

April 2008



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
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the
United
Nations

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

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

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THIRTIETH REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Brasilia, Brazil, 14 to 18 April 2008

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

Technical Committee

14 to 15 April 2008

I. Introductory Items

1. Opening of the Technical Committee Meeting
2. Election of the Technical Committee Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson and Appointment of the Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Technical Committee Agenda and Timetable

II. Technical Items

4. Policies to promote and/or strengthen the participation and joint action of public and private actors in rural development

Rural development in Latin America and the Caribbean requires goods and services markets that function properly so that agricultural growth and increased demand can be reflected in levels of poverty and welfare. This calls for broad collaboration between the public and private sector, which could focus on agrifood chains with interesting prospects. With this in mind, the Regional Conference could recommend public policies that seek to develop markets through positive discrimination towards family farming. This important food production sector is seriously burdened by transaction costs and barriers to its integration into the production chain and agro-industry in general.

5. Transboundary diseases

The document analyzes transboundary animal diseases which remain the biggest threat to livestock production in Latin America and the Caribbean. It singles out foot-and-mouth disease

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and avian influenza as causes of economic and market losses and latent risks to production and public health. It concludes that the eradication of transboundary diseases should be a priority.

The study recommends that countries take measures for the prevention and early detection of these diseases and that they develop robust frameworks of regional health policy and strengthened veterinary services; greater cooperation on animal health issues for the development of sustainable livestock systems; improved health status; quality and safety of products of animal origin to consolidate markets; protection of public health; and food security of the population.

6. Opportunities and challenges of biofuel production for food security and the environment in Latin America and the Caribbean

The document explores the implications of key aspects of modern bioenergy, especially liquid biofuels. Issues arising from the development of biofuels are complex and require an appropriate analytical and regulatory framework and careful examination of the economic, social and environmental circumstances.

The document examines the opportunities and challenges of biofuel production for food security and the environment and the crucial need to implement a package of policies that can reduce risks and foster the sustainable and equitable development of biofuels.

7. Consultation and study meetings among delegations

In follow-up to the request made by delegations at the 25th Regional Conference, this item offers delegations the opportunity to hold multilateral, regional or subregional meetings to discuss topical issues of common interest.

III. Conclusion

8. Adoption of the Technical Committee Report

9. Closure of the Technical Committee Meeting

Plenary Session

16 to 18 April 2008

I. Introductory Items

- 1. Inaugural Ceremony**
- 2. Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons and Appointment of the Rapporteur**
- 3. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable**

II. Statements

- 4. Statement of the Director-General**
- 5. Statement of the Independent Chairman of the Council of FAO**
- 6. Report on FAO activities (2006-2007) aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the World Food Summit target**

This item looks at FAO's work in the Region focused on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the World Food Summit target. It examines the evolution of priority issues for agricultural, environmental and rural development and discusses the focus of FAO's activities in Latin America and the Caribbean. It also addresses main problems inherent to the Region and explains the principal measures that have been taken to implement the recommendations of the 29th FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean.

- 7. Matters arising from the 34th Session of the FAO Conference**

This item examines the reform proposal and its implications for Latin America and the Caribbean, based on the deliberations of the 34th Session of the FAO Conference held in Rome from 17 to 24 November 2007.

- 8. Reports of the regional commissions: Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC) and Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean (CODEGALAC)**

The 29th FAO Conference (Rome, November 1997) urged regional bodies established under Article VI of the Constitution of FAO to seek more extrabudgetary resources and recommended a series of measures to expedite the work and increase the efficiency of these bodies. To facilitate analysis of this item, documents LARC/08/INF/5 and LARC/08/INF/6 present an overview of the background, main achievements and recommendations of the last session of the above regional commissions. The Conference is invited to examine the measures suggested together with others that may be proposed to strengthen the role of these regional commissions.

- 9. Food safety: Effective participation of developing countries in Codex Alimentarius meetings**

Document LARC/08/INF/7 reports on the participation of the countries of the Region in meetings of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its specialized committees. It also provides a standardized comparison for the period September 2005 to July 2007.

10. Pressing global and regional issues: Hunger-free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative

The document looks more closely at the urgency of hunger in the Region and determines that its eradication is not only morally necessary but also feasible. The text explains the functioning of the initiative and how it sets out to achieve its three major objectives: advocacy, training and monitoring of the food situation in our Region.

The document details the process of identifying priority countries and specific problems of food and nutritional security (FNS). It explains how to critically assess and evaluate programmes and elucidates direct actions (support for research, creation of outreach and promotion networks, direct contact with actors and decision-makers to promote FNS laws and projects). The paper describes the application and dissemination of knowledge gained from courses on food security and reports on the production of related documents for the initiative.

11. Round Table: Follow-up to the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD)

The document compiles the main actions pursued by countries of the Region for land access and agrarian reform. Actions are grouped into three types of non-exclusive situation: countries with active agrarian reform processes; countries with specific policies of access to resources (land, water and capital); and countries with rural territorial development programmes in agrarian settlements.

Country experiences, main lessons learned and problems in following up ICARRD raise the key question of how to move towards a new generation of policies that will permit agrarian reform in the new global context.

III. Conclusion

12. Date, place and agenda of the 31st Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Memorandum of Responsibilities will be forwarded to Member Nations expressing an interest in hosting the Conference.

13. Other matters

14. Adoption of the Report (including the Technical Committee Report)

15. Closure of the Regional Conference