

Report of the

**TENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE  
FOR LATIN AMERICA**

(in cooperation with the United Nations  
Economic Commission for Latin America)

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Kingston, Jamaica, 2-13 December 1968



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS



R E P O R T

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Rome, 1969



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## INTRODUCTION

1. The Tenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America, on the cordial invitation of the Jamaican Government, was held in the city of Kingston, Jamaica, from 2 to 13 December 1968.

### Inaugural ceremony

2. The Conference was officially opened on the morning of 2 December 1968, under the Chairmanship of His Excellency, the Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Hon. Hugh Shearer, who delivered the welcoming and opening address. He was followed by the Minister of Agriculture and Lands of Jamaica, the Hon. J.P. Gyles.
3. After having welcomed the delegates and observers to the Conference, the Prime Minister spoke of the obstacles and problems confronting all the countries of the region, first and foremost the rapid rise in the cost of manufactured products - the inputs for food production - and the rising costs of transport and handling as compared with the levelling off of, or in some instances even, the decline in, prices of those commodities the sale of which would earn them the foreign exchange necessary for procurement of the means for agricultural development.
4. He then enumerated in some detail the major difficulties faced by Jamaica in gaining and retaining markets for its commodities, chiefly the low prices it received and the competition from synthetics.
5. He stressed how fundamental agriculture was to Jamaica - as to the rest of Latin America - as the source of livelihood for a very considerable segment of its working population. He expressed confidence that the Conference would afford delegates an excellent opportunity for gaining information as to what is being done in other parts of the world to solve the problems he had alluded to.
6. Knowing that this Conference would foster personal contacts, the discovery of areas of mutual understanding and the sharing of ideas and experience in the field of agricultural development, ultimately leading to the application of the most fitting solutions to common problems, he wished it the utmost success.
7. Mr. Gyles, associating his personal welcome with that extended to the delegates by the Prime Minister also stressed the point that agriculture was the leading economic activity throughout the region, as in Jamaica, not only in terms of its total contribution to the gross regional product but also in terms of employment opportunities and the production of raw materials for industry.
8. The agriculturalists and economists were prophesying a critical shortage of food supplies for the human race, yet in areas where food surpluses not infrequently create marketing problems by causing steep falls in price combined with higher and higher storage costs, it would be found difficult to take such prophecies seriously.
9. Still there is real anxiety concerning future food supplies. Indeed, it has been stated that by the end of this century the health and well-being of each nation will depend on its ability to produce enough food for itself.
10. As for Jamaica, though it produces most of its own food supplies, its outlay on imports of foodstuffs to cover the shortfall has been rising. If the prophecies of economists are correct, it is a matter of urgency that Jamaica deflect the upward trend of its food imports.

11. Referring to the significant and well-known advances in methods for increasing crop and livestock production, he stated that new and important achievements are constantly being reported. Among other examples, he mentioned the rice hybrid IR-8 which, in a few short years has made certain countries in the East that were once rice importers not merely self-sufficient but even rice exporters.

12. With respect to the relationship between agricultural and industrial development, in his view they are not competitive but complementary to the point that it is impossible to hope for any expansion of, or improvement in, agricultural production unless other sectors of the economy, industry included, also enter a phase of active development.

13. Regarding agriculture versus industry as sources of employment, he felt that the former must not be relegated to second place. If agriculture is to progress and meet the challenges of the future, means must be found to eliminate, or at least reduce the large gap in income and living standards which exists today between workers in agriculture and those in industry.

14. According to him although no factor can be singled out as the key to increasing of agricultural output and bringing of prosperity to the agricultural sector, he would unhesitatingly select marketing problems and the deterioration of terms of trade with developed and industrialized countries as the principal adverse factors involved. The best incentives for encouraging the production of any commodity, food or other, is the existence of a strong demand and a good marketing system - attractive to producers and efficient for consumers. This holds for export commodities as well as for items for home consumption.

15. Noting that in a special FAO study on the subject it is categorically stated that the terms of trade between developing and developed countries have been deteriorating, he commented that under these circumstances as developing countries increase their exports, particularly of agricultural commodities, their earnings buy less and less imports.

16. The solution of these problems would do much to remove other obstacles standing in the way of promotion of production. The most useful service the Food and Agriculture Organization can render the emerging countries of Latin America would be to assist them in improving and expanding their marketing services and in their research on marketing conditions and demand prospects for agricultural commodities inside and outside the region, while exerting its influence to stabilize extraregional markets for their primary products and to improve their terms of trade with more developed and industrialized countries.

17. When the Minister of Agriculture and Lands had concluded his speech, delegation heads met to organize Conference work.

#### Opening of the Conference

18. Mr. O.V. Wells, Deputy Director-General of FAO, expressed his pleasure in opening the Tenth Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America.

#### Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen and adoption of the Agenda

19. The Conference elected the Hon. J.P. Cyles, Minister of Agriculture and Lands of Jamaica as Chairman, and His Excellency, Mr. I. Arzua Pereira, Minister of Agriculture of Brazil, His Excellency, Dr. A. Love-Cordero, Minister of Agriculture of Nicaragua and His Excellency, Dr. C. Frick Davie, Minister of Agriculture of Uruguay, as Vice-Chairmen. Mr. Ricardo Ghiglino Antunez, Director of the Sectorial Office for Agrarian Planning of the Ministry of Agriculture of Peru, was appointed Rapporteur.



20. The Conference approved a motion requesting the Chairman to send two cables on its behalf, the first to Mr. A.H. Boerma, Director-General of FAO, expressing the disappointment of the delegations that other commitments and responsibilities had prevented him from attending this first Conference in Latin America since his election as Director-General.

21. The second, to Dr. Hernán Santa Cruz, expressed the appreciation of the Conference for the outstanding work he had accomplished as head of the Regional Office for Latin America.

22. In reply Mr. Boerma thanked the Conference for its cable and expressed his regrets at having been unable to attend and his gratitude for Conference support of Mr. Wells. Mr. Santa Cruz, too, expressed his appreciation for the cable he had received and his regrets at having been unable to attend and hoped that the Conference would unequivocally demand the strengthening of regional services for Latin America.

23. Afterwards the Chairman put the provisional Agenda for the consideration of the Conference. It was adopted with some changes.

#### Agenda of the Conference

24. The Conference approved the following Agenda:

##### A. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

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

##### B. THE WORK OF FAO IN THE REGION

4. Introductory Statement by the Deputy Director-General of FAO
5. Statement by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA)
6. Joint FAO/ECLA Activities
7. (a) Regional Structure  
(b) Reorientation of Regional Conferences
8. Statement by the Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP)
9. Presentation of the Regional Representative's Review of FAO's Activities in the Region
10. Country Statements
11. Regional Representative's summing-up of introductory and country statements and subsequent debate on FAO strategy and joint FAO/ECLA activities

##### C. LONG-TERM ORIENTATION OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION

12. Indicative World Plan for Agricultural Development - Summary and conclusions
13. Substantive aspects of long-term agricultural development in the region (1)
  - 13.1 Latin American land and water resources
  - 13.2 The requirements for higher yields
  - 13.3 The possibilities for increased livestock production
  - 13.4 Economic incentives and marketing for expanded agricultural production

(1) The sub-topics under item 13 were considered in an order different from the above, in accordance with decisions taken by the Conference on the sequence of its discussions.

- 13.5 The integrated approach to institutional services; structural and institutional changes in the agricultural development of the region
- 13.6 Agricultural trade and its role in economic development
- 13.7 The requirements for the implementation of a common market by 1985
- 13.8 Other aspects of long-term agricultural development in the region
14. Summing-up by Regional Representative

D. CONCLUDING ITEMS

15. Debate on the orientation of FAO's work in the region
16. Adoption of the Report
17. Date and Place of the Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Latin America
18. Closing of the Conference

Participants at the Conference

25. The following countries attended the Conference:

Argentina	Jamaica
Barbados	Mexico
Bolivia	Netherlands
Brazil	Nicaragua
Chile	Panama
Colombia	Paraguay
Costa Rica	Peru
Cuba	Trinidad and Tobago
Dominican Republic	United States of America
Ecuador	Uruguay
France	Venezuela
Guyana	

26. The following countries were represented by observers:

Canada  
United Kingdom  
Federal Republic of Germany

27. The Holy See was represented by its Permanent Observer.

28. The United Nations and its specialized agencies were represented as follows:

United Nations  
United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA)  
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)  
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)  
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)  
International Labour Organization (ILO)  
World Food Programme (WFP)  
World Health Organization (WHO)

29. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers:

Caribbean Free Trade Association (CARIFTA)  
Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)  
Organization of American States (OAS)  
Inter-American Committee on the Alliance for Progress (CIAP)  
Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN)  
Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences (IICA)  
Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)  
The Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (SIECA)

30. The following international nongovernmental organization was represented by observers:

The International Co-operative Alliance (ICA)

31. The names of the delegates, observers and FAO officials present are given in Appendix VI to this report.

Introductory statement by Mr. O.V. Wells, Deputy Director-General to the first plenary meeting

32. Mr. Wells began his remarks by presenting the regrets of the Director-General for having been unable to attend, and thanked the Government of Jamaica for its generous offer to act as host to the Conference. He then introduced Mr. Juan Felipe Yriart, Ambassador of Uruguay to the United States of America, recently appointed Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Latin America. He also extended to Dr. Santa Cruz the appreciation of the Organization for his services as Regional Representative for Latin America. Next he welcomed Mr. Carlos Quintana, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America, to this, the first Conference for Latin America officially held in cooperation with ECLA.

33. Recalling that relations between FAO and OAS were governed by the agreement of 1952, he said the two organizations had been coordinating their activities in the field of agriculture in Latin America. This agreement on cooperation had recently been reaffirmed at a meeting between Dr. Boerma, Director-General of FAO, and Mr. Galo Plaza, Secretary-General of OAS, and it was hoped that the two organizations would draw ever closer together. He mentioned that relations between FAO and inter-American agencies, whether region-wide or subregional in character, had been expanded and improved in recent years. Their purpose had always been to ensure coordination and to strengthen joint action for the promotion of agricultural development in Latin America. He particularly emphasized FAO's cooperation with the Inter-American Committee on the Alliance for Progress, the Inter-American Committee for Agricultural Development, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences, and with various regional economic integration bodies such as the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty for Central American Economic Integration and the Latin American Free Trade Association (LAFTA).

34. In discussing the functions of FAO and the strategy it intends to follow to achieve its aims, he said that this Organization has the specific responsibility for formulating a world food and agricultural policy, supplying technical assistance and execution of special projects.

35. He referred to the five main areas of concentration set by the Director-General and the Council at its session of last October for the future work of FAO, namely the use of high-yielding, high input varieties of food crops; closing the protein gap; the war on waste not only of products, but of resources as well; the mobilization of human resources and the integrated strengthening of services and institutions for rural development; and, lastly, assisting the developing countries in earning and saving foreign exchange.

36. He went on to refer to the structural reorganization of FAO and to the importance of the recent establishment at Rome Headquarters of a Development Department which it is hoped will give sharper focus to the regional approach.

37. The Development Department will have an Investment Centre for cooperation with the World Bank and area development banks. He went on to say that the important question of regional structure had been debated by the ad hoc Committee on Organization but no final conclusions had been reached, so that the matter had been left open for further discussion in the regional conferences and in the Council. Out of the

discussions two alternatives had emerged: either that the executive secretaries of the United Nations regional economic commissions should act in a dual capacity, their own and as FAO regional representatives, or that FAO regional offices should be maintained under the direction of full-time regional representatives.

38. Since the Latin American representative on the ad hoc Committee as well as the Latin American members of the Council had clearly manifested their preference for the second solution, it had accordingly been accepted by the Director-General, who had designated Mr. Yriart as Regional Representative for Latin America.

39. Realizing that the question of regional structure was of major interest to this Conference, he set forth the Director-General's view that the regional offices should be staffed by generalists rather than by narrow specialists, the regional representatives having funds for recruitment of consultants permitting them to furnish governments with services of specialists on an ad hoc basis as needed and when justifiable. Through this approach, the Regional Representative would be able to assign task forces to Member Nations either for discussion of action programmes, investment opportunities and other topics or for undertaking specific tasks.

40. In the Director-General's opinion, the sub-regional offices should be converted into country offices or, in some cases, multi-country offices. The Conference, the Council and the ad hoc Committee had all stressed the advisability of having country representatives play a key role in ensuring maximum effectiveness of FAO in its assistance to individual Member Nations.

41. The Director-General sees the strengthening of country representatives as the natural complement to the establishment of a strong Area Service Division in the Development Department. There was general consensus as to the need for country representatives or, in certain instances, representatives for groups of countries, opinions differing only as to the manner of organization and financing of such representation.

42. The Conference concurred in the view of the ad hoc Committee on Organization that regional conferences are important as the main forum for expression of the needs of Member Nations. They should help FAO prepare its medium-term programme of work and should offer governments a forum for discussing agricultural policies at the regional level.

43. Mr. Wells concluded his statement by referring to the current world food situation, in the analysis of which the Director-General had introduced a note of cautious optimism. The generally good 1967 harvests had raised the production figure for the developing countries about six per cent over that for the preceding year. In his view there was reason for hopefulness, because many governments are now putting greater emphasis on agriculture in their planning and investment. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, too, plans to quadruple its agricultural loans in the next five years with the continuing assistance of FAO.

Statement by Mr. Carlos Quintana, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA)

44. After expressing his appreciation for the spirit of cooperation that has developed between ECLA and FAO, and having welcomed Ambassador Juan Felipe Yriart, the FAO Regional Representative for Latin America designate, Mr. Quintana referred to the close bonds between ECLA and FAO resulting from the convergence of their objectives. He then proceeded to set forth ECLA's plans to extend its cooperation with FAO to the fields of food industries and fisheries.

45. In his opinion, what will happen in the next twenty years will depend on whether Latin America remains in a state of economic depression or achieves genuine, forceful development. He mentioned the well known fact that thus far the growth rate of the Latin American economy has been unsatisfactory, with only a 4.5% rate of annual growth in domestic product for the region as a whole, equivalent to a meagre 1.5% per annum per caput rise in income. He felt that the failure to satisfy the peoples' aspirations for better living conditions has exacerbated the social tensions that dominate the Latin American scene today. He pointed to the marked weakening of industry, once the most dynamic sector in Latin American development, especially noticeable in the economically more advanced countries. According to ECLA experience, problems hindering national development are becoming more and more acute, all the more reason for expediting reform of agrarian structure and lowering the high indices of concentration of land holdings and wealth. Agricultural production in Latin America has only just kept ahead of population growth so that per caput output today is only slightly higher - 8 to 10 per cent - than ten years ago, one particular source of dissatisfaction being the slowness of development of stockraising.

46. One weighty factor to which the lack of dynamism in agriculture may be attributed is the slow growth of external demand for Latin American commodities and the continuous decline in prices obtained on world markets for all their agricultural commodities, above all, export crops. Low as the levels of consumption of food and agricultural raw materials are in most Latin American countries and despite the fact that over three-quarters of their total agricultural output still goes to satisfy domestic demand, they have been unable to keep up with rising consumption demand, a situation that has resulted in an accelerated rate of import of consumer goods.

47. He went on to correlate the crisis in Latin American agriculture with the serious underutilization or misuse of natural and manpower resources as a consequence of which no fewer than 100 million inhabitants, most of them in rural areas, are barely eking out a miserable existence.

48. Recent ECLA research into income distribution has revealed that some 80 million persons in the rural sector have annual per caput incomes of about \$100, whence the comment that, given such low incomes and the consequent restricted domestic market it is no wonder that industrial development in these countries encounters ever growing difficulties.

49. FAO and ECLA concur on the following principal reasons for this state of affairs: overconcentration of land holdings; survival of outdated land tenure systems; slow pace of technological progress; absolute lack of, or else inadequate credit facilities; persistence of anachronistic marketing systems. Indeed despite the recognized need for thorough reform of prevailing agrarian structure it appears that not everyone understands the urgency of acceleration and in depth promotion of this process. ECLA has concluded that it would be necessary to quintuple the holdings of every small holders - the "minifundistas" who now have less than two hectares of land per employed person - in order to obtain a per caput annual income of \$250 by 1985. Unless measures are taken to increase output, raise productivity and improve the pattern of rural income distribution, the level of caput consumption of the vast rural masses will have risen by a mere \$30 to \$40 per annum only by 1985.

50. It was the opinion of the Executive Secretary of ECLA that reform of agrarian structure is absolutely essential as the main instrument for increasing production and redistributing rural income; by reform of agrarian structure, he meant not merely land reform, i.e. redistribution of land holdings, but rather a comprehensive structural improvement of agricultural institutions, technology and of the marketing of agricultural commodities. Investment essential to agricultural development will have a favourable impact on the development of other economic sectors as well, since modern agriculture has to have a solid industrial base capable of supplying agriculture with all the good quality inputs it requires at reasonable prices.

51. With reference to the integration of Latin American agriculture, he mentioned the appreciable advantages in terms of specialization and the consequent reduced production costs and the renewed impetus provided to substitution of extraregional imports by home-produced commodities. As a matter of fact, the region can aspire to a much greater degree of self-sufficiency than at present. Still, if each nation strives individually for greater self-sufficiency, the outcome might be higher production costs, which would ultimately have to be paid for by the consumer public to its detriment.

52. In closing, Mr. Quintana referred to problems of, and prospects for, Latin American agricultural exports, constituting as they do no less than 60 per cent of the total value of the region's exports though prospects for their expansion in the near future are extremely unfavourable due to a combination of well known factors.

53. Finally, he referred to a set of recommendations of the first meeting of UNCTAD in 1964 which, had they been fully implemented, would have laid the foundations for a new order in international trade relations, tipping the scales in favour of the developing countries. Efforts to obtain freer access to the markets of the developed countries must be pursued to secure for the peoples of the developing countries an expansion of exports, greater purchasing power on markets outside the region and price stability for their export commodities.

Statement by Mr. Francisco Aquino, Executive Director, World Food Programme (WFP)

54. The Executive Director of WFP began by pointing out that this programme represented the first attempt at multilateral food aid by means of which it was possible to finance in part labour-intensive projects and others, a large portion of the total cost of which consists of outlay on food. This multilateral aid, combined with bilateral aid, has become part of the total picture of assistance to developing countries. Food aid has become an important factor in co-operation for economic development. In this connection, Mr. Aquino stated that about 20% of current annual loans and donations by the more developed countries to the less developed, calculated to amount to about 8,000 million dollars, take the form of food aid that is used for emergency relief or as an additional resource for investment in projects for augmenting the capital assets of various countries.

55. Mr. Aquino went on to describe the structure and course followed by the WFP since its inception in 1961. He told how WFP obtains its resources, their composition, including human resources, and the main ways in which they are used for economic and social development - through projects for agriculture, for infrastructure-building, for development of industry and mineral resources and emergency aid. He illustrated with figures on the volume of investment and distribution of resources in these various fields of action.

56. Mr. Aquino concluded by mentioning that Latin America, including the Caribbean, had benefited from only 14 per cent of WFP projects, equivalent to only 9 per cent of its financial resources. Moreover many countries are not participating in the programme at all, either as beneficiaries or as donors. He therefore urged the countries of Latin America to increase their contributions to, and support of, the World Food Programme in order, in turn, to enjoy more of the benefits of its action programmes. Greater participation of Latin American countries in WFP, both as donors and as beneficiaries, would benefit the importance of its role in forging and promoting various forms of international cooperation.

Statement by Mr. J. Irineu Cabral, Representative of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

57. Mr. Cabral began with the assurance that one guarantee of the success of the Conference was the felicitous association of FAO and ECLA, combining as it did the experience and knowledge of two institutions so intimately associated with the progress of Latin America. He recalled that the bases for a IDB/FAO co-operative action agreement had been laid at the Eighth FAO Regional Conference.

58. In reference to the need for the accelerated rate of growth of agricultural production he said that the Bank, aware of the fact that a prosperous agriculture is essential to progress, has focussed its attention on low productivity in agriculture, technological backwardness, losses due to inefficient marketing, the lack of effective technical assistance and defective land tenure systems.

59. He pointed out that IDB continues to be the main source of external agricultural financing for the region. Its portfolio of loans exceeding 640 million dollars have made possible the financing of agricultural projects worth a total of 1 billion 800 million dollars.

60. The IDB representative mentioned the problem of level of technology versus level of employment in agriculture, pointing out this prospective conflict as one of the pressing problems of development at this time. He stated that recent studies of the specialized agencies show that the undesirable consequences of rapid population growth and an inadequate rate of creation of new urban jobs are aggravated by a type of agricultural technology which, without necessarily significantly raising yields per unit area, tends to create large-scale rural unemployment.

61. Finally, he touched upon the problem of planning for the agricultural sector and indicated that IDB's work of selection, preparation and execution of projects will become more effective as the general and sectorial planning agencies of individual countries improve their methods. In this connection, he expressed the great interest of IDB in FAO's Indicative World Plan for Agricultural Development.

Statement by Mr. S. Takahashi, Representative of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)

62. The Representative of the IBRD began by alluding to the very important role that will be played by the agricultural sector in any long-range development strategy and urged centering of attention on raising the productivity of farmers.

63. The World Bank, realizing the importance of aid to people of Latin America in attainment of their development goals, is now lending at the rate of 350 million dollars a year and by 1972 expects to reach the figure of between 700 and 800 million dollars a year. But as for agricultural loans, in some five years the Bank expects not to double but actually to quadruple its present total figures.

64. As far as Latin American agriculture is concerned, the Bank has made loans amounting to 325 million dollars thus far and in the current fiscal year alone plans about ten loans totalling around 135 million dollars.

65. He stated that agricultural production policies may have to shift more resources from the production of food grains into feed grains and livestock production for meat in order to satisfy a growing demand for protein foods. Foreseeing this trend the IBRD in its search for new fields for agricultural loans has made loans to Latin America for livestock projects based on new techniques for growing of tropical grasses and legumes, improved animal breeds and better farm management.

66. In conclusion, the Representative of the IBRD said that it is not the lack of capital that is the main brake on the development of agriculture but rather a dearth of experienced people to frame suitable agricultural policies and to prepare and execute development projects.

Statement by Mr. A. Venturelli of the International Labour Organization (ILO)

67. Mr. Venturelli noted that only two months had elapsed since the Director-General of FAO had selected five areas of concentration for the Organization's work.

68. Regarding the effective use of human resources, Mr. Venturelli stated that at the Eighth Conference of American States in Ottawa in September 1966, the Ottawa Plan for Human Resources Development in the Americas had been formulated and approved as an integral part of the World Employment Programme by means of which the ILO has decided to make a frontal attack on the problem of the under-utilization of manpower, a current subject of deep concern to FAO as well.

69. The Ottawa Plan set as one of its basic objectives, the very significant one of attributing at least equal importance to the development and use of human, as of natural, resources.

70. He listed some of the practical activities the ILO has started in Latin America in the field of rural development, almost always in close collaboration with FAO, mentioning as examples the Andean Plan for the integration and development of peasant communities in the highlands of Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador and Colombia.

Statement by Mr. R.T. Freire, representing the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Inter-American Committee on the Alliance for Progress (CIAP)

71. Mr. Freire conveyed the greetings of Mr. Galo Plaza, Secretary General of OAS, and Mr. Carlos Sanz de Santamaría, Chairman of CIAP, to the delegates and other Conference participants with best wishes for the success of the meeting. He commented on the excellent diagnosis of the situation in Latin America by the Executive Secretary of ECLA.

72. He stressed that, although in the last twenty years capital in Latin America had been mainly invested in other sectors of the economy, principally promotion of industrial development, agriculture had achieved a rate of growth which, while different in each country, for the region as a whole, slightly outpaced population growth. With regard to the future, he felt that with the actual agricultural potential, a greater flow of investment in this sector and better economic incentives for farmers would assuredly result in higher rates of agricultural expansion in the region.

73. In conclusion, he expressed the pleasure of the agencies he represented in the designation of Mr. Yriart as FAO Regional Representative for Latin America.

Statement by Mr. E.S. Bello, Representative of the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences (IICA)

74. The Representative of IICA thanked the United Nations and FAO for their effective contribution to the strengthening of the Escuela para Graduados at Turrialba and of the courses offered at La Molina, Peru, and at the Centro de la Estanzuela, Uruguay.

75. He briefly described the policy of IICA in relation to its fundamental objective, the support of national institutions in the agricultural sector, mentioning that its governing board understands perfectly that the primary function of the institute is to stimulate and promote the development and diffusion of agricultural technology and its application for the economic and social development of these countries.

76. He stressed the necessity of assistance to the universities of Latin America in reaching the goal of offering high quality education, improving their pedagogic methods and linking teaching closely with research. To this end it is necessary to have agricultural research institutions founded and the exchange of research findings fostered. Finally, he emphasized the importance of better agencies for rural development and reform of agrarian structure.

77. The Conference received a cable from Mr. Felipe Herrera, President of the IDB, voicing his regret at being unable to attend the Conference, his wishes for its success and his interest in whatever resolutions it adopted.



SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

REGIONAL STRUCTURE

78. In introducing this subject, set out in document LARC/68/3, the Deputy Director-General said that, pursuant to Resolution No. 1/67 of the FAO Conference on the General Structure of FAO, the Council at its Fifty-First Session had studied the Joint Report of the Director-General and that of the Ad Hoc Committee on Organization (CL 51/9) which contains a reorganization plan sufficiently detailed to serve as the basis for presentation of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1970-71.

79. He pointed out that, after having heard many conflicting opinions, the Council had authorized the Director-General to proceed with the organizational adjustments on the bases proposed by the Joint Report, taking into account insofar as possible, the views expressed by the Council. It recognized that some views would require further study and the consideration of the governing bodies, namely, the Council, the Conference or the Council's Programme and Finance Committees, as appropriate.

80. With regard to the regional structure, he said that there would be an opportunity for review by the competent bodies in the light of the opinions expressed at the regional conferences when the budget was discussed.

81. He also emphasized that, in view of the importance of the Latin American region, the Director-General had raised the Regional Representative to the rank of Assistant Director-General. The latter will be assisted by an advisory group of regional officers and have at his disposal a fund for recruiting consultants for specific short-term assignments.

82. Concerning country representatives, he announced that a formula to increase their number was under consideration, since the main problem thus far has been funds. FAO would continue to investigate all possible sources of funds whether to be derived in part or in full from its own resources or from UNDP and any other sources.

83. He also pointed out that despite the fact that the Council had authorized the sharing of the cost of financing of country representatives with UNDP, it was felt that this system is not the best. One answer to the problem might possibly be the outpostting of senior divisional officers from Rome Headquarters. However, negotiations with UNDP were being continued for the purpose of finding a more suitable formula for the appointment of country representatives.

84. From the beginning of the discussion it had become evident that the decision of the Conference called for more active participation of the countries of the region in all matters of concern to them in regard to the Organization, basically those directly related to the activities of FAO in the region itself. Lack of participation had created a feeling of frustration in many of the countries represented.

85. This feeling was unanimously voiced by the Conference as dissatisfaction of the countries of the region with the procedure by which decisions were taken by the Organization, which offered them little opportunity to participate fully in either the formulation of its policies or the preparation of its programmes.

86. The almost total absence of representation of the developing countries in the senior posts of the Organization at directorial and senior administrative levels was also emphasized by some delegations, and it was stated that this limits the participation of Latin Americans in the formulation of the Organization's policies and programmes.

87. The Conference clearly pointed out the need and desirability not only of technical decentralization but also of the delegation of more authority to the Regional Representative. This could facilitate and make more effective decisions concerning FAO activities in the region.
88. All countries stressed the need to strengthen the services of FAO at the regional level. This would enable FAO to retain the place that it deserves as the leading organization in the fields of food and agriculture in the region.
89. Concerning the sub-regional offices, there were conflicting opinions about their retention or abolition. Several countries felt that if such offices were kept, the office of the Officer in charge of the Caribbean Area should become a sub-regional office. Some delegations felt that the sub-regional offices should be maintained, having particular regard for the large size of the region and the coordinating function of the aforesaid offices.
90. There was general agreement on the urgent need for FAO to appoint representatives in each country, thereby making for improved efficiency in the field in specific matters of national interest.
91. After a long discussion on the various proposals on regional structure in the draft recommendations of Colombia and Chile and in the alternative proposal of Peru, a seven-country drafting committee was appointed to table a recommendation conciliating the different viewpoints to the utmost extent possible.
92. Finally, the Conference agreed to recommend the maintenance of the Regional Office for Latin America, with headquarters in Santiago, and the appointment of country representatives or group-country representatives. Furthermore, it recommended additional measures to strengthen and broaden the authority of the Regional Representative.
93. The Conference approved the following recommendation:

Recommendation No 1/68

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

that according to the Preamble of the Constitution of FAO it is a basic duty of the Member Nations of the Organization to raise the levels of nutrition and standards of living of the peoples under their respective jurisdiction and to better the condition of rural populations;

that the Latin American governments attach prime importance to direct action of FAO in the countries and regions where the problems exist and where the peoples hopefully and trustfully await the benefits of such action;

that it is decisive for truly effective work, as well as for the prestige of FAO in the world, that FAO should make its physical and active presence felt in the various regions and countries, with sufficient economic resources and personnel possessing the required technical competence and administrative autonomy;

that the FAO Conference and other FAO forums have recommended the gradual and progressive shift of Regular Programme staff from Headquarters to the regions;

that in all competent bodies where the reorganization plan has been discussed two basic principles have been accepted, namely that each region must adopt pragmatic

solutions consonant with its own characteristics and that all measures relating to regional structure must be acceptable to the countries concerned; and

that the success of regional activities depends upon the participation in the formulation of the respective programmes and policies of the countries so that these will have a sound basis for implementation;

Resolves

to recommend to the Council and to the Director-General of FAO

1. that the regional structure for Latin America consist of a Regional Office in Santiago, Chile, and offices of country representatives or group-country representatives;
2. that the Director-General delegate to the Regional Representative the broadest possible authority and full responsibility to enable him to work effectively without being handicapped by bureaucratic red tape, though reporting directly to the Director-General;
3. that the Regional Representative be vested with sufficient authority to decide on the requests that governments make through FAO country representatives while countries retain the right to lodge appeals from his decisions;
4. that country or group-country representatives in Latin America be placed under the Regional Office for Latin America;
5. that in the Programme of Work and Budget for 1970-71 at least the same number of officers be budgeted for Latin America as were allotted for the 1968-69 biennium, and sufficient divisional personnel be outposted from Headquarters to fill the posts of country representatives and to form task forces; and that the Regional Representative administer the fund for short-term consultants;
6. that the Director-General put forward suggestions for the establishment of machinery that will permit greater and more active participation of the countries in the formulation of the regional programmes of the Organization;
7. that the cooperation of FAO with regional and subregional agencies, both multilateral and bilateral, be continued and strengthened in order to ensure a greater and more effective coordination of the region's programme and resources; and
8. that the Regional Office for Latin America be given an effective role in the centralization of technical information within its fields of responsibility in order to meet the requirements for the evaluation of development projects and their financing.

REORIENTATION OF REGIONAL CONFERENCES

94. In the discussion of this matter, contained in document LARC/68/3, the Assistant Director-General referred to the considerations presented to the Council at its Fifty-first Session with regard to the important function of regional conferences in identifying felt needs of the region so that they might be taken into account in the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget for the immediately ensuing biennium. It was already stated on that occasion that to achieve this objective, regional conferences would have to meet within six months of the close of the FAO Conference, that is, before the Director-General had begun to draft his Programme of Work, an arrangement that seems quite impractical. He explained that the holding of regional conferences was provided for in the FAO Constitution, but that the provision creating them was optional and not mandatory. Finally, he said that the African Regional Conference had requested that they be given a more precise legal status.

95. He indicated that the Ad Hoc Committee on Reorganization had felt that regional conferences would definitely be able to play an important part in the preparation of the medium-term programme when a global and regional development strategy had been adopted.

96. He stressed that regional conferences are expected to make recommendations not only to governments but also to the Director-General and to the regional economic commissions of the United Nations and that they should concentrate on highest priority matters affecting each region; in conclusion, he stated that reports of regional conferences are important instruments for the work of the regional representatives.

97. On the presentation of a draft specific recommendation, a discussion took place leading to suggestions for a number of amendments of substance to meet the express wish of the countries of the region that the regional conferences should reflect their most urgent needs.

98. Main emphasis was placed on the desirability of having the ministers of agriculture of the region in attendance during the entire regional conference to ensure that decisions on recommendations would be taken at the highest possible level. This has so far not been possible, in part because of the relatively long duration of such conferences.

99. It was stressed that the agenda should include the salient problems of the region and that discussions should focus on those problems, both in terms of policy formulation and search for solutions.

100. It was agreed that the agenda of the conferences should cover in a balanced way institutional, technical and production aspects with special attention to matters relating to international trade in agricultural commodities and in particular to terms of trade.

101. It was accepted that decisions on matters in the field of agricultural development policy would be facilitated in many cases if, before each regional conference, experts of the countries could meet in working parties to prepare basic documents for discussion. In this way, the first stage of the meeting could be held at a technical level, to be followed by a second stage at an essentially political level.

102. A discussion ensued on the desirability of appropriate rules of procedures for the conduct of the regional conferences with a view to expediting consideration of agenda items.

103. It was also unanimously agreed that the Council and the Director-General, in view of the fact that the regional conferences reflected the feelings of the countries, should, in cases where the recommendations emanating from them were ignored, inform the countries of this, specifying their reasons.

104. Accordingly, the Conference approved the following recommendation:

Recommendation No. 2/68

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

that to obtain greater benefits from these regional conferences the participation of the ministers of agriculture or persons of equivalent rank from the Member Nations is desirable, but that the two-week duration of these conferences often makes it difficult or impossible for many of them to attend;

that it is necessary to expedite the often prolonged or dilatory procedures of these conferences;

that the problems of supply and demand of the agricultural products of the countries of the region, including those relating to international trade and the deterioration of the terms of trade between these countries and the industrialized countries, are among their principal concerns; and, further,

that for a better understanding of the benefits and results achieved at these conferences, it would be greatly desirable to know to what extent the recommendations emanating from them are implemented;

Resolves

to recommend to the Council and to the Director-General of FAO

1. to limit the duration of these conferences to a maximum period of one week, except when matters of special importance require a longer period. The Director-General may, however, convene one or more technical panels or working parties to meet immediately preceding the conferences in cases where this seems desirable as a preparatory measure;
2. to so arrange the conference agenda as to strike a balance between the institutional, technical and production aspects, paying special attention to matters relating to international trade in agricultural commodities;
3. to apply more rigorously existing FAO rules on conference procedure, in particular when dealing with the acceptance and discussion of motions or resolutions by having each put to a vote when necessary; and
4. to pay the utmost attention to the recommendations arising out of these conferences and, in case recommendations fail of adoption in part or as a whole, to explain the reasons why to the governments of the countries of the region.

PRESENTATION OF THE REVIEW OF FAO'S ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION

105. The Acting Regional Representative, in introducing document LARC/68/2, entitled "Review of FAO's Activities in the Region", began by stating that these activities had expanded steadily and concurrently with the recognition by governments and by international and regional financing agencies of the need to assign higher priority to development of the agricultural sector. The growing interest of the governments in the work of FAO had been evidenced by their ever closer collaboration with the Organization and in practical results of the greatest significance, the work of FAO experts being translated more and more frequently into UNDP funded pre-investment projects.

106. He recognized that the work of FAO in the various countries and its contacts with the respective governments needed to be intensified and also referred to the fact that international organizations were finding it increasingly difficult to locate and recruit highly trained technical experts without deviating from established rules.

107. Furthermore, governments were becoming better acquainted with the procedures for project identification, preparation and execution. They now had a clearer idea of their own technical and financial responsibilities, so that FAO expected both more interest in such projects and a more precise idea on their part of their commitments when signing plans of operation.

108. He called upon Member Nations to indicate clearly to FAO what priorities they assigned to the projects they submitted for UNDP approval. Since assignment of such priorities implied very careful development planning, FAO noted with satisfaction that many countries had established, or were establishing, national planning offices with sectorial programming units that would smooth technical assistance work at all stages, from project identification, to the assignment of priorities, to project preparation and execution, with suitable machinery for overcoming financing and administrative difficulties encountered in this last stage.

109. With reference to the different fields to which the attention of governments should be directed in the development of natural resources, he drew the attention of the delegates to the growing interest of the countries of the region in forest and fishery resources. With FAO's collaboration, forestry schools at various levels up to university-level colleges had been opened in many countries of the region and effort was also being made to organize intermediate-level forest ranger schools. Furthermore, several forests had been cruised, adding substantially to the knowledge of the volume and grades of standing timber in the tropical forests of Latin America and of their potential commercial species.

110. In the case of fisheries, he declared that within less than a decade, through UNDP-supported programmes, it had been possible to lay the groundwork for a systematic assessment of Latin American fishery resources and potential. He recognized, nevertheless, that in many cases through procrastination the technical-scientific bases laid through technical assistance projects had not been translated into concrete action in the promotion of fisheries. He specifically referred to the development of fishing for direct human consumption, one of the most rapid and effective ways of overcoming the chronic, and sometimes even critical, nutritional deficiencies in the region. He concluded that in government fishery policies and in technical assistance and financing plans in this sector, fishing for human consumption should be given top priority.

111. Concerning the vital problem of agricultural development planning, he stressed the point that the compilation of statistics is a prerequisite for such planning. Yet, unfortunately, there had been no significant improvement in the statistical services that have to lay the groundwork. The result was that unreliable figures were being used, leading to unrealistic agricultural development planning.

112. In conclusion, he highlighted the problem of land reform, which had already been a main topic at several regional conferences. He indicated that FAO had always collaborated with Member Nations in as practical and down-to-earth work as the training of the technicians charged with the implementation of land reform. FAO had also assisted in the identification and framing of land reform schemes and in pre-investment studies on projects, and had made evaluations of some of the projects carried out in the region.

113. To dramatize the topic of land reform, he cited CIDA findings to the effect that Latin America must carry through land reform schemes for the benefit of at least 750,000 rural families a year. Hazardous as it was to make any global estimate of the investment required by such plans, the cost would certainly be very high.

114. Several countries stressed the importance of the document presented pointing out the effective work of the Regional Office in the last biennium in this connection. The Conference paid special tribute to Mr. Philippe Cochin for his work during the period he acted as Regional Representative.

JOINT FAO/ECLA ACTIVITIES

115. The Secretariat reported on joint FAO/ECLA activities detailed in Chapter XIV of Document LARC/68/2.

116. He pointed out that these activities are now centered in two main fields; (a) the economic aspects of agricultural development, the concern of the Joint FAO/ECLA Agriculture Division, and (b) the development of forest industries supervised by FAO/ECLA/BTAO Forest Industries Development Advisory Group for Latin America and assisted by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

117. The Joint FAO/ECLA Agriculture Division, the main operational link between the two agencies, has a nucleus of economists stationed at ECLA Headquarters in Santiago, an economist at the LAFTA Office in Montevideo and a team of economists at the ECLA Regional Office in Mexico. He indicated that the Joint FAO/ECLA Agriculture Division included among its many responsibilities the following main tasks:

(i) making of studies in several Latin American countries on the use of agricultural inputs especially fertilizers, pesticides and farm machinery with the financial and technical assistance of the IDB. These studies had influenced the measures taken by some countries for certain inputs, much to the benefit of their agricultural sector;

(ii) making studies on Latin American agricultural integration for the purpose of determining concrete prospects for intra-regional trade in the main crop and livestock products, thus supporting the existing machinery for economic integration, namely the Latin American Free Trade Association (LAFTA), the General Treaty for Central American Integration and CARIFTA. He described the direct assistance given to the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Integration (SIECA) and LAFTA and that to be offered in the near future to CARIFTA;

(iii) making studies on future prospects for agricultural development in Latin America as part of ECLA's current activities in connection with the United Nations Second Development Decade, reports on which will be submitted for consideration to the next ECLA session in Lima in April, 1969.

118. In his discussion of the different activities in the field of forestry, he pointed out the great importance of this sector to the economic development of Latin America. Despite the enormous wealth of the forest resources of the region and an enormous production potential, about 200 million dollars were being spent annually on pulp and paper imports alone, whereas Latin America could become a net exporter of these and other forest products. He mentioned plans for convening a regional conference on forest industries development for 1970 in Mexico and that one of the main tasks of the Forest Industries Development Advisory Group for Latin America was the preparation of papers for that conference.

119. He concluded by describing the expansion of the FAO/ECLA cooperation through which joint activities will soon be begun in the fields of fisheries and food industries, both of unquestionable interest to the countries of Latin America.

120. In the course of the discussion on this item, appreciation was expressed for the useful work of the Joint FAO/ECLA Agriculture Division, especially in the field of physical inputs and of economic integration in Latin America, and support for its intensification was voiced.



121. Since commodity studies provide sound basic information for the programming and expansion of intra-regional trade in agricultural products in the future, persual of studies on individual commodities and bringing more commodities under scrutiny was urged.

122. In reply to a point raised by one delegation, the Director of the Joint FAO/ECLA Agriculture Division explained that the programme for his Division is established according to directives from both FAO regional conferences and ECLA conferences; consequently, work at present under way is in compliance with the express wishes of Member Nations.

123. He further indicated that the joint FAO/ECLA programmes in the field of forestry, as well as those contemplated in the field of fisheries and the food-processing industries, highly technical in character, were outside the province of the Joint FAO/ECLA Agriculture Division, whose competence lay essentially in the field of economics.

124. With regard to commodity studies and those pertaining more particularly to the strategy for agricultural development during the United Nations Second Development Decade, he stated that, insofar as possible, they were being tied in closely with those undertaken by the interested Divisions of FAO in Rome and with the Indicative World Plan.

COUNTRY STATEMENTS AND GENERAL DISCUSSION

125. Having heard the country statements, the FAO Regional Representative for Latin America summed up the problems confronted, and action being taken, by governments in agriculture and related fields, confining himself to those aspects having a bearing on the FAO's areas of concentration.

126. He said that although other specific topics mentioned by the delegates would receive due attention insofar as they referred to problems coming within the Organization's terms of reference and with which it is in a position to deal, it was deemed sufficient to make a summary thereof, once the delegates had been heard, in order to highlight and emphasize the most general problems or those requiring most urgent attention.

127. In summing up, the Regional Representative first took up the area of concentration relating to work on high-yielding crop varieties, saying that in the various statements of delegates in this connection mention had been made of the problems encountered. He pointed out that as yet in this region only few countries have successfully developed such varieties and alluded to the warning of several delegates about special requirements with regard to inputs that go hand in hand with proper use of such varieties.

128. With reference to the second area of concentration - closing the protein gap - he pointed out that in all countries work is going forward with FAO assistance in all relevant fields, including animal production, fisheries, the growing of protein-rich grain legumes and cereals. Even greater efforts still need to be made to overcome major obstacles standing in the way of bringing protein foods within the reach of all strata of the population, especially those among whom nutritional deficiencies were prevalent.

129. Due note was taken of the success achieved along these lines by countries that fish the Pacific Ocean, as well as of the growing fishing industries along the Atlantic, where a wealth of fishery resources had barely begun to be exploited. He considered the success of certain countries in the promotion of poultry raising and production of milk and milk products extremely interesting.

130. Beef production was another goal to be worked toward earnestly, and attention was drawn to the significance of the point made by several delegations to the effect that the improvement of cattle production in both quantity and quality could be accelerated provided that measures were taken along the lines of disease control, correct feeding and proper management.

131. Upon examination of statements of delegates on problems coming in the area of concentration defined as 'war on waste' by the Director-General, he noted that the most frequently voiced concern was over losses caused by insects, rodents and fungi during marketing, losses multiplied by lack of proper storage facilities. He also referred to the concern of many countries with food-and-mouth disease, stating his impression that this disease required priority attention on the part of FAO with a view, inter alia, to assisting countries to obtain funds for the financing of costly control campaigns.

132. In the field of conservation of national resources, he observed that FAO's assistance to governments for the conservation and restoration of forest and water resources was deemed extremely valuable.

133. He then proceeded to discuss the fourth area of concentration of FAO action - the mobilization of human resources - a matter of utmost importance to Latin America and of great concern to governments. All development work should revolve around man himself, so as to invest him with that dignity which is his natural and inalienable right.

134. Delegates' statements had shown a clear recognition of the need to tackle energetically the gigantic task of reform of agrarian structure in its manifold aspects to permit the active and conscious participation of the great rural masses as yet not involved in the development process. Their statements showed the prime importance attached to such action on the part of governments and their interest in the solution of the wide range of problems that have to be dealt with in order to better the economic and social conditions of their rural population - everything from education and training to the political and administrative reorganization of governments.

135. Reference was then made to delegates' statements on the topic of farm mechanization - closely linked with the use of manpower in production - and it was pointed out that, basically, farm machinery should lighten human labour and make it more efficient without worsening unemployment or underemployment in the rural sector.

136. The Regional Representative concluded by referring to the fifth area of concentration of FAO - the earning and saving of foreign exchange. This was probably the prime concern of the delegates and it was on this area that both the Prime Minister of Jamaica and the Chairman of the Conference at the inaugural ceremony focussed the attention of the delegates so that their deliberations might be guided by the awareness of this major responsibility.

In his view this is so because Latin American countries have long been calling for a more equitable share of world trade in the raw materials which they export. Far from having found means of redressing the presently unsatisfactory situation, such problems were becoming increasingly acute. Many delegates mentioned the growing difficulties of their countries in having their commodities compete on foreign markets to which access was restricted by protectionist measures - designed to promote domestic production, frequently entirely antieconomic - or to give associated states preferential treatment.

137. He observed that delegates had again and again mentioned the declining price trend for practically all agricultural products exported by the countries of the region. This, combined with the steady rise in prices of agricultural inputs and other import commodities, results in the constant deterioration of their terms of trade.

138. Certain delegates pointed out that their governments had frequently been obliged to promote diversification of domestic production with a view to import substitution with the consequent saving of foreign exchange for the acquisition of the capital goods necessary for their development.

139. In this context the pioneering work of FAO in the field of commodities was recalled, a field in which it now has the benefit of the collaboration of ECLA, which has always been active in the various forums where international trade problems were under discussion.

140. In conclusion, the Regional Representative stated that despite the great problems, needs and obstacles confronting Latin America in its agricultural development, there are good grounds for optimism, particularly in view of the tremendous unutilized potential of the region and the will of its peoples and governments to make the required effort to accelerate the pace of agricultural development and introduce the structural changes essential thereto, He further assured the meeting that FAO would, to the full measure of its possibilities, make every effort to cooperate in these tasks.

141. In addition to the points mentioned by the Regional Representative in his several statements, the delegates raised other vital matters relevant to agricultural development and to the measures being taken by their governments to implement the recommendations formulated by previous conferences.

142. Among these were the framing of policies having reference to agrarian structure which placed due stress on the fundamental importance of the agricultural sector.

143. Integrated economic and social development planning with particular emphasis on planning for the agricultural sector, merited the special consideration of the various countries.

144. In general all countries described their efforts to improve their assistance services for the rural sector in regard to both production and community development.

145. Many delegations spoke on measures being adopted to create more employment opportunities in rural areas through the promotion of handicrafts and rural industries.

146. Reference was also made to the changes countries are attempting to effect in their traditional exports through suitable diversification of their agricultural production.

147. Many delegates also stressed the grouping of farmers in various types of association that give them the opportunity and means of becoming more active participants in the development process.

148. Finally, the Regional Conference unanimously recommended that the Director-General should consult the Regional Representative in connection with the taking of any decision relating to programme and policy formulation for Latin America.

149. The Conference approved the following recommendation:

Recommendation No. 3/68

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

a) that the five areas of concentration proposed by the Director-General as a goal for future strategy represent an adequate framework within which FAO can help solve some of the difficulties facing Latin America in the fields of food and agriculture;

b) that within these five areas of concentration stress can be laid in Latin America on the great urgency of fuller utilization and improvement of human resources and on the serious problem of access of its export commodities to world markets;

Resolves

1. to support the five areas of concentration proposed by the Director-General as the basic orientation for the future strategy of the Organization;
2. to recommend to the Director-General of ~~FAO~~
  - a) that in developing these activities he should encourage the fullest participation of Member Nations in order to comply with a recommendation of the Council to the effect that the effectiveness of this strategy will depend on the measure in which the countries implement it in their respective national policies;
  - b) that in applying these priorities special attention be paid to the aspects of improvement of social conditions of the broad masses of the rural population as refers to better distribution of resources through land reform, general education, agricultural extension and other complementary aspects;
  - c) that in connection with the fifth area of concentration - earning and saving of foreign exchange - he intensify cooperation between FAO, UNCTAD, GATT and other competent international organizations, particularly by offering the Organization's experience in commodity production, marketing, prices, projections and consumption, studies on which may lead to the adoption of international commodity agreements.

INDICATIVE WORLD PLAN FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

150. The Conference had before it a document on "Main Conclusions and Policy Implications of the IWP Regional Study for South America". In presenting this paper the Secretariat emphasized that this study was not yet an official FAO document; on the contrary it was to be regarded as "a draft report on which FAO wishes to have the detailed comments of Member Governments" after which FAO would like to discuss the provisional study and the comments of the governments with them.

151. It was stated that the anticipated low growth rates in agricultural production reflected principally the serious limitations on effective demand for food unless fairly drastic measures are taken to change the income structure in favour of poverty-stricken rural and urban masses with very low purchasing power. A more optimistic alternative model of global character was also presented based on the hypothesis that deep-seated changes might occur in land tenure and income distribution.

152. The Conference expressed its surprise and concern with the low economic growth rates. There was a general feeling that higher growth rates could be achieved even on the basis of historical performance. Several delegations expressed the view that neither the basic examples nor the hypotheses were realistic. In particular it was felt that the Indicative World Plan's views on livestock production were much too pessimistic and crop yield targets too low. Projections on export markets were also thought too pessimistic.

153. The Conference concluded that the assumptions regarding economic growth rates met neither the aspirations nor the needs of the peoples of Latin America, and that, in its present form, this document, however 'indicative' and 'provisional' in character, contains very dangerous propositions potentially inimical to the future development of the countries covered thereby. At the same time some speakers stressed the need for facing up to the structural changes that, according to the IWP study, are indispensable to achieve satisfactory rates of economic growth. Such structural changes should be incorporated as an integral part of the Plan, making it possible to derive rates of growth that are in conformity with the projected impact of such changes on the economic growth process.

154. It was deemed necessary that much more attention be paid to the problems of unemployment and underemployment in rural areas and their influence on policies for promoting technological progress and farm mechanization. In this connection, it was considered desirable that FAO and ECLA include research on these matters in their work programmes, for which purpose they could seek the financial and technical assistance of other agencies. The IDB Representative expressed the Bank's interest in such studies.

155. Just as the need for institutional and social changes in Latin America called for reiteration so too did the need for altering the situation generated by terms of trade and policies of the high-income countries that have serious repercussions thereupon.

156. It was further felt that more attention should be given to relative prices - a crucial factor in development - and to new and increasingly grave problems of underemployment and unemployment. Several delegations expressed the view that the IWP should make no explicit reference to population control; others, however, felt that, in the case of their own countries, control of the birth rate had to be contemplated as one means of bettering the economic and social situation of their peoples.

157. Many delegates deplored the fact that the planning institutions of their countries had not been given more opportunity to participate in the work on the IWP at the time when the situation of each country was being studied. Many countries had economic planning agencies which could have made a valuable contribution.

158. The Conference considered it extremely important that the provisional IWP analysis and conclusions be examined much more closely by governments than was possible at the Regional Conference. On the suggestion of the Regional Representative for Latin America it was unanimously agreed to recommend to the Director-General that he convene a meeting as soon as possible in Santiago, Chile, bringing together national planning experts of the ten countries so far included in the study on South America, on the one hand, and observers from the other Latin American countries and IWP and other competent FAO staff on the other. Both ECLA and ILPES should be invited to participate in this meeting. It was also agreed that consultations should be held with governments of the other Latin American countries during the preparation of the respective country studies by the IWP.

159. In reply to the comments made by the delegations, the Director of the IWP voiced his satisfaction that it had been decided to hold such a meeting of experts. It would afford them an opportunity to begin the kind of dialogue between governments, FAO and other organizations, which was needed if the IWP was really to serve its purpose of helping Member Nations to chart their course while at the same time enabling FAO to help them most effectively.

160. The Conference approved the following recommendation:

Recommendation No. 4/68

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

1. that the representatives of the governments of the countries covered by the IWP preliminary study, presented in the draft report LARC/68/4, had made comments of substance on its methodology, projections and policies;
2. that representatives of some governments urged that the IWP studies on population growth not bias the orientation of birth control policies;
3. that the final study to be submitted to the Fifteenth Session of the FAO Conference should adequately reflect the views of the governments of the region on prospects for agricultural development;
4. that the achievement of those objectives requires the establishment of machinery for consultation between FAO and representatives of national planning agencies,

Recommends

to the Director-General of FAO

1. that, in cooperation with ECLA and other international organizations concerned with agricultural planning, there be convened, as early as possible and in any case sufficiently in advance of the Fifteenth Session of the Conference, technical meetings of FAO officials and representatives of national planning agencies, to give thorough consideration to the methodology of the plan and the resulting policy formulation;
2. that the outcome of those considerations should appear in an annex to the official FAO study;
3. that regardless of the conclusions which might arise out of those technical meetings, account should be taken of reservations about explicit references in the document to population control as a prerequisite for development;

to Governments of the region

that they make every effort to ensure that their highest level experts participate in these meetings.

ESSENTIALS FOR LONG-TERM AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE REGION

THE INTEGRATED APPROACH TO INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES  
STRUCTURAL AND INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

161. The ultimate objective of the mobilization and development of human resources in the agricultural sector is to enable rural families to attain a better standard of living, which implies their playing a more active role in the affairs of their community and nation. Naturally, a higher level of living must necessarily be accompanied by a rise in rural family income, basically through higher productivity not only per unit area but also per unit manpower.

162. There follows a list of the principal means of raising productivity of farm families:

- a) Agricultural research to breed better plant and animal varieties; to determine the most efficient use of fertilizers, water and pesticides; to organize cropping systems; and to schedule farming operations;
- b) Application of highly efficient agricultural extension methods, something quite feasible since in developing countries extension services are generally government agencies;
- c) Supplying farmers with credit on time and in sufficient amounts to permit the necessary investments;
- d) Assuring producers access to markets and prices that permit them to recover their investment and earn fair profits, which perforce requires the establishment of efficient marketing services, transport and storage facilities, and a guaranteed price system;
- e) Enabling farmers to gain access to land under a good land use and land tenure structure, undertaking where necessary reform of agrarian structure and developing land settlement programmes.

163. Conditions under which all the above listed services are provided must be improved concurrently, because if any one service fails, this causes a bottleneck which renders other services inefficient in turn.

164. Another point worth mentioning is that the foundations for development and improved efficiency of the said services are appropriate education and training of cadres to organize, coordinate and administer them; this calls for the establishment of, or improvement of existing, educational institutions and the training of technicians to staff such services.

165. All delegations agreed that the improvement of socio-economic institutional services, particularly those supporting small and middle-class producers, is an absolute necessity if agriculture is to develop and the mass of farmers are to attain the standard of living that will enable them to take their rightful place in the community. Especially singled out was the need for structural changes in land tenure and land use systems — as the sine qua non for agricultural development.

166. Many speakers also stressed the fact that, particularly for the success of land reform programmes, the improvement and complete coordination of socio-economic institutional services was an absolute prerequisite.



167. It was pointed out that in most countries in the past a major problem had been the proliferation of agricultural services with no coordination among them, which meant waste of much of their potential usefulness.

168. It was generally agreed that a well organized ministry of agriculture is the principal agency for the coordination of all institutional services for the agricultural sector. The national planning institute should be responsible for comprehensive planning for an entire country but, within national plans, it is the ministry of agriculture that should be responsible for carrying out and coordinating development plans and programmes for the agricultural sector.

169. There was lively discussion on the structural organization that best meets the needs for integrating and coordinating institutional services for agriculture. The general consensus was that no one solution was valid for all countries. In some countries, the ministry of agriculture might be the best agency for implementing all programmes; in others there was very definitely room for autonomous authorities or semi-autonomous agencies responsible for certain institutional services. It was pointed out that independent authorities could be most effective in fields such as marketing, crop storage and price guarantee programmes. Agricultural credit programmes should be carried out by specialized bodies. However, it was repeatedly stressed that all services must be coordinated and that all must be available to farmers at the same place and the same time to be really effective.

170. It was brought out, in particular, that research must be closely coordinated with extension work. With this in mind some countries had established a single service embracing both research and extension.

171. Stress was laid on having the rural or farm population participate in designing programmes for their own advancement, in which regard it was important to promote the organization of farmer cooperatives for credit, marketing and other purposes.

172. As for the idea of concentrating scarce economic resources and trained manpower in specific regions or on specific programmes, it was indicated that, while this idea had much merit, it also raised political problems. Three main possibilities were mentioned: first, a focussing of effort on a regional basis; second, a concentration of effort on one particular principal commodity; and third, the general approach of trying to provide integrated and coordinated services to all parts of a country.

173. The regional or area concentration approach would be most appropriate for certain special development projects - irrigation, land settlement or land reform - in certain areas.

174. Concentration on a particular commodity would be most applicable to one with good export possibilities of potential benefit to an entire country, or to a commodity in short supply, the output of which needs to be increased to reduce imports and save on foreign exchange.

175. It was stressed that coordination of institutional services for agriculture and for agricultural programmes should not be considered as a subject by itself; rather these services and programmes should be coordinated and integrated with overall development plans, and particularly with industrial development plans for a country.

176. Lastly, the education and training of managerial staff for the various institutional services as well as the "functional literacy" of rural populations and beneficiaries of institutional services must not be neglected.

177. The Conference recommended that FAO pay particular attention to assisting governments in improving and coordinating their institutional services and that FAO

and other international agencies be particularly careful not to recommend the establishment of new, or additional, administrative agencies or bodies in the developing countries unless these are actually needed and do not conflict with, or duplicate the work of, already established agencies.

178. Upon request from various delegations, FAO presented a brief oral report on the "Seminar on Forestry Development, Land Reform and Land Settlement for Latin American Countries" held in Brasilia from 18 to 20 November 1968. The conclusions reached at that Seminar were circulated to the Conference as document LARC/68/INF/5.

179. The Conference was gratified to learn that, in the course of the Seminar, the participants responsible for forestry development programmes, had gained a better understanding of the problems and limitations facing those responsible for land reform and land settlement programmes, while the latter had come to understand, not only the special characteristics, but also the considerable potential, offered by the forest and forest industries sector.

180. Two points raised at the Seminar merited particular attention, namely:

- a) the need to coordinate policies and programmes of forestry development and reform of agrarian structure in all aspects; and
- b) in those countries where the pushing of the farming frontier further into forest lands is warranted, such expansion should be planned in such a manner as to take in only land suited to crop and livestock raising, as ascertained through previous ecological surveys and economic research on land capability.

181. The Conference commended the conclusions of the Seminar to the attention of member governments, and requested FAO to take them into account in preparing its future programmes of work.

182. Mr. Miguel Hernández Agosto of the Universidad de Puerto Rico, a member of the delegation of the United States of America, urged that there be incorporated in the resolutions the concern of various countries with regard to the problems of the paucity of trained manpower for tasks of agricultural development, emphasizing the importance of appropriate planning techniques.

183. As he saw it, more and more know-how is required for maximization of yields from the resources used for development purposes; hence the need for greater knowledge of development theory and analysis and planning techniques. In order to train personnel in these fields the Universidad de Puerto Rico offers one regular eight-week course on agricultural planning and another two-year course for complete specialization in rural development planning, both courses being given in Spanish. He informed the delegates that the syllabus for each of these courses was available on request.

184. The Conference approved the following recommendations:

Recommendation No. 5/68

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

1. that agricultural development is linked to the formulation of relevant development plans, programmes and projects;
2. that the countries of Latin America urgently require more trained manpower in the fields of planning, programming techniques and project formulation;

3. that the financing of plans, programmes and projects depends to a large extent on their presentation by governments in a form complying with standards considered somewhat exaggerated for the means available to Latin American countries;
4. that private consultant firms, national or international, do not always meet the needs of governments, or satisfy them only partially;
5. that the courses organized by international technical assistance or financing organizations are too few to meet the needs of Latin American countries;

Recommends to the Director-General of FAO

1. the study of measures conducive to strengthening efforts deployed in planning, programming and formulation of projects for the agricultural sector both by FAO and other United Nations technical assistance agencies and international credit agencies with whom FAO works jointly. In this connection, the strengthening of cooperation between FAO and the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) merits priority attention;
2. the study of the feasibility of promoting the establishment of national economic and social planning centers - in support of already existing ones - where the necessary technical teams can obtain accelerated training in courses of different levels and duration. Such national centers might work with universities in the various countries.

Recommendation No. 6/68

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

that countries need to have a well planned and coordinated agricultural policies in order both to increase production and to enhance the productivity of agriculture; and

that in recent years there has been a dispersal of technical, financial and material means resulting in undesirable duplication of effort at various levels;

Recommends

to Governments of the region ;

that they strengthen their ministries of agriculture as agricultural policy-directing, planning and coordination agencies, and

to FAO and other international technical assistance and financing agencies ;

that in considering projects for which they will provide assistance, they examine and suggest kinds of action conducive to such strengthening.

Recommendation No. 7/68

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

1. agrarian reform to be a key factor in the acceleration of the economic, social and political development of Latin America;

2. the accelerated rate of population growth in Latin America;

3. the need for greater production of the agricultural sector;
4. the need for better income distribution;
5. the insufficiency of industrial development for the solution of the unemployment problem;
6. the need for full employment of manpower and land as the foundation of progress in Latin America.

Recommends

to Governments of the region

a) that they facilitate and encourage the creation of farmers and agricultural workers' organizations and enable these organizations to participate as appropriate in activities and in decision-making in the social, cultural and economic fields in their respective countries.

Such participation pertains not only to the protection of their rights but also to the fulfilment of the obligations of farmers in the process of reform of agrarian structure;

b) that they consider the desirability, in accordance with conditions in each country of initiating, expediting and consolidating land reform schemes in order to correct defects of agrarian structure, especially as regards land distribution systems, patterns of land tenure, and land use;

to the Director-General of FAO :

that in his Programme of Work for the coming biennium greater attention be paid to the subject of agrarian reform especially in support of lines of strategy and comparative studies of a practical nature for those countries which so request it. In this connection FAO should continue lending full support to the completion and utilization of CIDA studies and strengthen its own regional technical assistance services; and

to Governments of the region and the Director-General of FAO :

that special consideration be given to the conclusions of the Seminar on Forestry Development, Land Reform and Land Settlement as they apply to those countries, which conclusions should be given the widest possible publicity by FAO.

Recommendation No. 8/68

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

that since 1959 FAO has not organized any seminar to bring together the directors of the land reform and land settlement agencies of the region in order to enable them to exchange information and discuss approaches to activities given priority in the last decade by the Governments of the Member Nations;

Recommends to the Director-General of FAO

that during the 1970-71 biennium he organize a Latin American seminar on land reform and land settlement that will deal mainly with the philosophy of agrarian reform, rural institutions, goals and financing, within budgetary limits.

Recommendation No. 9/68

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

1. the need to stimulate research in rural sociology and the implementation of coordinated programmes to accelerate the economic development process in Latin America;
2. that, in Recommendation 9 B/66, the Ninth Regional Conference of FAO for Latin America expressed to the governments of Member Nations the desirability of integrating their development programmes with those of rural community development;

Recommends

to the Director-General of FAO

1. that, depending on availability of funds, he assign to a panel of experts in rural sociology the study of:
  - a) a system of regional cooperation that will make possible the planned training of technicians for work at various levels in the field of rural sociology;
  - b) the most suitable approach to the development of rural communities in accordance with national conditions;
  - c) collaboration between institutions and/or between countries of the region for the programming, coordination, planning and implementation of the necessary sociological research as a first step to the taking of action;
  - d) the possibility of establishing rural sociology documentation centres in the different countries of the region and the promotion of a continuous exchange of information;
  - e) technical cooperation and the equipment of national bodies dedicated specifically to research and to the implementation of policies and strategies in the field of rural sociology;

and that he present a progress report and forward plans in this field in time for official submission to the representatives of Member Nations at the 1969 Session of the FAO Conference.

AGRICULTURAL TRADE AND ITS ROLE IN  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

185. The Secretariat reported that it was too early as yet to reappraise the IWP figures on trade prospects for Latin America because FAO did not yet have the indicative figures on world exports and imports for each commodity. These would be ready for all major commodities in another 4-6 weeks' time. Only then would it be possible to look at the Latin American agricultural export and import figures and see if they appeared to be realistic, and what scope existed for their revision. For two groups of commodities for which data were available, namely forestry products and meat, world import demand was likely to exceed the volume of supplies available for export.

186. For many commodities of export interest to Latin America, import demand in their main markets (the high-income countries in the market economy and countries with centrally planned economies) was, within limits, sensitive to policy changes in the importing countries in matters such as price support policies, import duties on processed products, import quotas and foreign exchange allocations. While the scope for expansion in import demand in terms of volume or prices certainly did not apply to all commodities in all high-income countries, nevertheless policy changes in these countries could result in a significant increase in import demand for Latin American commodities. It would be part of the work of the IWP on trade to make alternative assessments of this potential increase in import demand.

187. Such policy changes require negotiation, either of a general character (e.g. Kennedy Round) or confined to specific commodities (such as international coffee and sugar agreements). The dual approach, both general and specific is advisable. Indeed a number of achievements could be reported this year in international action on individual commodities.

188. FAO's task in relation with trade had been mainly to provide the requisite market intelligence and analysis on complex commodity and trade problems and trends as the basis for intergovernmental discussions and negotiations as well as for international policy formulation; to assist in commodity agreement negotiations; to participate in work on projects having trade implications; and to provide technical assistance in export marketing. FAO works very closely with UNCTAD, which has recognized this cooperation. The Director-General's selection of trade as one of the five areas of concentration emphasizes the importance FAO attaches to the subject. One of the fields in which additional work is being considered is the analysis of the situations underlying policies in high-income countries that affect level of trade of the developing countries. Emphasis would be mainly on the practical requirements for, and implications of, changes in such policy.

189. The discussion on trade in agricultural products, which the Conference felt was possibly the most vital single item on its agenda, centered around three main themes;

- the contribution of trade to the economic development of the region;
- the problems of trade; and
- remedial action, including the role of FAO in this field.

190. In considering the contribution of trade to economic development, delegates pointed out that with very few exceptions all countries of the region depend heavily upon agricultural products for their earnings of foreign exchange needed for imports of capital goods and other development requisites from industrialized countries. Furthermore, the development plans of almost all the countries envisage the increase of agricultural exports since, in general at their present stage of economic development, they

cannot permit themselves any sizeable export of manufactured goods and only a few countries have great mineral resources. Some degree of coordination in increasing exportable products would be needed to avoid worsening of the trade situation.

191. The heavy dependence of Latin America on agricultural exports entails a large measure of vulnerability to the vagaries of the world market for primary products. Price fluctuations and deterioration in the region's terms of trade which has led to instability of current export earnings and uncertainty regarding the level of those in the future are problems which have long beset countries of the region. Many delegates emphasized that in the last 10-15 years to the continuing problems of instability of prices there has been added even graver problems arising from the downward trend in prices of primary products. Since, on the contrary, prices of most imports required by the region have risen, the result has been a secular decline in the terms of trade for agricultural products. This was the most serious problem in the trade sector, since expansion of production of exportable products is no longer an infallible means of ~~earning~~ more foreign exchange or a sure way to improve these countries' import capacity.

192. A related problem was how to achieve a satisfactory rate of expansion in exports to the high-income countries, the major buyers of the agricultural exports of Latin America, in face of policies which frequently favoured a greater degree of self-sufficiency in competing products. Attention was drawn to the fact that in terms of comparative advantages, some industrialized countries were favoring their own output of certain commodities to apparently uneconomic levels. This not only restricted markets for developing countries but instances were also quoted of how this policy sometimes led to accumulation of surpluses, the disposal of which tended to depress market prices and to prevent Latin American countries from expanding their production of these products for export. Several delegates expressed their belief that bilateral surplus disposal transactions, while possibly an easy temporary way out, were in the long run likely to impede the adoption of more permanent solutions. Hence better management of surpluses was one matter to be dealt with at the international level.

193. It was noted that the pattern of Latin American foreign trade, especially that of the ALALC countries, had undergone substantial changes in recent years. For example, since the establishment of ALALC the proportion of exports to Europe had increased considerably while exports to certain traditional importing countries decreased proportionately.

194. Another set of problems to which delegates drew attention were discriminatory tariffs and other barriers to imports, including public health control measures.

195. One basic prerequisite for effective action to overcome the trade problems facing the region is political will and determination on the part of all countries. One form of expression of such a political will which merits universal support is international commodity agreements, wherever these are technically feasible. Many delegates underlined the importance they attached to the conclusion of the coffee and sugar agreements in 1968. One delegate, while supporting the principle of commodity agreements, explained that his country could not ratify the new coffee agreement because it considered that certain approved measures discriminated against national interests.

196. In the course of discussions on commodity agreements, delegates unanimously decided to record their appreciation for the outstanding contribution of the Hon. R. Lightbourne, Minister of Trade and Industry of Jamaica and Chairman of the recent International Sugar Conference, in the successful negotiation of the sugar agreement.

197. In his statement the Minister of Trade and Industry expressed concern over the exodus of rural youth to the towns to seek their fortunes and suggested that agriculture had to be made more attractive to the young farmer population by a combination of social and economic incentives. He went on to analyze the complex and often contradictory situation of agriculture which has to expand to produce for a growing population

yet is haunted by the spectre of overproduction and depressed prices.

198. The advantages of economic integration within Latin America were pointed out by a number of delegates. In addition to the beneficial effects on trade within the region, integration could materially assist it in developing a common policy in its relations with third countries and in trade negotiations. It was also recognized that in some instances where external demand for certain commodities continues to be strong, a more positive national policy in countries with suitable resources can increase export earnings -forestry products were a case in point.

199. The Conference noted that regional trends in wood requirements and demand were bringing about a situation in the world timber and forest products economy favourable to an expansion of exports from Latin America to the rest of the world. Over the last decade, forest products had represented one of the few truly dynamic sectors in exports from the developing to the developed countries. Yet so far the Latin American region had failed to share significantly in this expansion. To rectify this situation, many obstacles would have to be overcome, i.e. it would be necessary for governments of the region to:

- (i) recognize fully the considerable development potential, including export prospects offered by this sector;
- (ii) ensure that plans for the development of forests and forest industries be fully integrated with overall economic development plans;
- (iii) accord to forest services an institutional status and a degree of autonomy, together with adequate cadres and financial means, such as to enable them to follow a positive development orientation.

200. The Conference expressed the wish for a greater measure of assistance from FAO in the handling of trade problems. While agreeing with the Director-General's recent selection of trade as one of the five areas of concentration, the Conference requested an explanation of the practical application in terms of priority programming. It was suggested by one delegate that the Organization should endeavour to bring together people from developing and developed countries so as to encourage the adoption of mutually acceptable solutions.

201. Other delegates considered it indispensable for FAO to make commodity policy and problems one of its major concerns. The FAO Commodities Division should have on its staff Latin American personnel. Another point made was that the range of FAO studies, including those of the IWP, should not be limited to developing countries but should extend to the analysis of the determinants of import demand of high-income countries and the means by which this demand might be increased. Some delegates asked that for the next session of the FAO Conference a study be prepared of the terms of trade for the 15 leading agricultural exports of the region in relation to import prices of requisites for the expansion of agricultural production.

202. A general recommendation was to the effect that FAO should give to trade the attention merited by the seriousness of problems in this sector. Stress was also laid by the Conference on the continuing need for the closest possible cooperation between FAO, UNCTAD and GATT on trade matters.



203. The Conference approved the following recommendations.

Recommendation No 10/68

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering,

the large extent to which the countries of the region are dependent on agricultural products for their export earnings;

that these earnings have been adversely affected during the last decade as a result of deterioration in the terms of trade;

Resolves

to request the Director-General of FAO, in preparation for the Fifteenth Session of the FAO Conference, to have a brief report drafted on how prices of at least the fifteen leading export commodities of the countries of the region have varied in relation to import prices of the principal industrial requisites for increasing their agricultural production;

that Governments of the region should, if requested, stand ready to assist in the preparation of such a study by providing relevant statistical or other information not available at FAO Headquarters.

Recommendation No 11/68

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

1. that the development strategies adopted by most food-producing countries envisage a great expansion in exportable food surpluses;

2. that the recent development of foreign trade in foods produced by developing countries has certain negative aspects as regards the disposal of growing volumes of commodities;

3. that one of the most acute problems facing the developing countries is the disposal of food surpluses on international markets, and has as a result the continuous deterioration of their terms of trade;

4. that uncertainty as to marketable quantities of commodities and instability of international prices are serious obstacles to the development of food-exporting countries and hamper the planning of their medium and long-term economic growth;

5. that the Consultative Sub-committee on Surplus Disposal of the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems normally conducts studies on certain aspects of this problem;

6. that at the Twenty-third Session of the United Nations General Assembly a special study prepared by the United Nations with FAO's cooperation on that problem and on the contribution of the World Food Programme to its solution was considered;

7. that many countries have accepted the principles that should govern the disposal of agricultural surpluses on the international market;

8. that a partial solution to these problems might lie in the establishment of machinery for the administration of food surpluses on a world-wide scale;

Recommends to the Director-General of FAO ;

that he intensify such studies, exploring possibilities of negotiating under United Nations auspices international agreements or arrangements for the disposal of food surpluses in such a way as to promote the economic welfare of the developing countries.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A COMMON MARKET BY 1985

204. In his introductory remarks, the Director of the Joint FAO/ECLA Agriculture Division pointed out the importance of the process of economic integration for Latin American countries, a view voiced by several delegations in their statements to the Conference. Document LARC/68/CONF/10, the basis for the discussion on this point, contains some central ideas underlying the efforts of Latin American countries in this field, essentially through the already functioning three economic integration agencies.

205. There is an evident need to promote intra-regional trade in agricultural products as well as better integration and coordination of national agricultural policies for the dual purpose of substituting extra-regional imports - which are very onerous to the economies of many countries - and of starting a gradual move towards the rationalization and improvement of regional agricultural production.

206. The process of integration must be approached on the basis of planning, since the economic and social problems of agriculture in most countries of the area may be aggravated if integration is allowed to occur mainly as a result of the free interplay of market forces. In this context, total liberalization of the intra-regional trade in agricultural products might considerably increase the unemployment and underemployment prevalent in the rural areas of many countries in the short run. An orderly process of agricultural integration requires that governments of the region should have available sufficient basic information on the main commodities, in order to determine clearly what the obstacles are in each case and to analyse how best they can be eliminated. The studies undertaken by the Joint FAO/ECLA Agriculture Division clearly indicate the possibility, in certain cases, of reaching simultaneously the objectives of promoting intra-regional trade and of increasing production in countries presently suffering from shortages.

207. Among the several practical mechanisms for accelerating the integration process, the following were mentioned: commodity agreements, seasonal complementarity agreements among government or semi-autonomous marketing agencies and harmonization of national production plans and policies.

208. Concerning the possibilities of coordinating national plans, it was pointed out that the Santiago meeting requested by the Conference between officials of national planning agencies and of FAO for the purpose of examining the details of the Indicative World Plan for South America might be an initial step in establishing more permanent liaison between planning offices, out of which there could emerge the bases for coordination of multi-national plans and policies.

209. The Conference emphasized the great potential significance of intra-regional cooperation in scientific and technological matters as part of the general process of integration.

210. Several delegations participating in the discussion manifested their concern with the slow progress of integration, especially in the case of LAFTA. It was pointed out that the political decision to advance by strengthening continental economic unity, shown by the creation of the existing integration organizations and reiterated at the Conference of American Heads of State in April 1967, ought to be accompanied by concrete action leading to practical attainment of the goals of integration. In this context it was pointed out that the improvement of transportation and marketing as well as physical integration, were essential prerequisites for such purposes. It was emphasized that the slowness of the integration process in Latin America was in marked contrast with the rapid formation of economic blocs in other regions, especially among developed countries.

211. In connection with integration projects making headway in Latin America, one delegate referred to the advisability of taking measures for protection of national industries against competition of foreign-owned industries established in the integrated countries.

212. There was general support of the commodity studies that the Joint FAO/ECLA Agriculture Division had undertaken for the LAFTA countries. Such studies of course should be extended to the countries adhering to other integration schemes in the region. On the other hand, in carrying them out, the recent formation of sub-regional blocs, a certain sign of greater dynamism in the integration process, should always be kept in mind. In this connection the progress already achieved in the organization of the Andean group was recognised and it was suggested that possibilities should be investigated for building into them certain operational mechanisms for expansion of intra-regional trade.

213. The observer from SIECA praised the studies and the aid forthcoming from the FAO Advisory Group for Central American Integration (GAFICA) to the countries of that region. For that reason he deemed it desirable that GAFICA be maintained and strengthened.

214. Finally, mention was made of the need to promote understanding among the different regional integration blocs for the purpose of achieving a real Latin American common market by 1985.

215. Answering queries of several delegations concerning the cooperation of the Joint FAO/ECLA Agriculture Division and the integration-promotion organizations, the Secretariat reported that, apart from cooperation with LAFTA through an economist stationed in Montevideo and the commodity reports already mentioned, there was also collaboration with the Andean group through close contact with the ECLA office in Bogotá. Likewise, mention was made of the aid given by FAO to the Central American countries through GAFICA and that given by ECLA to the same group of countries, through the agricultural section of the sub-regional office in Mexico, which is now part of the Joint FAO/ECLA Agriculture Division. This unit will soon be strengthened by the addition of an FAO economist to attend to the relevant requirements of the Caribbean countries.

ECONOMIC INCENTIVES AND MARKETING FOR EXPANDED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

216. During the course of the Conference numerous references were made to marketing problems, and from the comments of the delegates it appeared that all countries in the region are concerned with the shortcomings of their marketing systems. In fact agricultural production targets can only be reached if farmers are offered incentives to produce what is required of them.

217. For example, when reference was made to the introduction of high yielding varieties of agricultural crops, it was pointed out that such efforts could be self-defeating if not bolstered by improved transport, storage and processing facilities, i.e. the marketing infrastructure.

218. Similar fears were voiced in relation to FAO's strategy for future work, since in all five proposed areas of concentration improvement of marketing systems must be part and parcel of most projects. Obviously the development of marketing channels to handle increased output necessitates considerable investment.

219. Reverting to the role of marketing as an incentive to production development, it was remarked that the scientific methods of agricultural production in general use in the more advanced countries, if properly applied under conditions elsewhere in the world, could lead to a tremendous boost in output. This, however, calls for extraordinary efforts and cash outlay by farmers, which they are only like to make if there are clear prospects of future benefits. Basically four main factors can make market demand the source of incentive for production:

- (a) reasonably stable prices at remunerative levels;
- (b) efficient marketing facilities and services;
- (c) reliable supplies of production inputs and consumer goods to the farming population; and
- (d) a satisfactory land tenure system.

220. The assurance of regular prices at remunerative levels is probably the most important single factor, therefore, it is necessary to assure that price incentives do in fact reach producers. Combined with this there could be buffer stock schemes, marketing boards, etc. In all cases the main handicap is shortage of trained marketing experts.

221. While such systems may be practical for the domestic market, there are additional complications for export crops. International commodity agreements provide only a partial answer. In any case for most crops efficient exporting presupposes an efficient domestic marketing structure.

222. One of the major fields where FAO can assist member countries is in the training of personnel for operating and developing new marketing facilities. Two projects, in Bogotá, Colombia, and the proposed regional marketing training centre for the English-speaking countries of the Caribbean, have this as their purpose.

223. The Conference discussed these points and agreed that the improvement of marketing and provisional marketing infrastructures were prerequisites for agricultural development. One particular point noted was that without the establishment of viable farm units within an efficient marketing system the depopulation of rural areas was bound to continue.

224. It was suggested that, for untrammelled agricultural development, zoning of

agricultural areas of each country and eventually of the entire region should be introduced. In this way production can be more easily correlated with market demand and, within regional groupings, such as the Central American Integration Scheme or CARIFTA, wasteful and harmful competition and overproduction avoided.

225. The significance of the price mechanism as a determinant of production was reemphasized. Fixed or minimum producer prices schemes help farmers in their production planning; still there are great financial and economic problems in maintaining such price systems. FAO was requested to pursue and augment its assistance to member countries in the region in the improvement of their agricultural marketing structure. Several countries dwelt on the fact that, according to their own experience, it was only after problems of agrarian structure had been resolved - land tenure being the foremost of these - that policies of providing economic incentives become fully effective.

THE POSSIBILITIES FOR INCREASED LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

226. Secretariat paper LARC/68/CONF/6 drew attention to the important role of the livestock industry in the economy of the region. In recent years the rate of growth of livestock production has tended to be slower than that of the demand for livestock products. In a number of countries this has led to a decline in export earnings and in others to the increased use of foreign exchange for importation of livestock products. The IWP has analyzed the technical, institutional, economic and financial factors inhibiting stockfarming development and has suggested certain promotional policies which ought to be implemented.

227. The need to offer suitable incentives to stockfarmers in order to attract investment to this sector, particularly the need to build up inventories in order to increase productivity was identified as of the highest priority. Another important priority was the study of prospects for meat exports in relation to the constraints imposed by health control regulations and problems of access to foreign markets. The Conference urged FAO to pay particular attention to this subject in view of its pertinence to the closing of the protein gap, the war on waste and the saving of foreign exchange.

228. The discussion on this working paper centered on the above two subjects and on the measures which the countries of the region were adopting to increase the productivity of their livestock industry. It was stressed that increased productivity could result from improving the efficiency of existing stockfarming techniques, as well as from introducing new inputs and animal production practices.

229. It was essential that efforts to accelerate development of stockfarming be coordinated within the framework of national development plans and that livestock programmes be formulated on a sufficiently long-term basis to allow for the long reproduction cycle.

230. In order to foster the interchange of information between countries of the region, one delegation suggested that FAO compile an inventory of research institutions, programmes and personnel working in the field of animal husbandry research.

231. The vital role of grasslands in this region was noted and the need to improve pastures in order to better the nutritional condition of grazing sheep and cattle was emphasized. Grassland improvement can be brought about in a number of ways, namely, through controlled grazing, the application of fertilizers and the development of new varieties of grasses and legumes. FAO was requested to assist in seeking out high-yielding varieties of pasture and fodder crops suitable for use in the various ecological zones of the region and in disseminating information on promising material.

232. One delegation requested FAO to devote more attention to ecological studies in order to:

- a) classify stockraising areas of Latin America according to ecosystems;
- b) permit compilation of climatological data and its use for comparative studies on pastures;
- c) study the inter-relationship between environmental factors and animal health problems.

233. Although in much of the region cattle ranches are traditionally large-scale, a number of countries described successful land reform schemes establishing smaller

stockfarms or maintaining large ones through changes in the land tenure system. This subject was of great interest to the Caribbean where there is very great pressure on land as well as an acute shortage of animal protein.

234. At present cattle ranching is the predominant type of stockfarming in this region. Nevertheless, there are good prospects for more sheep, swine and poultry farming and it is expected that in the future meat from these species will partially substitute for beef.

235. New varieties of feed grains, vertical integration of the feed industry and the improved utilization of agricultural by-products, much of which now go to waste, are expected to stimulate swine and poultry production.

236. It was the consensus that dairy sector development programmes require production inputs, processing plant and marketing facilities and technically trained manpower at all levels, including the managerial. The importance of appropriate price incentives in the dairy sector was also stressed.

237. Several countries drew attention to the need for more emphasis on training in the field of animal production not only at the university and post-graduate level but also at intermediate levels. In view of the importance of animal health control programmes, the Conference recommended that FAO provide technical assistance to member countries in training operatives in disease control.

238. Reference was made to the importance of maintaining, evaluating and testing of indigenous breeds of livestock. The Conference noted the opportunities for genetic upgrading of livestock and urged that every effort be made to introduce to the region germ plasm of high-yielding livestock breeds. It was suggested that there might be scope for a regional semen bank. The Conference was advised by the Secretariat of the donation of 100,000 batches of semen by the World Association of Hereford Breeders for distribution by FAO in developing countries.

239. The need for national and multinational foot-and-mouth disease control programmes was recognized. Considerable progress was reported in this respect and FAO was requested, in collaboration with other organizations concerned therewith, to give high priority to assisting member governments in programmes for control of this plague.



LAND AND WATER RESOURCES IN LATIN AMERICA

240. The technically and economically efficient utilization of land and water resources - one of the principal means of increasing productivity - is a main factor in raising returns per unit investment and land.

241. However, efficient land and water use depends on the application of planning techniques at two levels: the inter-sectorial, when dealing with the use of land and water resources where there is competition among different sectors of the economy; and the intra-sectorial, i.e. the use of land and water resources within one and the same sector.

242. Although the agricultural sector is generally regarded merely as a residual land user, it is the sector that claims priority in the use of water resources. These contradictory standpoints can at times have profound repercussions on the orientation and economic consequences of the development and utilization of land and water resources. Indeed, in many places, priority allocation of water for use by human beings still limits the quantities available for agriculture.

243. Within the agricultural sector, the utilization of these resources is directly related to the application of good management principles at the farm level. This implies: (1) a systematic analysis of present day structures and activities of the agricultural sector; (2) determination of obstacles preventing the reaching of higher productivity levels and the attraction of new or additional investment in agriculture; (3) planning for better use and for raising of production levels on the basis of technically and economically optimal combination of inputs; (4) overcoming of technical, institutional, economic, and social impediments.

244. FAO is actively developing this approach to the problem; however, the countries should give more attention and importance to the application of appropriate land and water management techniques at the national level.

245. Several ways of expanding the area under cultivation are: by opening arable virgin lands; by converting natural grasslands into improved pastures; by expansion of irrigation schemes; and by reclaiming lands through flood control, desalinization and drainage.

246. The delegations contributed information concerning their problems and experience on this subject. With regard to the working paper, their comments ran along the following lines:

(a) the need for improvement of methods of management of irrigation and drainage systems, particularly at the farm level;

(b) the desirability of making inventories of surface and groundwater resources to satisfy different types of demand for water;

(c) priority attention should be directed to the improvement of land already under cultivation, before new lands are opened in settlement schemes;

(d) the superiority of the land under irrigation because of its higher productivity, the lower risk of losses and greater capacity to absorb inputs in intensification of cropfarming;

(e) the need for more attention in marginal areas to crop diversification, especially in one-crop (bananas and coffee) economies.

247. The Conference approved the following recommendation:

Recommendation No. 12/68

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

1. the imperative need of several Latin American countries for access to more background and research information on their own water resources, surface as well as groundwater;
2. the inefficient management of irrigation systems, especially at the farm level, and their serious consequences, such as salinization and waterlogging;
3. the growing demand for water by urban populations, agriculture and other sectors of the economies of these countries;

Recommends to the Governments of the region and to the Director-General of FAO

1. the strengthening of research on water resources, management of irrigation and drainage systems for the countries of the region, especially in those areas in which the demand for water exceeds present supply;
2. to promote among the international funding organizations and others the formulation and financing of projects leading to soil conservation and improvement as well as to the efficient use of water.

THE REQUIREMENTS FOR HIGHER YIELDS

248. In introducing this subject, Mr. Wells, Deputy Director-General, highlighted some remarkable advances made in recent years, for example, with wheat in Mexico and with rice in the Philippines. The new high-yielding varieties require use of more fertilizers and pesticides, a better utilization of water resources, and improved cultural practices.

249. In discussing the increasing of the rise in yields, the Conference referred not only to crops but to pastures, fisheries and forest production as well.

250. The delegates were generally agreed that even in Latin America, with its abundant land resources, much fuller attention will have to be given in the future to boosting yields in order to assure production increases needed to feed a population that is expected to double by 1985.

251. Several delegates pointed out that, even the spectacular research achievements in recent years were of little use unless they were brought to the knowledge of the producers themselves. It is deemed encouraging that some of the delegates stated that recently new laws had been promulgated in their respective countries on seeds and systems of multiplication and distribution of improved seed and planting stock. Other delegates indicated that much still remained to be done and that their countries were spending their foreign exchange earnings on imports of seeds and planting material.

252. Several delegates commented that most research has been concentrated on export crops while little attention had been given to food staples. Therefore, the Conference recommended to attach greater significance to research on crops such as grain legumes (pulses), fruits and vegetables, starchy roots and tubers and especially fodder crops.

253. A delegate mentioned the need to examine carefully the economics of increased yields. In this respect, one speaker indicated that granting of sizeable subsidies - equivalent to lowering costs - to producers encouraged them to use fertilizers.

254. The delegate from Venezuela recalled a recommendation approved at the last Regional Conference for Latin America that FAO should furnish technical assistance to the region by appointing a seed expert to help the countries develop their respective seed programmes. It was explained that the competent technical office had been trying to secure funds for such assistance.

255. The Conference commended FAO on its work of collecting research findings all over the world and promoting to the extent possible the exchange of planting stock but recognized that even greater importance would have to be given to this work as an important form of aid to Member Nations, some of whom were experiencing difficulty in obtaining the said information and material.

256. The delegation of Argentina expressed its satisfaction with the work of the Plant Production and Protection Division of FAO in this field, despite its limited resources.

257. The Conference approved the following recommendations:

Recommendation No. 13/68

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

1. the need for greater crop and livestock productivity in the region;
2. that improved varieties must be introduced to achieve increased production;
3. that many new and improved varieties and desirable germ plasm are available in the region;
4. the difficulty in procurement of these materials; and
5. recognizing that useful work is being done in this field,

Recommends to the Director-General of FAO :

that FAO strengthen its machinery for making available to member governments who require it, information on these new varieties and germ plasm and in addition, assist Member Governments to obtain these new and improved varieties for use in their breeding and research programmes.

OTHER ASPECTS OF LONG-TERM AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION

258. Several delegations voiced their concern with the problems of rising unemployment in rural areas despite massive exodus of the rural population to the cities.

259. It was pointed out that the choice of techniques for raising agricultural production and productivity, especially those involving farm mechanization, should take into account the impact on levels of employment. It was likewise indicated that the correlation between technology and employment of the rural labour force was not sufficiently well known in Latin America and that, consequently, it was desirable that FAO, jointly with ECLA, ILO and other organizations, sponsor studies on this subject.

260. In this connection the Secretariat reported that FAO, together with the said organizations, was collaborating in the ILO Ottawa Plan for Full Employment in Latin America and that, in consequence, the wish expressed by the Conference confirmed the need for more vigorous efforts in a field of such signal importance.

261. The Conference approved the following recommendation:

Recommendation No. 14/68

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

1. that, despite massive migration from the country to the cities, the rural population in most Latin American countries will continue to grow in absolute terms;
2. that such population movements are creating problems of urban marginality and widespread unemployment;
3. that, likewise, employment opportunities within the agricultural sector are insufficient absorb the rural labor force productively;
4. that, accordingly, in the choice of technological means for raising agricultural productivity and increasing production the problems raised by an undesirable release of manpower should be taken into account;
5. that, in general, the influence of the introduction of new techniques, and especially of farm mechanization, on the levels of employment is not well known in Latin America,

Recommends to the Director-General of FAO

that FAO, in collaboration with ECLA, ILO and other organizations undertake studies aimed at determining the correlation of technology and rural employment in order to lay down guidelines for Member Nations in the formulation of their agricultural development policies and for the technical assistance and financial institutions, particularly the IDB and the IBRD, in planning their operational activities.

262. The Conference approved the following recommendations:

Recommendation No. 15/68

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

that in FAO regional conferences for Latin America, the delegation of Brazil is not afforded the opportunity to express itself in its own language;

that at the regional meetings of the International Labour Organization, Portuguese is one of the working languages, and that the Council of FAO has recommended the use of Arabic and German in some of the Organization's activities; and

Brazil's important place in this region and its active participation in the work of FAO,

Recommends to the Director-General of FAO

that, at future regional conferences for Latin America, simultaneous interpretation service for the Portuguese language be provided at the Organization's expense.

OTHER MATTERS

263. The Cuban delegate informed the Conference that six months previously his Government had received an invitation from FAO to send a participant to a course on census taking and modern statistical methods to be given in Washington D.C. In response to this invitation, the Government of Cuba nominated a candidate for the course, but the Government of the United States refused a visa to the Cuban candidate, thereby making it impossible for him to attend the course. The Delegation of Cuba condemned this behaviour of the Government of the United States as discriminatory and contrary to the spirit of FAO.

264. The United States delegate explained that his country extends its facilities in accordance with its laws. The case protested was not due to the fact that the candidate came from a certain country, but because the candidate did not fulfil the legal requirements for admission to United States territory, as had been duly communicated to FAO.

265. The Conference approved the following recommendations:

Recommendation No. 16/68

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Considering

the voluminous and varied unpublished information on many fields of agricultural development to be found in the Latin American region;

the meagerness and inefficiency of the exchange of such information among countries and agricultural organizations of the region;

that the knowledge, and analysis, of such documentation by the countries and organizations of Latin America offer an effective and economical means of accelerating its agricultural development;

that the countries are not fully apprised of governmental and nongovernmental organizations covering the different disciplines that can contribute to the region's agricultural development;

the proven good performance, organization and experience of the Documentation Centre of FAO in Rome;

the readiness of FAO to cooperate and assist insofar as possible in organizing national documentation centres in the region;

Recommends to the Director-General of FAO and the Governments of the region

that they promote the study and consider, so far as is feasible and with the required urgency, what assistance FAO, jointly with the UNDP and other national, regional and international agencies can render in the promotion and development of national or regional documentation centres in Latin America.

CONCLUDING ITEMS

SUMMING-UP AND DEBATE ON THE ORIENTATION OF FAO'S WORK IN THE REGION

266. The Regional Representative for Latin America, in summing up the salient points of this Conference and trying to distill the essence of the views expressed by the delegates, said that the Conference had discussed the fundamentals of agricultural development in Latin America in an extremely constructive dialogue indicative of the interest of the countries in shaping a balanced agricultural development policy to which FAO could make a vital contribution.

267. Noting the desire of the countries of Latin America for a strongly structured regional office capable of playing a leading role in the affairs of the region, he agreed to support this position.

268. He pointed out that there was renewed interest in closer cooperation between ECLA and FAO and that the delegations appeared convinced of the value of the joint activities of the two organizations.

269. Another useful aspect of the Conference had been the opportunity to appreciate the zeal of the Director-General in seeking new channels and more concrete objectives for FAO activities to promote agricultural development and better the lot of rural populations. There was no doubt that Mr. Boerma would greatly value the Conference's support of his proposed strategy for the future work of FAO.

270. The most pressing problems of agricultural development can be solved within the five areas of concentration, two of which, namely items (iv) and (v), dealing with improvement of the welfare of rural populations and the problems intrinsic to foreign trade in agricultural products, are among the primary concerns of contemporary Latin America. Agricultural development, in particular, and economic development in general could have no other purpose than to benefit mankind and, the specific goal of FAO should be to improve the welfare of the poor farmers, a goal that the Director-General would especially bear in mind in receiving the recommendation on the future strategy of FAO and other recommendations adopted by the Conference on land reform and the improvement of rural services and institutions.

271. In connection with his proposal to convene a special meeting in Santiago to discuss matters relating to the goals of the Indicative World Plan, he stated that a dialogue would be engaged to ensure that the final documents reflect the realities and concerns of this part of the world.

272. In this context, the quantified targets of the IWP are essentially an instrument of analysis not objectives that, if not automatically attained, mean that the Plan is worthless. Any development plan for Latin America must be geared to the world economy and, despite the region's enormous potential for accelerated agricultural development, this may not occur due to constraints imposed by both world and regional demand. With reference to demographic growth, the discussion on this topic had disclosed the wide divergence of opinions that required cautious conciliation. FAO has adopted the same criterion as other United Nations agencies and many developing countries, namely, that the difficulty of developing natural resources so as to keep pace with rapid population growth calls for serious consideration of the demographic problem. It is Latin America's good fortune to be endowed with great agricultural resources for potential development to solve its problems.

273. Considerable importance was attached to the discussions and opinions of the delegations on serious problems of international trade and, likewise, to the fully



justified preoccupation of the delegates with the chronic deterioration of terms of trade of Latin American countries. This was termed one of the major contradictions in the international economic structure of our times, exemplified by the dramatic shortage of food products and the low purchasing power of many less developed countries. This is in sharp contrast with the circumstances that lead to restriction of production in the more developed countries and their efforts to attain self-sufficiency in as many raw materials as possible and even in respect of many for the production of which the developing countries enjoy a comparative advantage. While there is no easy solution for this contradiction in sight, the outlook appears less gloomy when international cooperation agreements are accepted as one instrument for dealing with problems of certain commodities.

274. Due note was taken of the concern of many delegations over the slowness with which the planned economic integration of Latin America is taking place closely linked as it is with the export of agricultural commodities outside the region and with the terms-of-trade problem the key issues of the Conference, towards the analysis of which FAO has for some time been making a constructive contribution, for instance, through its cooperation with SIECA and with LAFTA in the study of the prospects for intra-regional trade and for integration.

275. Concerning with other topics such as economic incentives and the marketing of agricultural commodities, development of livestock production, fuller and better use of land and water resources and the development of high-yielding varieties, the delegations made useful suggestions that FAO ought to consider in the formulation of its future programmes for Latin America.

276. Special reference was made to the system of incentives for agricultural production. Incentives must be great enough to induce producers to take action leading to the attainment of the goals set by governments. Mention was made of the problem of the massive flight of rural youth towards urban centers, a problem which can only be resolved through the use of incentives to retain them in the countryside. In this respect, the recommendation of the Conference that studies be undertaken to clarify the relationship between agricultural technology and rural employment was considered most valuable.

277. The importance of gaining support in world opinion for FAO's work, which will have to be achieved by intensive information campaigns about what the Organization is doing in pursuit of its goals, was noted.

278. Further suggestions related to the duration of future regional conferences, to the balanced treatment of different subjects at them and to rules of procedure. In this connection some discussion arose as to advisability of convening these meetings and it was pointed out that thus far no alternative methods had been found permitting a direct dialogue between the Secretariat of FAO and the Member Nations of the region.

279. The Regional Representative availed himself of the opportunity to express the gratitude of FAO to the people and the Government of Jamaica for their generous hospitality to the Conference and for having made available all the necessary facilities. He thanked Mr. Gyles, Chairman of the Conference, for the skill and unlimited patience with which he had conducted the deliberations.

280. There followed a discussion in which several delegates expressed their satisfaction with the ample summing-up by the Regional Representative of the salient points discussed during the Conference.

281. Note was taken that FAO's decision to permit the Regional Representative Designate to participate in the Conference before taking up his post had met with the approval of the delegates as this step permitted him to obtain a clear picture of the problems of Latin America which would unquestionably enable him to assume the responsibilities of his high post with a stock of invaluable information from the outset.

282. The delegates unanimously approved having the new Regional Representative visit the countries of the region to gain first-hand contact with the realities of their situation.

283. The importance of the recommendations calling for strong regional services so structured as to enhance their efficiency, thus facilitating the task of FAO in the region in its function of providing guidelines in the fields of food and agriculture, was reiterated.

284. Another point emphasized was that the budget for the biennium 1970/71 should contemplate expansion of regional services and under no circumstance their curtailment because this would adversely affect and weaken the proposed regional structure.

285. There was general consensus as to the necessity of strengthening the joint FAO/ECLA Agriculture Division, so that it can extend its activities to all parts of the region and principally help Latin America attain the desired objective of integration.

286. With reference to the IWP, it was said that, despite its provisional character, governments must continue to pay the utmost attention to it to make sure that it does not become an instrument incompatible with reality or with the developmental potential of the agricultural sector in Latin America.

287. In relation to the recommended convening of a meeting on the IWP for the beginning of 1969 in Santiago, it was again urged that the observations emanating from it be included in the document. Should this be impossible, for reasons of timing, observations made by the interested countries should be compiled in a paper to be appended as an integral part of the aforementioned IWP.

288. The advisability, or even necessity, that countries for which the IWP studies have not been completed attend the Santiago meeting or other meetings so that they may gather sufficient information and participate in the projects that concern them was emphasized.

289. It was stressed that FAO, for the sake of the countries of the region, should orient its policy in all pertinent matters toward the establishment and/or strengthening of national industries in Latin America.

290. Concerning the five areas of concentration for the future work of FAO, their importance was reemphasized as was the Conference's support of them in the expectation that the Organization's field work would fulfil the hopes placed therein by the governments and by the Organization itself.

291. The structural and institutional changes analyzed in depth during the Conference, which are crucial to the development of the region, were pointed out anew, main stress being laid on the need for true land reform schemes, particularly in those countries in which the agrarian structure, and above all, land tenure systems, demand it.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE ELEVENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

292. The Delegation of Venezuela invited FAO to hold its Eleventh Regional Conference for Latin America in Caracas; this was supported by the Delegations of the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Panama and Uruguay. The Conference recommended to the Director-General that he accept this invitation, but with regard to the date, it had no rigid suggestions to make, and requested the Director-General to set this date in consultation with the Governments of the region. The Deputy Director-General of FAO expressed his appreciation for this kind invitation which, he said, would be duly taken into consideration when the time came to prepare the said conference to take place in 1970.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TAKEN BY THE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR LATIN AMERICA

293. Prior to the approval of the final report of the Conference, it was decided that, taking advantage of the presence of Mr. Juan Felipe Yriart at this conference, and in view of his close ties with the region, he should take his oath of allegiance to the Organization at this meeting. Mr. O.V. Wells, the Deputy Director-General of FAO, as the Director-General's senior representative, then proceeded to administer the oath to Mr. Yriart.

INFORMAL MEETINGS

294. During the conference the four informal meetings listed below took place. The report on the proceedings of these meetings appear as Appendices I-IV of this Report.

Freedom from Hunger Campaign	Appendix I
FAO Cooperation with financial institutions	Appendix II
FAO/Industry Cooperative Programme	Appendix III
FAO Documentation Centre	Appendix IV

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

295. The Rapporteur of the Conference then addressed the conference with a statement presenting and explaining the draft of the final report of the Conference (see Appendix V).

296. The Conference then went on to approve this report, after incorporating corrections and amendments suggested by various delegates. The report in its final form was approved in all three versions (Spanish, English and French).

297. The Conference also decided unanimously to add the statement of the Rapporteur as an appendix to the final report.

298. In view of the mandate of the Ninth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America (paragraph 306 of the Ninth Regional Conference Report), the Director-General, in his invitation of 12 September 1968 to the Tenth Regional Conference, stressed the importance of country statements and, in the Provisional Annotated Agenda attached to the Invitation (LARC/68/1(a)), indicated that "these statements could then form a basis for the Member Nations' submission of Article XI Reports to FAO in 1969 as recommended by the Fourteenth Session of the Conference (paras. 208-213 of the Provisional Report)". Consequently, country statements submitted at this Conference are regarded as having been made in compliance with the above-mentioned request by the Director-General. This being the case, FAO undertakes to compile these country statements and deliver them to Member Nations of the region in the original text, together with the Final Report of the Conference.

CLOSING SESSION

299. The first to speak at the closing session was the Honourable J.P. Gyles, Minister of Agriculture and Lands for Jamaica, and Chairman of the Regional Conference. He expressed his country's pleasure at having had the opportunity to act as host to such an important conference where the principal agricultural and food problems of the Latin American region had been aired. He also expressed his expectation that the very constructive spirit of this conference would be continued in subsequent ones for the benefit of the countries of the region, and his personal hope to meet again with this congenial group at future FAO meetings and regional conferences. He thanked the delegates very specially for having contributed so much to the success of this meeting by their very lucid discussions and constructive recommendations. He then expressed his appreciation to the FAO Secretariat which had so successfully organized this Regional Conference.

300. Mr. O.V. Wells, the Deputy Director-General of FAO, representing the Director-General, then conveyed his thanks to the Government of Jamaica for its generous hospitality, to the Chairman of the Conference, the Honourable Minister J.P. Gyles, and to the delegates. He praised the efficient way in which the conference had proceeded and its results expressed in a limited number of very concrete and tangible recommendations. Furthermore, he stated that FAO would fully bear in mind the recommendations made at the Tenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America.

301. Mr. J.J. Tauber, the Secretary of the Conference, expressed his thanks to the Chairman for the kind words of appreciation to the Secretariat, to the Government and officials of Jamaica for their very active and enthusiastic cooperation in the organization of the conference, to the delegates for their friendly support and cooperation, and finally to the service staff of the Secretariat for their untiring work and efforts; and very specially to the Chairman of the Conference for his wise and friendly manner of conducting and directing the business of the conference and the work of the Secretariat.

302. Mr. G. Bula Hoyos, the Honourable Delegate of Colombia, then addressed the meeting on behalf of the country delegations, expressing their gratitude to the Government of Jamaica for its hospitality, their thanks and respect to the Chairman for his excellent conduct of the conference and their warm appreciation for the work of the Secretariat. Furthermore, he emphasized the satisfaction of the delegates with the very constructive way this conference had handled its business and the very positive results emanating therefrom as well as his hope that FAO will take positive action to implement its recommendations.

303. The Chairman thanked the speakers on his own behalf and on behalf of the Government of Jamaica for the expressions of their appreciation and declared the Tenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America closed at 11:50 p.m. on 13 December 1968.

APPENDIX I

REPORT OF THE INFORMAL MEETING ON THE FREEDOM FROM HUNGER CAMPAIGN  
AND THE YOUNG WORLD APPEAL

On the occasion of the Tenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America, a meeting of the Member Nations was convened to discuss the Freedom from Hunger Campaign and the Young World Appeal. Representatives of 18 delegations participated.

The meeting began with a short introductory summing-up of FFHC prospects in its projected extension for a new ten-year period approved by the Council of FAO. In addition, the nature and objectives of the Young World Appeal were described as were also activities planned for involving youth directly in the development process.

It was then explained, that in order to make both programmes more dynamic, governments must take effective action to establish national FFHC committees and coordinating committees of youth organizations. It was also pointed out that youth committees have been set up to promote International Record Operation.

Several delegates expressed their satisfaction with the work accomplished through FFHC as well as the hope that the latter would continue to expand its activities within the region. Projects in which the resources of the campaign were being used to solve certain development problems were mentioned.

It was also urged that the five areas of concentration proposed by the Director-General be taken as clear guidelines for the work to be carried out in connection with the FFHC and the Young World Appeal.

APPENDIX II

REPORT OF THE INFORMAL MEETING ON FAO COOPERATION WITH FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

The Tenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America also afforded the occasion for a special meeting to review the progress made in the implementation of FAO's co-operative programmes with international and area financial institutions. A total of 15 country delegations attended this meeting.

The informal meeting expressed satisfaction with the impact of FAO's reorganization on the promotion of projects likely to lead to investment, and, in this context, of the establishment of an investment centre to secure coordination of such activities. It noted that FAO's agreements with the World Bank and with the Inter-American Development Bank were yielding satisfactory results, and that since the success of investment depends on a combination of financial and technical resources, it was most desirable that FAO's technical competence be used to the maximum in the identification and formulation of projects. It strongly urged that the level of resources devoted to these be increased within the limits of FAO's budget, but drew attention to the fact that this calls for a concomitant effort on the part of the financing agencies, reflecting more fully the importance of agriculture.

Noting the evolution of the two programmes, it expressed its satisfaction with the fact that activities sponsored jointly with the Inter-American Development Bank -- hitherto strictly on an ad hoc basis -- had been placed on a more systematic footing. At the time of the meeting several missions had been initiated within the ambit of these new procedures. Activities under both programmes covered a wide range, including notably forestry and fisheries and support of agricultural institutions.

While the banks reserve to themselves the final decision on lending, the co-operative programmes are designed to ensure that projects are so prepared as to allow of ready appraisal. In this context reference was made to the desirability of UNDP projects being written up in close cooperation with the banks. The question was raised whether the governments could not utilize for projects being prepared with the assistance of the cooperative programmes, the loans granted to them by the banks for pre-investment studies. In the case of the IDB, this would also relieve the strain on the budget being experienced in this initial stage of development.

The wider issue was raised whether missions undertaken under the joint programmes committed the banks in any sense. The reply was that while there was no "commitment to finance", the tripartite (banks, FAO and governments) consultation which preceded these missions, did signify a positive interest on the part of the banks in these projects; however, the mere fact that a feasibility study was undertaken did not necessarily imply that the findings would surely be positive.

Interest was expressed in the revision of procedures in order to expedite negotiations between the countries and the banks. It was also suggested that the programmes should furnish governments with general information on the most common difficulties met in appraising loan requests.

Questions were raised as to the extent of detail required in preparing a project for appraisal. The point was made that the essence of feasibility lies in the soundness of particular projects from the technical, economic and institutional points of view. While procedures and criteria of financing agencies might differ, these aspects needed to be covered in any national or international financing. Sector loans, i.e., loans which covered geographically dispersed areas had been also granted, but in every case, the project as such had been carefully defined.

The wish was expressed that trade problems also be examined in cooperation with the financing agencies. It was noted that while cooperation in this field was well on its way, there were possibilities of increasing it.

In conclusion, appreciation was voiced for both FAO's and the efforts of financial institutions in agriculture.

APPENDIX III

REPORT OF THE INFORMAL MEETING ON THE FAO/INDUSTRY CO-OPERATIVE PROGRAMME

The informal meeting took note of the main objective of the FAO/Industry Co-operative Programme which is to serve as a catalyst in mobilizing industry's financial, managerial and technical resources to support and help implement investment-oriented projects in developing countries through closer liaison between FAO, industry and governments.

While this programme had been in operation only two and a half years, a number of projects had already been initiated, particularly in food processing, forestry and stock farming.

Although most such projects have been developed through cooperation with individual industries, there is increasing interest in more integrated agro-allied industries, including processing and auxiliary service trades.

It was also noted that multinational companies with a long-term interest in assisting nations in their development programmes were participating. One delegation felt that from the manner in which this programme had been conducted theretofore foreign private capital was likely to be benefited more than truly national industries.

It was also clear that there was still need for greater awareness and knowledge of the programme, particularly in Latin America, an area likely to be favored by investors.

Within the framework of such cooperative activities there might be included the follow-up of UNDP/FAO-sponsored projects and governments' or industry-initiated projects. In addition to pre-investment projects, industry cooperation is feasible in research, training, demonstration and other development work. The programme makes available to FAO industry's advice and expertise, introduces the new technology into FAO's work and maintains a two-way exchange of technical and economic information between FAO and industry.



APPENDIX IV

REPORT OF THE INFORMAL MEETING ON THE FAO DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

FAO with financial assistance from UNDP has established a computerized data — storage and retrieval system in the field of agriculture.

The FAO Documentation Centre handles all documents produced by FAO, both published and unpublished. Since 1967 it has been issuing a monthly index of current publications, with six-month cumulative issues, and specialized indexes covering past production since 1945.

Coordinate indexing is based on a list of descriptors and key words with which document synopses are prepared and fed into the electronic computer together with the bibliographical description. The computer prints bibliographical lists, an index by authors and analytical or subject (KWIC) indexes.

The documents are stored on microfiche cards.

Services rendered are, on the one hand, an information service through the current indices and, on the other, information-retrieval producing bibliographies up on request. Users may also receive copies of stored documents.

Over 20,000 documentary units have already been stored and the flow of requests at present is over ten a day.

Planned developments include treatment of the technical documentation on FAO/UNDP field projects, documentation on agricultural research projects, and technical assistance to developing countries in the collection, selection, recording and indexing of their documents in the field of agriculture.

The Conference was briefly informed of the findings of the Second Inter-American Meeting of Agricultural Librarians and Documentalists, held shortly before in Bogotá which recommended the establishment of national documentation centres with cooperation from international organizations such as OAS and IICA in the region and such as FAO, UNESCO and UNDP in the UN family.

APPENDIX V

STATEMENT BY THE RAPPORTEUR OF THE CONFERENCE

Mr. President, Delegates:

May I first thank you for the honour of electing me Rapporteur of this Conference.

The trust you vested in me as the representative of the delegations and the high responsibility it carries have encouraged me to give all my attention to grasping the spirit and essence of the address delivered by the delegates. This has been an arduous task because we have had to do without stenographic or taped records of these addresses.

As you can appreciate from the draft of the report distributed, an attempt has been made to keep it as short as possible and so make it a more readable document, in keeping with views gathered since the last conference I had the honour to attend and in which remarks were made about the excessive volume of the printed matter.

This is also the first time that a regional conference has produced a limited number of recommendations, but I think that all of them are very important because of their quality and freshness.

As you will have learned from a reading of paragraph No. 298 of the Report, your Rapporteur agreed with the Secretariat to publish the complete texts of the country statements, which will be distributed at the earliest possible moment. This is why the draft of the conference report contains only brief synopses of the principal statements made by the delegations.

I am sure that, when they have read the document, many delegates will put forward remarks on how it can be improved, and I thank you in advance for your cooperation and ask that you present them in writing for inclusion in the final report, in order to avoid protracting the debates in this final session.

I could not close without stating publicly at this time my appreciation to the officers and staff of the Secretariat, whose unstinting and effective cooperation made possible the presentation of this document.

Finally, I submit this draft report to the Chairman and delegates for consideration.

Thank you.

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