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منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة للأمم
المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and
Agriculture
Organization
of the
United Nations

Organisation des
Nations Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones Unidas
para la
Alimentación y la
Agricultura

FAO Regional Conference for Africa

TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION

Tunis, Tunisia, 24-28 March 2014

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

A: SENIOR OFFICERS MEETING

24-26 March 2014

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

- 1) Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons, and appointment of Rapporteur
- 2) Adoption of Agenda and Timetable

Please see Ministerial Session items from 3 to 7 on page 5.

II. POLICY AND REGULATORY MATTERS

Under this part of the Agenda, the Regional Conference is expected to discuss the formulation of regional positions on relevant global policy and regulatory issues or having implications in respect of the mandate and activities of the Organization, including with a view to promoting regional coherence on global policy and regulatory matters (GRO XXXV 2.b) and report to the FAO Conference. In line with this the following items are discussed:

8) African Youth in Agribusiness and Rural Development

With 65 percent of its population below 35 years, Africa has the youngest population in the world. Every year, 20 million young Africans join the labour market. This 'demographic bulge' has the possibility of offering Africa either a growth dividend or liability. Sixty three percent of African population lives in rural areas, with 70 percent rely on agriculture for food, nutrition and employment. Currently 60 percent of the continent's unemployed are aged 15-24 years, and underemployment is pervasive among rural youth.

Given the importance of the issue, the Assembly of Heads of State and Governments of the African Union (AU) declared 2009-2019 as the decade of youth development in Africa. At the 27th ARC, FAO

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member countries requested the organization to strengthen its work in youth engagement across the agricultural value chain and proposed 'African Youth in Agriculture and Rural Development' as the theme for the 2014 ARC. FAO's new strategic framework also reflects this priority, especially the strategic objective 3 focused on reducing rural poverty.

Under this item, FAO's contribution and role in supporting the member countries to develop and implement attractive rural youth in agribusiness programmes with greater income generation in Africa will be the main focus of discussion.

The Conference should recommend robust investments in agricultural sector targeting youth employment. Key priority areas include youth-smart agricultural policies, promoting entrepreneurial opportunities for youth in crop, livestock, forestry and fisheries and in off-farm rural activities, youth capacity development (Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools), fostering their engagement in cooperatives, FBO's, and POs, technology and innovation in agriculture, value addition and market access, as well as the role of public-private partnerships.

9) State of food and agriculture in the region and Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development programme (CAADP) implementation with a specific focus on small holder farmers and family farming

Trends in various indicators of food insecurity and malnutrition in the Region will be analysed and discussed, along with the role of investment, subsidies, public goods and gender in addressing CAADP implementation, the small holders farmers constraints and prospects, Responsible Agricultural Investment and also emerging issues. Government actions in these areas, including those emanating from various global initiatives as well as the FAO Conference, will also be examined with a view to learning lessons and deriving best practices for the Region and considering the context of 2014 as Year of Agriculture and Food Security in Africa and the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF).

10) Outcomes of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and follow up actions at regional and country levels

The discussions will focus on the outcomes of the CFS concerning among others the Agenda for Action for Addressing Food Insecurity in Protracted Crises Situations and the principles on responsible agricultural investment. Special attention will also be put on biofuels and food security with a focus on Africa as well as Post 2015 development.

III. PROGRAMME AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

Under this part of the Agenda, the Regional Conference is expected to advise on and identify the special problems of the Africa region and priority areas of work which should be taken into account in the preparation of the planning, programme and budgetary documents of the Organization and suggest adjustments to these documents; review and advise on the plans, programmes or projects carried out by the Organization which impact upon the region; and review and advise on the performance of the Organization in the region in contributing to the achievement of results against relevant performance indicators, including any pertinent evaluations (GRO XXXV 2.c-e). In line with this the following two items could be discussed and reported to the FAO Council:

11) Priorities for FAO activities in Africa

The Regional Conference will consider how FAO activities have addressed previously agreed regional priorities during 2012-13 and will provide guidance on areas of regional priority for 2014-15 and 2016-17. The discussion will be informed by the Reviewed Strategic Framework 2010-19, Medium Term Plan 2014-17 and Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15 approved by the FAO Conference in June 2013; priorities and recommendations of the Regional Technical Commissions; a synthesis of Country Programming Frameworks; and the plans and priorities of partners such as the Regional Economic Organizations, CSOs and the Private Sector.

12) Evaluation of FAO's Regional and Sub-regional Offices for Africa

The Evaluation undertook an analysis of the major areas of FAO's work in Africa in order to assess whether the changes that were implemented in the decentralization process have had an impact on the Organization's ability to provide services to member countries. The regional Conference will consider the findings and give guidance.

13) Decentralization and Decentralized Offices Network

Ongoing efforts to improve and strengthen the work of FAO's country offices network in the region will be reviewed and recommendations formulated to enhance the Organization's effectiveness and efficiency at country level.

IV. OTHER MATTERS

14) Multi-year Programme of Work for the Africa Regional Conference

The implementation of the Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) is discussed and agreed as a mechanism for enhancing the role of the Regional Conferences in the governance and decision-making process of FAO, focusing on procedures, activities, working methods, indicators and targets as a governing body.

15) Rules and Procedures for the Regional Conference

If deemed necessary and useful, rules and procedures for the Regional Conferences will be considered. Considering that the Regional Conferences have operated under the general framework of the Basic Texts of the Organization and could still do so until further notice, the Regional Conference could provide guidance and recommendations if deemed necessary on rules and procedures to be established for adoption during the next Regional Conference.

16) Proposed List of Topics to be considered for the 29th Regional Conference for Africa

17) Date and Place of the 29th Regional Conference for Africa

18) Any other matters

Preparation, discussion and approval of a draft report of the Regional Conference for consideration and adoption by the Ministerial session.

INFORMATION DOCUMENTS¹

Summary report of recommendations of FAO regional bodies

Regional bodies in forestry and wildlife, fisheries and agricultural statistics have regular consultations with documented recommendations that are summarized for the information of the Regional Conference and its consideration.

Reporting on the recommendations of the 27th ARC

Following the recommendations of the 27th ARC, the report shows the results achieved in Africa during the biennium 2012-2013 under the four regional priorities.

Declaration and Road map of the high-level meeting “Toward African Renaissance: Renewed Partnership for a Unified Approach to End Hunger in Africa by 2025 under the Framework the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme”

The document is presenting the process to and after the high level meeting and the achievements obtained after the Declaration and Roadmap for ending hunger in Africa by 2025. Actions in the initial group of countries are presented.

Africa Solidarity Trust Fund for Food Security

The document informs on the process of creation of the Trust fund, its objectives as well mechanisms of governance and operation.

The Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)

The ICN2 is a positive pro-active global policy response by FAO to tackle unacceptably high and persistent levels of malnutrition. The high level conference will be held in FAO headquarters Rome 19-21 November 2014. This document aims at increasing the understanding of ARC members on the objectives and intended outcomes of the conference.

Natural resources and land transactions

While pressure on natural resources is increasing as areas are sought for cultivation, are occupied by urban expansion but are also abandoned because of degradation, climate change and conflicts, expanded demand for agricultural commodities will exacerbate pressures, especially if the demand is met through area expansion and large land acquisition by different types of stakeholders. The Information document on “Natural Resources and land transactions” will be focused on Natural resources (Forestry, Fisheries, Wild life) and land transactions in order to discuss and guide on national natural resources management and land-use policies which are both attractive to the people and sustainable in terms of their impacts on natural resources.

Social protection in agriculture

Social protection in agriculture comprises a range of policy instruments that address poverty and vulnerability through social assistance (social safety nets), social insurance (unemployment’s benefits, pensions) or social inclusion (legislation on the human right to food). The document presents successful good practices of social protection in agriculture programming, guidance and strategic direction to maximize the synergies between social protection and food and nutrition security.

Note on side event(s) and subregional consultations

The document provides a brief summary of issues to be discussed during the side-event on “Youth on Development of Aquaculture and Livestock in Africa” and during the ministerial roundtable to be held on the follow up on the High Level Meeting of African and International Leaders “Toward African Renaissance: Renewed Partnership for Unified Approach to End Hunger in Africa by 2025 within the CAADP Framework”, 29 June-1 July 2013, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The purpose of the sub-regional consultations is also presented. They will focus on the Prioritization of needs of countries and sub-regions for guidance on the statements to be introduced to the ministerial meeting by the sub-regional representatives.

¹ *If they so wish, delegates may comment on information notes under "Any other matters".*

Ministerial Session

27–28 March 2014

3) Statement by the Director-General

4) Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council

5) Statement by the Chairperson of the 27th Africa Regional Conference

The statement of the Chairperson of the 27th Africa Regional Conference will provide a brief on the outcome of the deliberations of the 38th Session of the FAO Conference (Rome, 15-22 June 2013) and the 144th FAO Council (Rome, 11-15 June 2012) on matters related to the Africa Region.

6) Statement by the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security

The CFS Chairperson will provide an overview of the main outcomes of the 39th and 40th Plenary Sessions, reporting on the activities undertaken in 2012-2013.

7) Statements on Prioritization of needs of countries and subregions by the Subregional Group Representatives

Statements by the subregional group representatives summarizing results from the subregional consultations held on Wednesday 26 March 2014.

Review and endorsement of the Report of the Conference

The draft Report of the Regional Conference, prepared, discussed and approved by the Senior Officers Meeting, will be reviewed and endorsed. The discussion will cover:

- i) Policy and Regulatory Issues;
- ii) Programme and Budgetary Matters;
- iii) Other Matters.

The Report will be introduced by the Rapporteur.

Ministerial Roundtable

The ministerial roundtable will follow up on the High Level Meeting of African and International Leaders “Toward African Renaissance: Renewed Partnership for Unified Approach to End Hunger in Africa by 2025 within the CAADP Framework”. This ministerial roundtable will provide an opportunity to share knowledge on the action taken to end Hunger in Africa with consideration to the Africa Solidarity Thrust fund, the synergy between the on-going continental strategies as well as the promotion of agribusiness for youth employment, the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), the social protection in agriculture.

The roundtable will focus on the above subjects and other strategies for the Conference engagement on policies and programmes needed for concrete implementation.