an integrated policy framework.

153. The Conference expressed its appreciation of the analytical document and complimented the Director-General on the work done by the Organization over many years in developing a composite flour production programme. The Conference urged that FAO continue the programme with particular attention to technologies facilitating the use of traditional forms of food in the households of the growing urban populations of the Region.

154. The Conference stressed that programmes intended for reducing cereal imports and promoting local products as emphasized in the Lagos Plan of Action, should take into consideration local agricultural as well as the food consumption patterns of the rural and urban populations.

155. The Conference underlined the importance of, and the possibilities offered by composite flours for the development of local food production by stimulating the consumption of local foods. The Conference felt that priority should be given to promoting the improved processing of local traditional staple foods, including infant foods. This would offer the most effective way of competing with imported foods that may attract the urban consumer.

156. The Conference recommended that priority be given to improving methods of preparing, processing, preservation and packaging of local staple foods, and that Food Technology Research Centres in Africa be reinforced for this purpose. In order to avoid dependence on imported processing equipment, facilities for the local design and construction of appropriate mechanical equipment should be considered.

157. The Conference nevertheless recognized that a composite flours programme was relevant to a number of countries and invited FAO to assist them in their efforts.

158. The Conference recognized the critical issues involved in implementing a national policy deliberately aimed at introducing a composite flours programme. The Conference recommended that FAO should pay special attention to the socio-economic, institutional and agronomic constraints in launching such programmes in African countries.

159. In order to encourage local cereal production, the Conference recommended coordination between African countries in the development and implementation of legislation and strategies on cereal imports.

Strategies for Animal Health in Africa

160. The Conference, in reviewing document ARC/82/8, expressed its appreciation of the presentation made by the Secretariat on the strategies for major animal health issues in Africa such as the control of African animal trypanosomiasis, the eradication of rinderpest, the control of ticks and tick-borne diseases, strengthening of veterinary education and training at professional and sub-professional levels, and strengthening of veterinary laboratory services. The Conference fully supported the FAO Action Programmes contained in the document.

161. The representative of OAU/IBAR informed the Committee of the close collaboration between FAO and OAU/IBAR, and underlined the importance of the proposed Pan African rinderpest eradication campaign and its follow-up programme. He proposed the establishment of a "Special Fund" for the necessary follow-up action, pooling contributions from the participating governments and other donors.

162. The Conference endorsed the recommendations made by the Joint FAO/OAU/OIE Meeting on Rinderpest Eradication in Africa, which was held in November 1981 in Nairobi. It recommended that the Director-General of FAO take all necessary steps, in collaboration with OAU and OIE, to enable the immediate implementation of the Eradication Campaign and to assist in the identification of additional donors and the mobilization of funds to support the Campaign and its follow-up. The Conference requested all potential donors to support fully the campaign and recommended that African governments give high priority to the implementation of the Campaign and its follow-up to ensure its success.

163. Regarding the Programme for the control of African Animal Trypanosomiasis and Related Development, the Conference endorsed in general the action programme recommended by the Second Session of the Commission on African Animal Trypanosomiasis. Some delegates urged that trypanotolerant cattle supply centres be developed as soon as possible. Some delegates expressed the need for assistance through the FAO-sponsored Preparatory Assistance Missions to Governments (PAGs). The Conference requested FAO to assist in the multiplication and distribution of trypanotolerant breeds.

164. The Conference agreed that the control of ticks and tick-borne diseases, in particular East Coast Fever, are of economic importance to the many countries in the region, and requested the support of FAO for the establishment of four reference centres for training and research on the control of ticks and tick-borne diseases.

165. Regarding the strengthening of veterinary manpower in the region, the Conference suggested that a meeting be held on veterinary education and training in order to identify the needs for veterinary schools and training institutions and to strengthen regional cooperation and coordination in veterinary manpower development. The Conference placed emphasis on rehabilitation of available facilities, expansion of veterinary schools in Africa, and the training of veterinary and para-veterinary staff.

166. The Conference noted the need for a survey of both diagnostic laboratories and vaccine production laboratories. The Conference drew attention to the need to establish regional or sub-regional reference laboratories with due consideration of geographical distribution. The Conference considered that infectious diseases of farm animals such as rinderpest, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, foot-and-mouth disease, African swine fever, dermatophilosis (streptothricosis), Rift Valley fever, Newcastle disease and brucellosis were of importance in the region and required regional or sub-regional control efforts with the services of international reference laboratories.

167. The Conference underlined that animal health is an important segment of animal production systems and agreed that a comprehensive integrated approach is needed for efficient animal production.

Development and Operation of Regional Programmes and Projects

168. The Conference considered document ARC/82/9 which outlined the present situation of regional programmes and projects, the procedure followed for the preparation of the 1982-86 regional programme submitted to the UNDP meeting with OAU, ECA and UN Executing Agencies in April 1981; the reasons for developing regional and subregional cooperation; the low level of financing provided by UNDP; the need to seek other sources of finance and the political and material support that governments should give to existing inter-governmental organizations.

169. The Conference fully supported the medium-term programme for inter-country projects proposed by FAO which were considered a priority to achieve the objectives of food self-sufficiency in the region and underlined the importance of these programmes in developing cooperation between countries.

170. The Conference expressed its concern over the inadequacy of UNDP resources earmarked for the food and agriculture sector in the Region for the period 1982-86, and requested that every effort should be made at the level of governments contributing to UNDP to remedy this situation. In this connection, the Conference particularly expressed its appreciation to the Director-General of FAO for the resources being channelled for the benefit of Africa from the Regular Budget of FAO, especially its TCP, and for the extra-budgetary resources he mobilized.

171. Bearing in mind the importance of TCP, the Conference emphasized that its resources should be increased, and requested the Director-General of FAO to take this into account when formulating his draft Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium.

172. The Conference noted with appreciation the assistance provided by funding agencies within the UN System as well as by other donors, to institutions, regional and sub-regional programmes and projects. It appealed to these donors, particularly the African Development Bank, to increase their level of support in order to help the region achieve self-sufficiency in food.

173. The Conference appealed to governments of African countries to give all their political and material support to the inter-governmental organizations they had created and to take all appropriate measures to enhance the ability of these organizations to perform the tasks allotted to them.

Representation of the Region on the CGIAR

174. The Conference considered document ARC/82/10 relating to representation of the Region on the CGIAR (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research) and noted with appreciation the information given by the Secretariat on recent developments in national and international agricultural research of interest to Africa.

175. The Conference reaffirmed the criteria for selection and the responsibilities of member countries elected to represent the Region on the CGIAR. It endorsed the request of the Director-General for regular attendance to CGIAR meetings by high-level officers well versed in the agricultural research needs and programmes of the Region. The Conference approved the proposal of the Director-General that the term of office of selected Regional Representatives should be a minimum of four years with the possibility of a two-year extension for one of the representatives in order to allow some overlap between new and outgoing representatives.

176. The Conference expressed its thanks to Kenya and Senegal for effectively representing the Region in the last four years. It agreed to the extension of Senegal for two more years and elected Tanzania to replace Kenya on the CGIAR.

177. It requested FAO to facilitate the work of the regional representatives through assistance in the provision of information on regional and sub-regional research priorities from time to time.

CONCLUDING ITEMS

Date and Place of the Thirteenth FAO Regional Conference for Africa

178. The delegate of the Republic of Zimbabwe extended his Government's invitation to host the Thirteenth FAO Regional Conference for Africa and expressed the hope that the invitation would be accepted by the Conference.

179. The Conference accepted the invitation of the Republic of Zimbabwe by acclamation. The Director-General thanked the delegate of Zimbabwe for the kind invitation and expressed the hope that final negotiations with the Government of Zimbabwe could be completed as soon as possible.

Consideration and Adoption of Reports

180. The Conference unanimously adopted both the report of the Technical Committee and its own Summary report.

- Resolutions

The Committee considered and adopted the following resolutions on:
(i) Food Security in the Sahel; (ii) Technical Cooperation Programme;
(iii) Regional Cooperation and (iv) Manpower Development and Training.

RESOLUTION 1/82

Food Security in the Sahel

The Conference

Recalling Resolution 4/80 of the Eleventh Regional Conference at Lomé on drought problems in Africa and their effects on food self-sufficiency,

Considering the inadequacy and the bad distribution of rainfall in some countries of Africa and particularly of the Sahel during the 1982/83 rainy season,

Draws the attention of the international community to the dangers' such a shortage of rainfall represents for populations and livestock,

1. Requests the Director-General of FAO to take all necessary steps, in unison with donor countries, to mobilize on a most urgent basis, the necessary food aid as a stop-gap measure, for the human population and cattle,
2. Thanks the Director-General of FAO for the study carried out on the establishment of food security stocks in CILSS countries, which has already been approved by the CILSS Council of Ministers, and invites him to continue to give high priority to this project' in view of its contribution to the improvement of food security in the Sahel.

RESOLUTION 2/82

The Technical Cooperation Programme

The Conference

Recalling with appreciation that with the establishment of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), the Organization had striven to fulfil its constitutional mandate of providing technical assistance to its member countries, on request;

Considering that the financial base of the TCP on the Regular Budget of the Organization provided it with the dual and essential characteristics of some insulation from the vagaries of extra-budgetary resources, as well as the ability to complement and enhance their effective utilization for agricultural development;

Convinced of the proven ability of the Organization, through the TCP, to provide member countries of the Region with short-term assistance which, despite its modest scale, was well-linked to their policies, strategies, programmes and structures;

Recognizing the promptness and effectiveness of TCP assistance;

Further recognizing the role of the TCP in developing economic and technical collaboration among countries in the region, particularly through the increased use of experts and national institutions in the region;

1. Congratulates the Director-General of FAO for his initiative in creating the TCP;
2. Expresses its appreciation for the measures taken for its effective operation, including those for the rapid approval and implementation of projects;
3. Emphasizes the conviction of recipients of TCP assistance of a significant and growing margin between the resources available and their needs;
4. Stresses the basic principle that the needs of developing countries in any one region should be met without detriment to the interests of any other region;
5. Declares that the resources of the TCP should be progressively increased;
6. Requests the Director-General to consider doing so, when formulating his Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85.

RESOLUTION 3/82

Regional Cooperation

The Conference

Recognizing with appreciation the priority accorded to Africa by the Director-General of FAO, from the Regular Budget of the Organization as well as the extra-budgetary resources mobilized by him;

Considering the requirements for technical cooperation and funding for agricultural development programmes to achieve the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action regarding agriculture;

Noting the declining trend of resources for development assistance, from both multilateral and bilateral programmes;

Concerned about the fact that Africa is yet to have enough technical and economic cooperation at the regional and sub-regional levels in the production of some of the vital inputs and technology in effecting the required increases in food and agricultural production;

Further concerned by the growing constraints which the present world economic factors largely outside their control - such as inflation, recession, high interest rates, unfavourable terms of trade and increasing protectionism impose on the development of member countries in the region;

1. Reaffirms the importance of intra-African economic and technical cooperation;
2. Endorses with satisfaction the African inter-country programmes of the Organization which constitute an important contribution to achieving the objectives of food and agricultural self-sufficiency in the region;
3. Compliments the Director-General of FAO on the effective implementation of the policy of decentralization, based on the enhanced role of the Regional Officers and FAO Representatives in countries;
4. Stresses the important benefits shared by member countries in the region, through the activities carried out by the FAO Regional Office for Africa;
5. Invites the Director-General of FAO to consider ways and means of strengthening the Organization's presence and activities in the region, particularly through its Regional Office, with a view to increasing and fostering technical and economic cooperation between Member Nations of the region, when formulating his proposals for the Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85.

RESOLUTION 4/82

Manpower Development and Training

The Conference

Considering the immense shortage of trained manpower for the implementation of all areas of the Lagos Plan of Action, especially in the sector of agriculture;

Realizing that the removal of this critical constraint constituted an essential objective in the implementation process of the Plan;

Noting that FAO had an important role to play in the area of higher-level training, particularly in research, planning and execution of agricultural and rural development activities and programmes;

Recognizing the potential and advantages of the South-South cooperation in training facilities available within Africa;

Appreciating the role played by FAO in supporting countries' self-reliance and the significant focus placed on training in all FAO's programmes and activities in Africa, particularly in its TCP, Special Action Programmes and extra-budgetary projects;

1. Requests the Director-General to accord a key-role to programmes for middle, professional and higher-level training in Africa, in formulating his proposals for the Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85;
2. Urges African Governments to review and reorient their national and inter-country training programmes in order to place priority on the manpower requirements of the LPA, especially in the higher echelons of technical and professional personnel for policy-making and implementation of agricultural and rural development programmes;
3. Further requests the Director-General of FAO to make available an assessment of FAO's experience in training in Africa including a survey of existing training facilities for consideration at the next Regional Conference.

Closure of the Conference

181. In his closing statement, Mr. J.A.C. Davies, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa, reminded the Conference of the earlier response of the Director-General to the various points raised during the debate on the food and agricultural situation in the Region. He said that FAO had taken the fullest account of the different problems and, above all, the determination of the Governments to better the conditions of their people as expressed by delegates. In the name of the Director-General he reconfirmed that FAO would do all in its power to assist Member Nations in finding solutions to the agricultural and rural development problems facing them.

182. In his closing address the Chairman said that the solution of the problems raised during the meeting required first and foremost concerted efforts at national and regional levels but he also stressed the necessity of assistance from bilateral and multilateral donors. In this connection, he commended FAO's unique contribution. In conclusion, he expressed his gratitude to all participants of the Conference.

183. On behalf of delegates, the delegate of the Congo expressed his gratitude to the Government and People of the Democratic Republic of Algeria for hosting the Conference a second time; to the Chairman of the Conference and his bureau for the efficient conduct of the meeting and to the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe for offering to host the next FAO Regional Conference for Africa.

184. The Twelfth Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa was then declared closed.

A G E N D A

Technical Committee

(22 - 26 September 1982)

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1. Opening of the Technical Committee
2. Election of Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda

II. SELECTED ISSUES OF AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Implementation of the Agricultural Part of the Lagos Plan of Action: Problems and Prospects
2. Follow-up to World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development: Progress Report
3. New and Renewable Sources of Energy for Agriculture and Rural Development
4. Report on the Preparation of the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development
5. The Contribution of Soil Conservation to Increased Agricultural Production in Africa with Emphasis on the Problems of Shifting Cultivation
6. Composite Flours - Their Potential in Overcoming Food Shortages
7. Strategies for Animal Health in Africa
8. Development and Operation of Regional Programmes and Projects
9. Representation of the Region on the CGIAR

III. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Plenary Session

(29 September - 2 October 1982)

IV. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

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

V. SITUATION AND PROSPECTS OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN THE AFRICAN REGION

1. Statement by the Director-General of FAO
2. Statement by the Secretary-General of the OAU
3. Statement by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa
4. Statement by the Executive Director of the World Food Programme

VI. GENERAL DEBATE ON THE SITUATION AND PROSPECTS OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA INCLUDING COUNTRY STATEMENTS

- Country Statements and General Debate on the Food and Agricultural Situation in Africa

VII. FAO PRIORITY PROGRAMME IN THE REGION

1. Implementation of the FAO Priority Programme in the Region
2. FAO Programme in the Region
3. Activities of FAO Regional Bodies

VIII. CONCLUDING ITEMS

1. Any other matters
2. Date and Place of the Thirteenth FAO Regional Conference for Africa
3. Consideration of the Report of the Technical Committee
4. Adoption of the Summary Report
5. Closure of the Conference

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

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BUREAU DE LA CONFERENCE

Chairman Président	Selim SAADI (Algérie)
First Vice-Chairman Premier Vice-Président	Enock SIMELANE (Swaziland)
Second Vice-Chairman Deuxième Vice-Président	Usman SANI (Nigeria)
Third Vice-Chairman Troisième Vice-Président	Anastase NTEZIRYAYO (Rwanda)
Rapporteur	Ngongi NAMANGA (Cameroun)

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Second Vice-Chairman Deuxième Vice-Président	L. LAPEBY (Gabon)
Rapporteur	B.E. PHIRI (Zambia)

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ETATS MEMBRES DE LA REGION

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		T. TAKA	Chief, Regional Bureau for Africa, DDFA
		M.E. TOUADE	Regional Animal Production Officer, RAFR

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

ARC/82/1	Provisional Annotated Agenda.
ARC/82/2	Implementation of the Agricultural Part of the Lagos Plan of Action: Prospects and Problems.
ARC/82/3	Follow-up to WCARRD: Progress Report.
ARC/82/4	New and Renewable Sources of Energy for Agriculture and Rural Development.
ARC/82/5	Report on the Preparation of the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development.
ARC/82/6	The Contribution of Soil Conservation to Increased Agricultural Production in Africa with Emphasis on the Problems of Shifting Cultivation.
ARC/82/7	Composite Flours - Their Potential in Overcoming Food Shortages.
ARC/82/8	Strategies for Animal Health in Africa.
ARC/82/9	Development and Operation of Regional Programmes and Projects.
ARC/82/10	Representation of the Region on the CGIAR.
ARC/82/11	Report of the FAO Activities in the Region including Action taken on the Main Recommendations presented at the previous Regional Conference.
ARC/82/12	FAO Programme in the Region: 1982-83.
ARC/82/13	Activities of Regional Bodies.
<u>ARC/82/INF Series</u>	
ARC/82/INF/1	Information Note.
ARC/82/INF/2	Provisional Timetable.
ARC/82/INF/3	Provisional List of Documents.
ARC/82/INF/4-Rev.2	Provisional List of Participants.
<u>ARC/82/CONF Series</u>	
ARC/82/CONF/1	Statement by the Director-General (29 September 1982).
<u>ARC/82/RES Series</u>	
ARC/82/RES/1	Draft Resolution on Food Security in the Sahel.
ARC/82/RES/2	Draft Resolution on the Technical Cooperation Programme.
ARC/82/RES/3	Draft Resolution on Regional Cooperation.
ARC/82/RES/4	Draft Resolution on Manpower Development and Training.
<u>ARC/82/REP Series</u>	
ARC/82/TC/REP	Report of the Technical Committee.
ARC/82/TC/REP-Corr. 1	Corrigendum to above.
ARC/82/REP/1 to ARC/82/REP/2	Draft Report of the Conference.
<u>ARC/82/OD Series</u>	
ARC/82/OD/1 to ARC/82/OD/9	Orders of the Day.

EXTRACT FROM TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

(22 - 26 September 1982)

Organization of the Committee

1. The Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Africa was held at the Palais des Nations, Club des Pins, Algiers, from 22 September to 2 October, 1982. The Technical Committee meeting, which preceded the Plenary Session, was held from 22 September to 26 September 1982.
2. Delegates from 33 Member Nations, as well as observers from Member Nations outside the Region, Permanent Observer from the Holy See, Representatives of the United Nations and Specialized Agencies, and observers from both inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations and representatives of National Liberation Movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) attended the meeting. A full list of participants is given in Appendix B.

Opening of the Technical Committee

3. In his opening statement, Mr. J.A.C. Davies, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa welcomed all delegates and observers on behalf of the Director-General. He said that for many reasons, but mainly against the background of the continuing food and agricultural crisis in Africa, the meeting was of special significance for it was the first real opportunity for collective reflection on the implementation of the agricultural section of the Lagos Plan of Action. This section of the Plan owed much to the initiative of the Ninth FAO Regional Conference in Freetown in 1976 which called for a Regional Food Plan for Africa. The adoption of the agricultural section of the Lagos Plan of Action by the African Heads of State and Government was essentially an endorsement of the Conference's concern, diagnosis and prescriptions about the African food situation.
4. The Regional Representative said that the Committee would be examining a number of technical papers on the grave food problems confronting African agriculture for which, collectively and individually, all concerned must seek and apply appropriate measures to hasten their solution. The ultimate objective would be the achievement of regional self-sufficiency in food and the improvement of living conditions of the rural population in the Region.
5. He had no doubt that the Committee's deliberations would lead to the identification of measures contributing to lasting success in the joint struggle against the scourges of poverty, both human and animal diseases, and above all malnutrition.
6. In pursuing FAO's action in Africa the Director-General would continue to work closely with OAU, ECA and other inter-governmental organizations which actively continued to contribute to the development of agriculture in Africa.
7. On behalf of the Director-General, Mr. Davies concluded by paying tribute to the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria for its warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for the Conference and for being the first country to host the FAO Regional Conference on two occasions, the first being in 1970.

Election of Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur

8. At its first working session, the Committee elected Mr. Hadj-Ahmed Benchehida, Director of Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Revolution, People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, by acclamation as its Chairman. In a short acceptance speech, Mr. Benchehida thanked the delegates for electing him as Chairman which was an honour both to himself and to his country. On behalf of his country, the Chairman welcomed all the participants to the meeting and wished them success in their deliberations and a pleasant stay in Algeria.
9. The Committee then unanimously elected Mr. R.B. Ryanga, Permanent Representative of Kenya to FAO and Mr. L. Lapeby, Inspecteur général de l'agriculture of Gabon as first and second Vice-Chairmen respectively. Mr. B.E. Phiri, First Secretary, Alternate Permanent Representative of Zambia to FAO, was unanimously elected as Rapporteur.

Adoption of the Agenda

10. The Technical Committee considered and adopted the Provisional Agenda and Timetable. The Agenda as adopted is reproduced as Appendix A.

