

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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FOUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

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FAO CONFERENCE

Fifth Session

21 November 1949  
Washington, D. C.

REPORT OF THE

LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

QUITO, ECUADOR, 18-25 SEPTEMBER, 1949

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  - b) Address by the Director-General of FAO.
  - c) Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman.
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OFFICERS OF THE FIRST PRE-CONFERENCE REGIONAL MEETING OF FAO  
IN LATIN AMERICA.

18th - 24th SEPTEMBER, 1949

Chairman of the Conference: MANUEL ADRIAN NAVARRO (ECUADOR)  
Vice-Chairmen of the Conference: JAIME BONILLA PLATA (COLOMBIA)  
ROMEO ORTEGA (MEXICO)  
BERNARDO YGLESIAS RODRIGUEZ  
(COSTA RICA)  
General Rapporteur: ADOLFO GARCIA MONTENEGRO  
(GUATEMALA)  
General Secretary of the Conference: RAYMOND ETCHATS.

The above mentioned officers composed the General Committee.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE.

Chairman of Credentials Committee: JORGE ROSSELOT (CHILE)  
GUSTAVO ADOLFO OTERO (BOLIVIA)  
BOLIVAR PAREDES (ECUADOR)

COMMISSION I.

Chairman of Commission I: RAMON PINTO SALVATIERRA (VENEZUELA)  
Vice-Chairman: GUILLERMO VILLEGAS (PANAMA)  
Rapporteur: RAUL VAREIA MARTINEZ (COLOMBIA)  
Secretary: ALFREDO SACO

COMMISSION II.

Chairman: ALFREDO WEISS (URUGUAY)  
Vice-Chairman: OSCAR CORREIA (BRAZIL)  
Rapporteur: ESTEBAN PAVIETICH (PERU)  
Secretary: WILLIAM CASSERES.

### Introduction

The First Pre-Conference Regional Meeting of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations met in Quito from 18th to 24th September, 1949.

It held a preparatory meeting, an inaugural session, and six plenary meetings.

At the inaugural session, His Excellency Sr. Galo Plaza Lasso, President of the Republic, graciously consented to address the Conference, and the Conference hereby wishes to convey to him its profound and respectful gratitude.

The meeting was attended by the Director-General of FAO, Mr. Norris E. Dodd, and the Conference hereby expresses to him its deep appreciation.

At its third plenary meeting the Conference divided the items of the Agenda between two Commissions. The Commissions reported to the Conference at its 5th and 6th plenary meetings, and the Conference approved the Commission reports, which follow. \*

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\* The programs of work and introductions to the Reports of the Commissions may be found as Annexes 1 and 2.

1) Improving the Levels of Consumption

In order to improve the diet in countries of the region where it is deficient, it is recommended to the member governments that they accelerate their food production to keep pace with the increase in population. In the countries where the caloric value of the diet is too low, an immediate increase in the supplies for local consumption of fats and oils and cereals is desirable. In many countries it is also necessary to improve the composition of the diet through greater amounts of protective foods; for this purpose the production of meat, fish, milk, fruits and vegetables should be increased promptly. An increase in the production and domestic consumption of pulses is also desirable because of their high protein content.

It would also be desirable that Governments should undertake programmes aimed at the development of family vegetable gardens.

The Latin American countries should also give due consideration to the method already successfully followed in many countries, of "fish-sowing" in rivers, lakes and artificial ponds.

This recommended increase in food production does not necessarily imply a reduction in the production of other agricultural raw materials, but merely a greater emphasis on production of the most important foods, by means of technical research, greater capital investment and increased use of the principal production requisites, including farm machinery, fertilizers, improved seeds, and pesticides. In this connection the governments should take into consideration the recommendations made by the Joint FAO/ECLA Working Party in their report presented to the conference of the Economic Commission for Latin America in Havana in June of 1949.

The establishment of appropriate food consumption goals by the governments as part of their production plans is essential to the achievement of the desired objectives. It would also be advisable for the governments to make an annual study of consumption levels on the basis of food balance sheets patterned after those made by FAO.

2) International Trade in Agricultural Commodities

When considering international trade in agricultural products the Pre-Conference Regional Meeting of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at Quito, was impressed by the need for some international action to deal with the problem of unmarketable surpluses in certain primary commodities. Various points of view were put forward following detailed exposition by the delegate from Uruguay, by the delegate from Costa Rica and others. The commission agreed that the proposals made by the delegate from Uruguay should be examined at the 5th Annual Conference of FAO together with the report of the FAO Committee of Experts on commodities problems.

It is also suggested that countries in the region, pending some agreed international action in this matter, should insofar as possible proceed to the construction of adequate storehouses for the economical preservation of agricultural products.

The Pre-Conference Meeting took cognizance of the action that had been taken for the establishment of an international trade organization in accordance with the terms of the draft charter agreed at Havana, wherein provision is made for intergovernmental commodity agreements.

Pending the establishment of this organization this Pre-Conference Meeting recommends that FAO should take the initiative in inviting governments to meet together to negotiate individual commodity agreements,

whenever the normal trade of these commodities is disturbed. The Pre-Conference Meeting also recommends that FAO should keep under constant review the working of any agreement relating to the international exchange of commodities.

3) Formulation of Plans and Programmes

Since a lack of integral plans for the development of agricultural livestock and fishing industries is apparent in most of the Latin American countries, it would be desirable for the member governments to carry out the recommendation made at the 1949 Annual Conference of FAO, in which the urgent need for such plans was expressed. These plans should try insofar as possible to coordinate agricultural development on the basis of regional specialization giving consideration to the most favourable conditions that each country has to offer for production of various commodities. For this purpose it is suggested that FAO and other specialized agencies should undertake a study of agricultural regions in the area. Plans should contain annual quantitative goals for the production, consumption and foreign trade of the products they concern. In order that FAO may know the goals established for the year 1951/52 it is recommended that the governments forward them to that Organization at the beginning of 1950. It would also be desirable for the Director-General of FAO to contact the Latin American governments soon for the purpose of making available to them the technical assistance they may require in formulating such plans and programmes, in accordance with the programme of work of the organization.

For the formulation of plans and programmes, among other objectives an immediate substantial improvement in statistical services and economic research is a fundamental requirement in most of the countries of the region, and FAO can lend assistance in this task.

It is particularly important that plans and programmes be adjusted to the world situation of the export crops whose development is desired. In view of the present situation, it would be advisable for the Latin American governments to orient their immediate agricultural policy in regard to certain products as follows:

Increasing the exportable production of bananas and coffee, taking into account the coordination that should exist among the producing and consuming countries in effecting the sale of the surpluses. In the case of sugar and cotton, it would be advisable for FAO to take the steps necessary to bring about international agreements for these products, with the object of meeting the problem of possible accumulation of export surpluses difficult to market, especially in the case of sugar. With regard to wheat and maize, an increase in production for domestic use is desirable, but the possibility of increased exports should be studied with care, taking into account the requirements of other markets. In the case of rice, it would be particularly advantageous to reduce costs of production through improving methods of production with the objective, among others, of retaining markets in the Far East. If this is not immediately possible it would be advisable to limit production to the local or regional requirements. In formulating the export policy for cacao (as well as for rice, sugar and cotton), special consideration should be given to the necessity of accepting payment in currency other than the dollar. An increase in exports of tobacco would also be possible if sold for other currency. In view of the deficiency in production of pulses in some countries of the region, it would be desirable to increase the regional trade in these commodities. In the case of wool, a possibility of increasing exports exists if sufficient attention

is given to improving the quality of this product and if the prices are held at levels competitive with those of wool produced in other regions of the world.

The countries of Latin America should bear in mind that the success they may achieve in obtaining loans from abroad for developing their production will depend largely on whether the plans and projects they formulate are satisfactory from the technical and economic points of view.

4) FAC Estimates for 1950/51

The Pre-Conference Meeting, having heard the information provided by the FAO Secretariat on the method adopted by the organization in the preparation of the 1950/51 estimates regards this method as adequate and satisfactory. However, it is requested from member governments to send to FAC any corrections they deem necessary to make on such estimates before the new FAC Annual Conference.

5) Material and Technical Factors

The Pre-Conference Meeting has studied the use of fertilizers, farm machinery pesticides and other agricultural requisites discussed in document Q 49/3 presented by FAO. In this respect it is recommended that member governments should pay due attention to the resolutions passed in the last ECLA Conference, on the basis of the report prepared by the Joint FAC/ECLA Working Party on agricultural requisites. It would also be advisable that governments in the region should endeavour to investigate the most suited farm machinery and agricultural tools adapted to local conditions. Development of improved designs on a regional basis would constitute an excellent aid to commercial manufacturing of such improved types of farm machinery and tools.

6) Agricultural Investment

Since capital investment dedicated to the development of agriculture and livestock in most of the Latin American countries is small in comparison with the importance of these industries to the national economies, it is recommended to the governments that they increase such investment as much as possible, seeking to channel a larger amount of private funds towards the accomplishment of the major public projects. In order that there may be more investment funds from foreign sources, it is recommended that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations consider this matter at its next annual conference.

7) Agricultural Credit

Since lack of official credit is one of the factors retarding development of the agricultural, livestock, and fishing industries, it is recommended to those governments of the region which do not have official agricultural credit institutions that they establish them as soon as possible. In some countries it would be advisable to increase the capital of existing institutions and revise credit policies so as to reduce as far as possible the rates of interest and extend credit facilities to the greatest possible number of small farmers.

With the proposal that a detailed study be made of the present situation of agricultural credit in Latin America, it is recommended to the Director-General of FAC that this study be undertaken by FAC in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Latin America.

8) Colonization and Immigration

The Pre-Conference Regional Meeting has studied with the greatest interest the problem of colonization of uncultivated areas in the region. In this respect and in view that the European Recovery Programme (Marshall Plan) includes the investment of funds to make possible the migration of European agricultural workers to Latin America, to be settled in adequate areas, it is considered that the immigration of agricultural as well as qualified labour to the Latin American countries is desirable, provided that due attention is paid to the countries' needs and possibilities. It should also be borne in mind that in some Latin American countries there is an excess population which could be advantageously transferred to other countries in the region. In order to promote immigration programmes, it is recommended that FAO, together with other specialized agencies, should give all possible assistance in order that such programmes be adequately undertaken, and be satisfactory to both the countries and the people concerned. FAO and the specialized agencies might also help in the detailed preparation of such programmes and in the obtainment of loans to finance them.

9) National FAO Committees and Agricultural Attachés

Considering the need for a closer and more direct contact between FAO and member governments it is recommended that National FAO Committees should be established or that the existing ones be strengthened through the appointment, to integrate such FAO Committees of Government officials and experts in agricultural economics.

It is also recommended that member governments who are in a position to do so, appoint agricultural attachés to FAO General Headquarters. These attachés would constitute a very valuable link between FAO, and governments concerned and the respective National FAO Committees.

10) Regional Meeting on Plans and Programmes in 1951

It is necessary that revision of agricultural policy and of the corresponding plans for production, distribution and consumption and consideration of the problems that may arise, should be undertaken at regular periods. Therefore, it is recommended to the Director-General of FAO that he convene a new regional meeting with due anticipation to the Annual FAO Conference which will probably take place at the beginning of 1951.

11) Simultaneous Meetings of FAO and Similar Organizations

The Conference wishes to recommend that FAO should consider the possibility of gathering together all the work of similar organizations in order that meetings be held when those problems which concern similar organizations can be considered simultaneously so as to avoid, as far as possible, the increase in transport expenses of Delegates and Officials.

12) Spanish as an Official and Working Language in FAO

The Pre-Conference Meeting considering that the United Nations has adopted Spanish as an official and working language and that logically such procedure should be extended to its specialized agencies, recommends that FAO should include this subject in the agenda of the forthcoming Annual Conference of the Organization.



REPORT OF COMMISSION II

A.- DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK OF FAO FOR 1950 (Document Q/49/4)

1.- AGRICULTURE DIVISION

I. 6) 2) The Commission considered the matter of extension and advisory methods, which also arise in various other parts of the Programme of Work in particular with that of the Rural Welfare Division. The Commission recognizes the fundamental importance of imparting knowledge of the best methods of producing and conserving agricultural products, and that this knowledge should be directly and effectively handed on to the producers and consumers by modern techniques with the closest regard to the particular environmental conditions in each case. The Commission therefore recommends:  
that FAO be requested to pay special attention to the possibility of assisting Governments in the development and application of such techniques, and suggests:  
that Governments should request the technical assistance of FAO to this end whenever circumstances make this advisable.

I. c. With reference to the improved processing of agricultural products, the Commission considered that adequate attention should be given to small scale processes for the preservation of food stuffs, especially by means of dehydration of leafy and other vegetables, and noted that by the choice of appropriate methods important nutritional elements in such food stuffs can be preserved.

II. With reference to animal husbandry, the Commission emphasized the importance of giving simultaneous attention in every region to the betterment of livestock production, by better breeding and feeding as well as by control of animal diseases, including internal and external parasites.

III. a)  
4 + 5 Regarding the problem of fertilizers, and with particular reference to the proposal for a regional conference in Latin America of specialists on this subject, the Commission recommends:  
1.- That the proposed Conference be postponed until such time as there has been opportunity to make adequate preparation;  
2.- That Governments should designate experts on fertilizers in their respective countries to act as correspondents with FAO and with each other, to establish a means of interchange of information about the supply, utilization and requirements of fertilizers;  
3.- That when the proposed Conference takes place it should take into special consideration the production of fertilizers in each country of the region, especially when these constitute basic products in their economies, with the object of achieving production and marketing policies which reflect a spirit of Latin American economic solidarity.

With special reference to III. a) 5), the Commission considered documents presented by the Ecuadorean Delegation drawing attention to the need to set up a programme of investigation into the use of fertilizers and recommends:  
that FAO should study these documents with a view to the provision of technical assistance which it might be able to render to member governments; and suggests:

that Governments having similar problems to those of Ecuador regarding the maintenance of the fertility of the soil and who desire to find solutions to these problems should enlist the technical aid of FAO as required.

The Commission also felt that one of the greatest impediments to the increased use of fertilizers in the Latin American region is the high cost of transport, and to this end urges: that Governments should take common action through the medium of FAO to bring about the reduction of transport costs.

Having regard to the fact that in several countries different methods have been adopted to develop the use of fertilizers, the Commission requests: that FAO should undertake to collect information on such methods and distribute it throughout the Latin American region.

The Commission took note of the Ecuadorean proposal regarding the conservation and restoration of the fertility of the soil, which was accompanied by an assessment of the magnitude of this problem in Ecuador.

The Commission attached the greatest importance to the protection of the productivity of the soil which is the result of the complementary activities of reforestation and the protection of existing forests.

The Commission considered in this connection that it was also of the greatest importance that technical assistance should be available to the Governments concerned to help them to discharge their responsibilities in this matter in the light of the most modern knowledge.

The Commission therefore welcome the initiative taken by the Ecuadorean Delegation in putting forward proposals for the establishment of an Interamerican Institute for Soil Conservation and Reforestation, and recommend this initiative to the favorable consideration of the Annual Conference of FAO to be held in Washington in November in 1949.

To this end, the Commission suggest that the Ecuadorean Government in consultation with the experts of FAO and with other interested Governments, should work out its proposal in detail, having regard particularly to the precise functions to be performed by the Institute, the number and qualifications of the expert staff required, the probable capital and recurrent costs involved and, lastly, to the sources from which these costs might be met, for example:

- a) Funds at the disposal of participating governments;
- b) FAO funds;
- c) "Technical Assistance" funds and funds provided under "point 4" of President Truman's Programme.

- III. d) The Commission wished to point out the serious inconvenience caused by lack of uniformity in relation to agricultural machinery; and urges:

that FAO should raise this question with manufacturers of agricultural machinery with a view to effecting the highest possible degree of uniformity in design so as to facilitate the interchange of spare parts and accessories.

- IV. b) The Commission recorded its approval of the proposals of the Palmira and Cali Conference of February of 1949 for the establishment of a permanent regional committee on the control of the infestation of stored food products. They urge: that the Governments of the Latin American region should each nominate a technician in this subject as a member of this body for the interchange of information between each other and with FAO.

The Commission also recommends: that the Governments concerned agree to the meeting of these technicians for demonstration and the interchange of information on the problems of the storage of food-stuffs which is proposed to be held in Costa Rica in 1950 (see head IV. 6) of this section of the 1950 Draft Programme).

The Commission also took note of a proposal put forward by the Colombian Delegation for the creation of a "National Grain Corporation", a cooperative agency for the storage of the important agricultural products of that country. The Commission appreciated the reasons for this proposal, and, taking the view that it was of importance not only to Colombia, but also to other countries in the region who were faced with similar problems of storage, recommends:

that this proposal be referred to FAO for study, and propose: that Governments in this region, which, like Colombia, are in need of technical assistance in the solution of these problems of storage, should similarly apply to FAO.

- IV. b) The Commission took note of the action planned by FAO with reference to campaigns against crop pests and suggests: that FAO should request information from Governments as to the principal pests that affect their crops, and the economic importance of the losses attributable to such pests, in order to guide FAO in its work in this field. It is suggested further that any Governments which require technical aid to enable them to furnish this information should apply for it to FAO.

- IV. c) In connection with the breeding of improved plant varieties, the Commission recommend that item IV. c) 3) of this part of the Draft Programme should be expanded as follows:  
"Coordinated rice breeding programmes will be developed in Asia, and the Far East, and in Latin America, and also for maize; if requested by member countries....."

In view of the great nutritional value of leafy and root vegetables in the Latin American region, and taking into consideration the very large volume of production of these foodstuffs, the Commission recommends: that FAO give special attention to the improvement of these food-stuffs by plant breeding.

## 2.- DIVISION OF RURAL WELFARE

The Commission records its opinion that the improvement of rural welfare is of fundamental importance, believing that this is essential for the success of any campaign of measures calculated to improving production and distribution. To this end, the Commission reaffirm their belief in the fundamental importance of the development and application of techniques applicable to the special circumstances of each environment, the better to ensure the adoption by the producers and consumers of the most effective and practical methods.

## 3.- DIVISION OF DISTRIBUTION

The Commission took note of the work proposed by this Division and, in relation to the second paragraph of this section of the Draft Programme, recommends: that the Governments of the region study, in preparation for the 1949 Annual Conference of FAO, the question whether it would be useful if FAO were to publish shorter and more frequent, and therefore more up-to-date reports about the principal agricultural products which enter into international trade.

## 4 - DIVISION OF ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS

I.c. The Commission draws particular attention to the importance of the preparation of food balance sheets for the region, and recommends: that FAO should consider the possibility of applying in this field the techniques which it has used in its work in relation to statistics in the Latin American region.

The Commission consider that the setting up of centres of instruction in the preparation of food balance sheets would be most useful, and at the same time the holding of "Clinics" in which the preparation of balance sheets for particular countries with the assistance of experts from FAO is made the occasion for the meeting and instruction of technicians from other neighbouring countries which have similar problems.

The Commission also recommends: that the Governments of the region should embark upon the preparation of food balance sheets, seeking for this purpose technical aid from FAO.

## 5.- DIVISION OF INFORMATION

Regarding the information services of FAO, the Commission urges: that FAO should do what it can to ensure the early distribution and publication of documents written in the languages spoken within the region.

## 6.- DIVISION OF NUTRITION

The Commission consider that it is important that the Governments of the region should maintain continuity in their national and international efforts in the field of nutrition

and urges:  
that these Governments should make up their delegations with specialists, and prepare well beforehand the proposals which they wish to be considered at the second Latin American Conference on Nutrition to be held in Rio de Janeiro in July 1950.

7. - DIVISION OF FISHERIES

The Commission, taking account of the fact that Latin American problems have been studied during the present year by visits of an FAO expert to every country in the region, urges: that FAO continue to study the fisheries of Latin America with increased vigour in 1950

8. - DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND FOREST PRODUCTS

The Commission, having heard a statement by the head of the Latin American Regional Office of Forestry and Forest Products situated in Rio de Janeiro about the work of his Office, urges: that the Governments of the region should continue to maintain close touch with the activities of this Office and in particular with the proposal to set up a Latin American Forestry Research Institute with possible regional sub-stations.

B - TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME (Document 9/49/5)

The Commission has made a careful study of the part to be played by FAO in the comprehensive programme of technical aid for the economic development of insufficiently developed regions, worked out by the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

The Commission consider that the implementation of this programme could be one of the most important means of solving the problems which confront the Governments of the Latin American Region. At the same time the Commission recognizes the responsibility of each Government to participate in the programme and considers that the Governments of the region should maintain close contact with the development of the programme, and that they should carefully prepare for their participation in it, by studying what forms of technical aid they wish to apply for, and what technical aid may be required to prepare these applications themselves.

The Commission recommends the Governments to consider the usefulness of convening a regional meeting, once the programme has been started. This meeting might usefully examine and analyze the applications put forward for technical aid, so that they may together constitute an integrated whole, rather than a simple collection of projects having no relationship one to the other, and in order to see that the best use may be made of each project by groups of neighbouring countries.

FIRST LATIN AMERICAN PRE-CONFERENCE REGIONAL MEETING OF FAO

Special Resolutions

The Conference unanimously passed the following resolutions:

I

The Conference expresses deep sorrow upon learning of the death of the distinguished agricultural scientist Professor F. J. Pound who served the "Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture" in Trinidad. Through his extensive and profound knowledge of the cultivation and economy of cacao, he gave various cacao growing countries invaluable scientific and practical services for the betterment of this important tropical industry. The Conference hereby conveys to H.B.M. in the United Kingdom, as well as to the people of that country, its profound sympathy on this occasion.

II

The Regional Latin American Pre-Conference Meeting of FAO, held in Quito, in closing its sessions, wishes to express its profound gratitude to His Excellency, Sr. Galo Plaza Lasso, and his Government for the extensive facilities given it at all times for the successful carrying out of its aims and for the various courtesies extended; at the same time, the Conference wishes to express its gratitude to the Mayor of the City, Doctor José Ricardo Chiriboga Villagómez, and through him to all the people of Quito, for their kind welcome and generous hospitality.

The Conference shares deeply the Ecuadorian peoples' suffering due to the earthquake of August 5th last, it admires the strength of spirit with which the nation has faced the catastrophe and expresses its sincere wishes that from the ruins, new and prosperous realities will spring up.

III

The Delegates present at the Latin American Regional Pre-Conference Meeting of FAO, held in Quito, profoundly regret the absence of the Government of Argentina at the deliberations of this Conference, which is of primary interest to the countries of Latin America, and consider that the absence of the Argentine Delegates is all the more deplorable since this country occupies a prominent place in the production and international trade of food and agricultural products, and that the progress it has made in properly solving its rural problems, puts it in a position to offer its sister nations, the aid of its wide and wise experience.

Since FAO is the appropriate agency where the world problems of agriculture are dealt with and planned, the Latin American Governments would derive real pleasure from the presence of the Argentine Delegates in the future deliberations of FAO, and therefore

Resolve,

That the Chairman of the Regional Conference of FAO, held in Quito, under the auspices of the Government of Ecuador, should in the name of this Conference extend a hearty invitation to the Argentine Government in order that this country join the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, with the assurance that its eminent presence will not only be agreeable and significant, but very useful for the successful carrying out of the future work of the Organization.

IV

Considering,

That the successful organization of the FAO Conference held in Quito, as well as its success in the technical and social aspects has been due fundamentally to the ability, tact and sagaciousness of its Chairman, Sr. Ing. Manuel Adrián Navarro, and to the spirit of work and initiative of the brilliant Ecuadorian Delegation and to the intelligent cooperation of the FAO officials,

Agrees,

To extend a vote of thanks to the Chairman of the FAO Conference Sr. Manuel A. Navarro, as well as to the distinguished members of the Ecuadorian Delegation and to the officials of FAO who have taken part in the work of the Conference.

ANNEX No. 1  
(Introduction to Report of Commission I)

There was assigned to Commission I the material of study contained in the following items of the Agenda:

- II Present situation of food and agriculture (Document Q/49/2)
  - a) Introductory statement presented by FAO
  - b) Appointment of a Working Party
- III
  - a) Current plans and programmes
  - b) 1) Governmental measures
- IV
  - a) Trade and marketing matters
  - b) Government agricultural services
  - c) Immigration and colonization programmes

Commission I of the First Latinamerican Preconference Meeting held in Quito has examined very carefully the documents and proposals presented to its consideration. These documents are: Reports Q/49/2 and Q/49/3 presented by FAO; proposals of the Delegation of Ecuador about the improvement of consumption levels and a proposal on immigration; proposals of the Delegation of Uruguay on unmarketable goods and reserves of agricultural products, and about the use of Spanish as a working language of FAO; proposal of the Delegation of the United Kingdom about international trade of agricultural products; proposal of the Delegation of Bolivia on the elaboration of plans and programmes; proposal of the Delegation of Venezuela on agricultural investments; proposals of the Delegation of Guatemala on immigration; proposal of the Delegation of Colombia about the FAO national committees and governmental delegates to the FAO Headquarters; and a proposal presented by the President of Commission I on the convening of the next regional meeting.

After careful consideration of the above mentioned items, which were dealt with brilliantly by the Delegates of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, United States, France, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, United Kingdom, Uruguay and Venezuela, and taking into account the verbal suggestions made by the Delegates, Commission I proposes to adopt the following recommendations:---\*



ANNEX 2  
(Introduction to the Report of Commission II)

ITEMS OF STUDY FOR COMMISSION II, AND THEIR DEVELOPMENT

The following points on the agenda, were assigned to Commission II, as subject matters for their study:

- III (b) 2) Proposed FAO Programme for 1950  
(Document Q49/4)
- III (b) 3) Supplementary Technical Assistance  
(Document Q49/5)
- IV (b) Government Agricultural Services
- IV (d) Infestation Control
- IV (e) Fertilizers

The Commission studied the special subjects mentioned under Section IV (b) together with the proposed FAO Work Programme for 1950, and approved this programme in principle, but made special recommendations with a view to reenforcing this programme and adapting it to the needs of the Latin American region.

The Commission also studied the FAO proposals relative to the supply of supplementary technical assistance, in connection with the cooperative programme outlined for this purpose by the United Nations, and its specialized agencies. (Document Q49/5)

In order to obtain an informative background for the discussions, the Commission agreed to listen to the explanations and supplementary data supplied by the FAO officials attending the conference, regarding the various aspects of its work material.



