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THIRTIETH REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

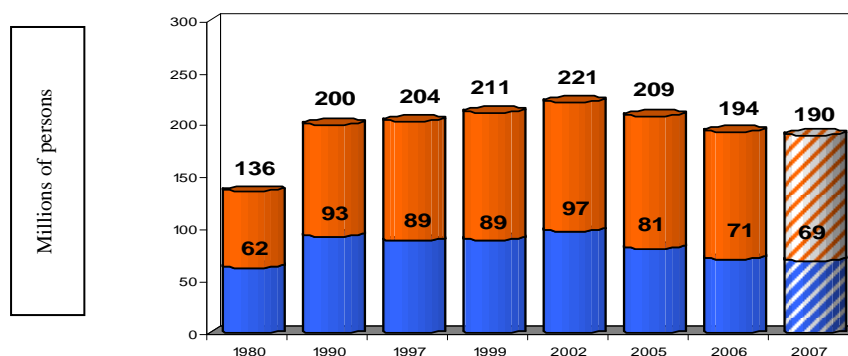
Brasilia, Brazil, 14 to 18 April 2008

REPORT ON FAO ACTIVITIES (2006-2007) AIMED AT ACHIEVING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT TARGET

Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger (MDG-1)¹

1. Since 2002, the Latin America and the Caribbean Region has recorded an absolute decrease in number of poor and extremely poor. However, there are still 194 million poor (36%), who include 71 million people living in extreme poverty (13.4%). Both values are higher than in 1980, which means that the Region has still not recovered from the last 25 years of crisis.

Poverty and indigence 1980-2007



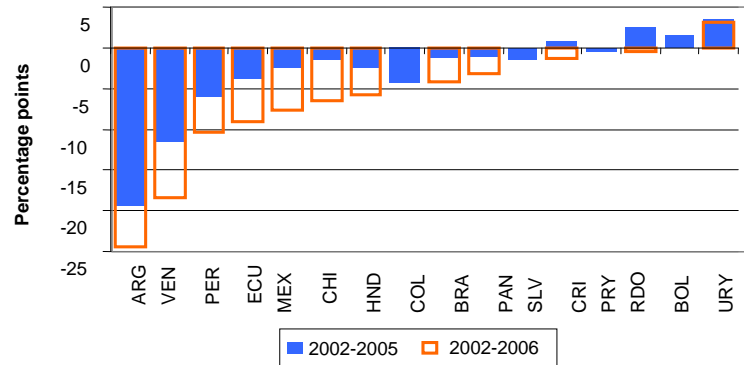
Source: Social Panorama, ECLAC, 2007

¹ Millennium Development Goals (MDG) **Target 1:** Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day. **Indicators:** 1. Proportion of population with income below one dollar a day. 2. Poverty gap ratio. 3. Share of poorest quintile in national consumption. **Target 2:** Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people suffering hunger. **Indicators:** 1. Prevalence of underweight children under five years of age. 2. Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption.

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2. There has been a reduction in the levels of poverty and extreme poverty in 15 countries relative to 2002. Many of these countries experienced an acceleration of this downward trend in 2006.

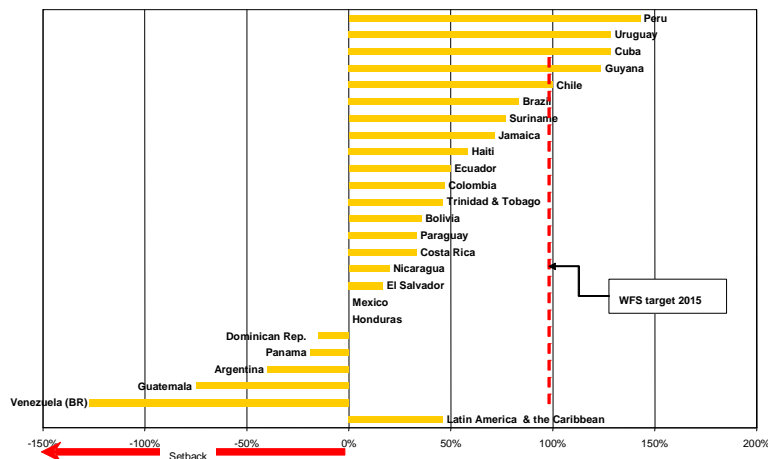
Evolution of poverty in the Region 2002-2006



Source: Social Panorama, ECLAC, 2007.

3. Undernutrition fell from 59 to 52 million persons between 1990 and 2002-2004. However, such a rate means undernutrition affecting 40 million people in 2015. Five countries have reached the millennium target and ten countries have made significant progress. It is important to note that the latest FAO statistics refer to the beginning of the century, which was when the Region was in a period of crisis. The economic recovery of recent years indicates a major impact on reduction of hunger, similar to extreme poverty.

Progress towards MDG-1



Source: Food Security Statistics, FAO, 2007.

4. The Region accounts for approximately 6% of the developing world's undernourished population and 10% of its total population. The main cause of undernutrition is not a lack of capacity to produce sufficient food – although some countries continue to be net food importers – but of access to that food. There are population groups without sufficient income to access food available on the market and without resources to produce food themselves. It is important to note that while FAO statistics are sensitive to changes in food supply, they do not properly reflect restrictions of access to and consumption of foods produced in individual countries.

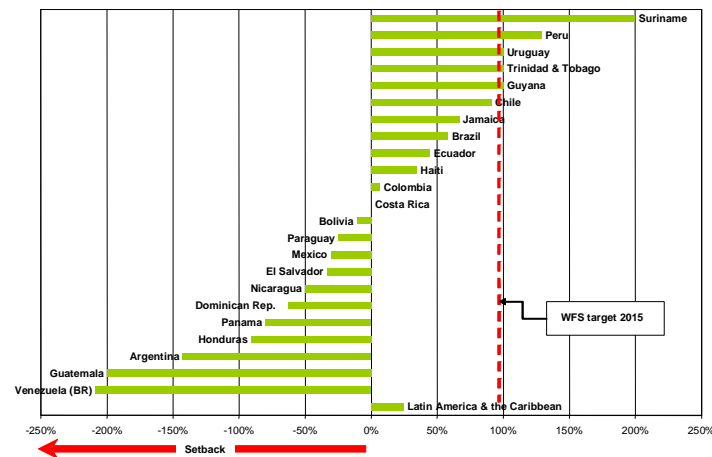
Indicators of undernutrition and food supply

| Region / Country | Undernutrition | | | | Ratio dietary energy supply <i>per capita</i> 2002-04 |
|--|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|---|
| | 1990-1992 | | 2002-2004 | | |
| | Population (millions) | % | Population (millions) | % | |
| WORLD | - | - | 861.6 | 14.0 | 1.28 |
| DEVELOPING COUNTRIES | 823.1 | 20.0 | 830.0 | 17.0 | 1.21 |
| LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN | 59.4 | 13.0 | 52.1 | 10.0 | 1.31 |
| Latin America | 4.6 | 5.0 | 5.3 | 5.0 | |
| Mexico | 4.6 | 5.0 | 5.3 | 5.0 | 1.44 |
| Central America | 5.0 | 17.0 | 7.5 | 19.0 | |
| Costa Rica | 0.2 | 6.0 | 0.2 | 5.0 | 1.28 |
| El Salvador | 0.6 | 12.0 | 0.7 | 11.0 | 1.16 |
| Guatemala | 1.4 | 16.0 | 2.8 | 22.0 | 1.01 |
| Honduras | 1.1 | 23.0 | 1.6 | 23.0 | 1.06 |
| Nicaragua | 1.2 | 30.0 | 1.5 | 27.0 | 1.04 |
| Panama | 0.5 | 21.0 | 0.7 | 23.0 | 1.05 |
| Caribbean | 7.7 | 27.0 | 6.8 | 21.0 | |
| Cuba | 0.7 | 7.0 | - | <2.5 | 1.51 |
| Dominican Republic | 1.9 | 27.0 | 2.5 | 29.0 | 1.03 |
| Haiti | 4.6 | 65.0 | 3.8 | 46.0 | 0.96 |
| Jamaica | 0.3 | 14.0 | 0.2 | 9.0 | 1.23 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 0.2 | 13.0 | 0.1 | 10.0 | 1.28 |
| South America | 42.0 | 14.0 | 32.5 | 9.0 | |
| Argentina | 0.7 | <2.5 | 1.2 | 3.0 | 1.33 |
| Bolivia | 1.9 | 28.0 | 2.0 | 23.0 | 1.01 |
| Brazil | 18.5 | 12.0 | 13.1 | 7.0 | 1.41 |
| Chile | 1.1 | 8.0 | 0.6 | 4.0 | 1.30 |
| Colombia | 6.1 | 17.0 | 5.9 | 13.0 | 1.17 |
| Ecuador | 0.9 | 8.0 | 0.7 | 6.0 | 1.21 |
| Guyana | 0.2 | 21.0 | 0.1 | 8.0 | 1.27 |
| Paraguay | 0.8 | 18.0 | 0.9 | 15.0 | 1.15 |
| Peru | 9.3 | 42.0 | 3.3 | 12.0 | 1.17 |
| Suriname | 0.1 | 13.0 | 0.0 | 8.0 | 1.24 |
| Uruguay | 0.2 | 7.0 | - | <2.5 | 1.33 |
| Venezuela | 2.3 | 11.0 | 4.7 | 18.0 | 1.06 |

Source: Food Security Statistics, FAO, 2007.

5. In 1996, FAO and the countries attending the World Food Summit (WFS) pledged to halve the number of hungry people in the world by 2015; similarly, MDG-1 (Target 2) also aims to halve the proportion of poor and hungry by the same year². A second WFS, convened in 2002 to examine the lack of significant progress, concluded that there could be no advance against hunger without the political will and necessary resources.

Progress towards the WFS



6. The Hunger-Free Latin America and Caribbean Initiative (HFLAC) goes one step further in aiming for the complete eradication of hunger from the Region. It wants national and international efforts against hunger to develop synergies and channels of exchange, to exploit successful experiences and to enhance existing actions. It also advocates the insertion of the right to food into national legislative frameworks, in the conviction that this should be included among the basic social rights needed to achieve a more equitable distribution of opportunities.

7. FAO has been supporting the process of formulation and adoption of three of the four food security laws that exist in Latin America (Ecuador, Guatemala and Brazil) and is in the process of supporting the formulation of draft laws in Haiti, Nicaragua and El Salvador.

8. Chronic child malnutrition is the main consequence of food and nutrition insecurity in the Region, affecting more than nine million children and characterized by irreversible harm to human development. The World Food Programme (WFP), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and FAO have joined forces in supporting the countries of the Region in its eradication by 2015, as an intermediate target towards the total elimination of hunger by 2025³. FAO is concentrating on school gardens and education on food, nutrition and the environment as part of the basic school curriculum in Argentina, Brazil, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Dominican Republic.

9. The Organization faces the challenge of providing assistance to develop and implement National Food Security Programmes (NFSP), gradually expanding activities initiated by the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) and helping other programmes and projects with similar aims. There is a high degree of national adherence to the SPFSs where the criteria of government commitment and leadership are indicators of potential success in moving from SPFS to NFSP. This is the case of Brazil, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Venezuela and Colombia.

² The significant difference between "reduce the number of hungry" and "reduce the proportion of hungry" has been studied and quantified by Pogge (2004) who concluded that MDG-1 was less ambitious than the WFS target (a difference of over 300 million people worldwide and almost 11 million in Latin America and the Caribbean).

³ This interagency commitment is set out in document "Hambre y Cohesión Social: Como revertir la relación entre inequidad y desnutrición en América Latina y el Caribe (2007)", produced for the XVII Ibero-American Summit, Santiago, Chile, 7 to 10 November 2007.

10. The Region currently has 28 SPFSs, 5 in Central America (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua), one regional in scope covering 16 Caribbean countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago) and 7 in South America (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Paraguay, Venezuela).

Ensuring environmental sustainability (MDG-7)⁴

11. MDG-7 (Target 9) promotes the integration of sustainable development principles into environmental policy. It is therefore important to incorporate the goals of poverty and hunger reduction into policies, programmes and plans for the integrated development of natural resources. Poor populations often deplete the natural resources on which they depend for their livelihoods. For this reason, FAO develops poverty reduction strategies, programmes and projects that include the sustainable management of natural resources, aligned with the needs and demands of the population.

12. The aim is to raise agricultural productivity with more efficient use of water, while at the same time reducing pressure on the environment. The Secretariat of the Latin American Technical Cooperation Network on Watershed Management, which is currently in operation in the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (FAO/RLC), plays a catalytic role for programmes and activities related to water, land and forest resources.

13. FAO promoted the ratification of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture which entered into force in June 2004 and included the signature of 13 countries of the Region. The Organization supports the management of pollinators useful to agriculture and provides technical assistance for implementation of the programme on agricultural biodiversity.

14. It also strengthens synergies between national forest programmes and national planning and policy processes, encouraging the participation of civil society in the processes of forestry coordination, knowledge and information. It is also responsible for managing the National Forest Programme Facility which supports 14 countries of the Region with financial resources.

15. By supporting national forest programmes, global forest information for the Global Forest Resources Assessment programme and the work of the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC), FAO has provided useful contributions to the preparation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, endorsed by the countries of the Region at the seventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF).

16. The adoption of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources represented a landmark in international efforts to promote the sustainable management of the world's animal genetic resources for food and agriculture. Its successful application will call for closer international cooperation through the Multiyear Programme of Work of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources.

17. The Latin American Network of National Parks, other Protected Areas and Wildlife receives support from the Organization. Protected areas should play a key role in conserving biological diversity and other environmental services provided by forests, and in developing local communities. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – World Conservation Union (IUCN), FAO and the National Parks Authority of Argentina together organized the second Congress on National Parks and other Protected Areas.

⁴ **Target 9:** Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources. **Target 10:** Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. **Target 11:** By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.

Developing a global partnership for development (MDG-8)⁵

18. By promoting the priority of food security on the regional agenda, FAO is collaborating with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), WFP, other United Nations agencies, governments, civil society and the private sector in furthering the International Alliance Against Hunger.

19. FAO and ECLAC produced a document on biofuels and food security; FAO, WFP and ECLAC produced another document on hunger and social cohesion and drafted a proposal on swapping external debt for food programmes; and with WFP, a study on the cost of hunger and another on the problems of maize production in Central America.

20. FAO signed a memorandum of understanding with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) to support the HFLAC and improve agricultural and rural competitiveness.

21. The Organization supports the "Delivering as One" pilot plan promoted by the UN General Secretariat.

Actions taken on the main recommendations of the 29th FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean

Priority lines of action for the Region

22. *Recommendation 8 establishes seven priority lines of action for FAO technical cooperation in the Region in the 2006-2007 biennium: the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean 2025 Initiative; subregional multidisciplinary groups, including the Amazon Basin; expansion of the SPFSs in the countries of the Region; immediate actions for those suffering hunger, especially South-South Cooperation and short-term attention to Haiti; transboundary diseases, especially protection against Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease; food safety, including the harmonization of standards, biosecurity – considering, inter alia, genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and labelling requirements; interagency cooperation and information management.*

23. The HFLAC focuses on advocacy, training and monitoring. It assessed food security programmes in priority countries: Alto de la Paz (Bolivia), Bogotá Sin Hambre (Colombia), and urban and periurban agriculture programmes in Venezuela and Brazil. The initiative organizes semi-attendance courses on food security in Nicaragua, Ecuador, Brazil and Paraguay and on measuring food security in the home; it supports the Network of Research and Training in Food and Nutrition Security (REDSAN) and produces documents on topics such as social cohesion and swapping external debt for actions against hunger.

24. The RLC multidisciplinary working groups have been reorganized according to the technical priorities set at the 29th Regional Conference: transboundary diseases, bioenergy, health and food safety, food security and policies to combat hunger, environmental sustainability, urban agriculture and nutritional education. With regard to the Amazon Basin, a memorandum of understanding was signed with the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO).

25. The SPFSs of Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua extended their coverage to support NFSPs, a strategy of alliances with non-governmental organizations and trade associations, in coordination with the HFLAC Initiative. In Colombia, the NFSP was expanded to urban and periurban areas and to the MANA programme in Antioquia; support projects are underway in Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru and Paraguay; at subregional level, the expansion phase of the Regional Programme for Food Security in the Caribbean is being implemented in partnership with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

⁵ **Target 12:** Further develop an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system. **Target 13:** Address the special needs of the least developed countries.

26. With regard to South-South Cooperation (SSC), a regional meeting is being organized (Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Argentina and Cuba) to discuss the SSC institutional framework in the countries of the Region.

27. The group on transboundary diseases (FAO/RLC) was established to help countries with the prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases such as Foot-and-Mouth Disease, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, Classical Swine Fever and the New World Screwworm. This group assists countries in the integrated management of animal production and health through the Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean (CODEGALAC). During the period under review, a regional animal health programme for the countries of the Expanded MERCOSUR (TCP/RLA/3108) was formulated to strengthen the capabilities of national veterinary services.

28. Responding to requests from several countries of the Region, FAO conducted an investigation into private systems of certification of agricultural health and food safety. It developed a systems training programme focused on public good versus private gain, in order to identify harmonized systems, and conducted training sessions on topics that included traceability, equivalence, biosecurity, mycotoxins, safety and quality of fresh fruits and vegetables, Codex Alimentarius, risk analysis and the Regional Conference on Food Quality and Safety.

29. In line with the need to harmonize standards of biosecurity regarding genetically modified organisms, Project TCP/RLA/3109 'Development of reference technical tools for the management of biosecurity in the Member Countries of the Expanded Southern Market (MERCOSUR)' is being implemented with national biosecurity commissions and/or authorities and the Technical Cooperation Network on Agricultural Biotechnology for Latin America and the Caribbean (REDBIO). A regional technical cooperation project⁶ to support institutional strengthening and the training of professionals in the generation, compilation and management of databases on food composition is underway in response to requests for an updating of food composition data and tables.

30. The International Network of Food Data Systems (INFOODS) has a Latin American branch LATINFOODS, whose Secretariat is in FAO/RLC, the reference for food composition in the Region. Two regional projects were implemented to harmonize analytical capacities, one on quality assurance⁷ in Cuba, Mexico, Panama and Dominican Republic, the other on the same topic⁸ in ten South American countries, with the aim of strengthening analytical laboratories in the Region.

31. Regarding interagency cooperation, coordination was stepped up with the IICA in promoting joint actions; joint action was undertaken with WFP in eradicating chronic child malnutrition; with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in formulating the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF); and with the World Bank (WB) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in formulating investment projects and studies on emerging issues in the Region. FAO serves as the Secretariat of the Inter-Agency Group on Rural Development, comprising ECLAC, WB, IDB, IICA, IFAD, the German Cooperation Agency (GTZ), the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI), and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). It also supports the interagency groups and participated in formulating UNDP-Spain MDG Achievement Fund projects in 12 countries of the Region.

⁶ Development of databases and food composition tables of Argentina, Chile and Paraguay to strengthen international trade and consumer protection (TCP/RLA/3107)

⁷ Development of an integrated quality assurance system for food analytical laboratories in Central America (TCP/RLC/3014).

⁸ Development of an integrated quality assurance system for food analytical laboratories in South America (TCP/RLA/3013).

Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean 2025: Inputs for a framework of action

32. *Recommendation 11 states that FAO, under the guidance and coordination of its Regional Office in Santiago, should promote the necessary human and financial resources, including the contribution of third party countries and other international agencies, for the full realization of the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean 2025 Initiative.*

33. The HFLAC Initiative has worked in partnership with ECLAC, UNDP and WFP, as well as with the IICA and the Sustainable Rural Development of Central America (RUTA) project to advance towards the established objectives. This framework of exchange and collaboration has produced stronger relations with governments for an expansion of SSC on technical topics.

34. *Recommendation 12 establishes that FAO, through its Regional Office in Santiago, should provide technical support to mechanisms of implementation of the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean 2025 Initiative.*

35. FAO/RLC has provided the physical space and material and financial resources to enable the HFLAC Initiative team to function in the best of conditions towards its objectives.

36. *Recommendation 13 indicates the need for the Regional Office in Santiago to have a Food Security Officer and a support team for technical cooperation activities relating to the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean 2025 Initiative.*

37. Both the officer and the support team have been recruited and are now fully operational.

Strengthening regional capacity for the prevention and control of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Latin America and the Caribbean

38. *Recommendation 15 states that FAO, in coordination with PAHO, WHO and the OIE, should promote and support activities of exchange and cooperation between countries for the implementation of protection measures against the risk of avian flu.*

39. Under the joint initiative of the World Health Organization, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and FAO – the Global Programme for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases – four regional technical assistance projects were implemented to strengthen prevention and early warning activities in the 33 countries of the Region, with the support and collaboration of the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO)/World Health Organization (WHO), the International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health (OIRSA), IICA, OIE, and other regional agencies of cooperation on animal health.

40. *Recommendation 16 recommends that FAO support cooperation between the laboratory networks of the countries of the Region.*

41. The countries of the Region were trained in basic and advanced diagnostics for avian influenza, following OIE recommended methodologies. FAO also provided basic materials and equipment for the conduct of laboratory methodologies.

42. *Recommendation 17 suggests that FAO provide technical cooperation so that the intellectual property of drugs and reagents does not constitute an obstacle in dealing with a pandemic.*

43. Through the regional projects on avian influenza, FAO attended the national meetings of the 33 countries of the Region for the preparation of national contingency plans in anticipation of a possible pandemic.

Reports of the regional commissions: Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC); Commission for Inland Fisheries of Latin America (COPESCAL); Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC)

44. *Recommendation 19 states that FAO should promote and technically support the exchange of experiences between countries and the possibilities of partnerships on the subject of bioenergy as a priority focus of cooperation.*

45. In 2006, FAO launched the International Bioenergy Platform to ensure the provision of sustainable, equitable and affordable bioenergy sources and services. This led to the Global Bioenergy Partnership which acts as a catalyst for partnerships between the public sector, the private sector and civil society in a shared commitment to promote bioenergy for sustainable development.

46. FAO, ECLAC and IICA fostered discussion of the viability of producing biofuels in the Region. FAO helped organize seminars and workshops and prepare and analyze bioenergy programmes and projects in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Paraguay and Peru. The following strategic topics were identified: incentives and penalties for the rational use of natural resources; technology policies that explore feedstock potential; regulatory framework for the use of biofuels; contractual relations from primary production to final consumption, including the incorporation of family farming; and the biofuel consumption structure.

47. *Recommendation 20 requests that FAO, in cooperation with the countries of the Region, promote and technically support studies to monitor fishery resources and, in general, to improve the quality of fishery information.*

48. FAO gave support to Uruguay, Guatemala, the member countries of the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS) and the Latin American Organization for Fisheries Development (OLDEPESCA) in the conduct of studies to monitor fishery resources.

49. *Recommendation 21 states that FAO should provide technical support for training in the trade and handling of fishery products and for education in the consumption of these products to ensure their quality and safety.*

50. A project⁹ was approved in 2007 involving 11 countries and with a component on training in handling, processing and marketing fishery products.

51. *Recommendation 22 calls for studies on linkages between fishing and nutrition; and on a strategy to improve the living conditions of artisanal fishers.*

52. The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture scrutinizes the contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to nutrition and food security, and proposes measures to improve the living conditions of artisanal fishers. A seminar on Safety at Sea in Artisanal Fisheries was held in Peru in 2007 to improve the safety and lives of the Region's artisanal fishers and their families.

53. *Recommendation 23 requests that FAO support the exchange of experiences between countries on the subject of reforestation, in particular productive reforestation with the use of fruit trees.*

54. Through the National Forest Programme Facility, LACFC and specific field projects, the exchange of reforestation experiences was encouraged and the voluntary guidelines for the responsible management of planted forests were drawn up and validated. Studies and proposals on financing mechanisms to promote sustainable forest management were developed with the Netherlands, IUCN and GTZ.

⁹ Improving domestic fish and fishery product markets in Latin America and the Caribbean (TCP/RLA/3111)

Round Table "Towards a regional agricultural common market: problems and perspectives"

55. *Recommendation 26 requests that FAO focus its technical support on the process of integration of agricultural trade, in particular the negotiation of sanitary aspects, and on training for customs control against transboundary pests and diseases.*

56. Countries were urged to participate in the standard-setting bodies of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and others, including Codex Alimentarius, the International Plant Protection Convention and OIE, for implementation of the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. A study conducted on the impact of private standards in the Region will facilitate dialogue between public and private entities. Two regional projects were implemented in Central America and the Southern Cone to implement the quality system based on the ISO/IEC¹⁰ 17025 standard, which determines the accreditation of laboratories of chemical and microbiological food analysis, a factor essential for demonstrating analytical capacity and validity of results, which are current requisites of international trade in food.

57. In response to a recommendation from LACFC, studies were undertaken to establish a subregional strategy for the Southern Cone countries on the protection of forest health and for the creation of a regional network on invasive forest species.

58. *Recommendation 27 suggests that FAO support exchanges of experiences and cooperation between countries for a more efficient and equitable incorporation of family farming into commercial networks, as a way of improving food and nutrition security and social inclusion.*

59. Project GCP/RLA/152/IAB¹¹ helped develop a series of technical analyses to strengthen the design and implementation of family farming programmes in the Region. The studies highlight the importance of family farming and list the main lessons from assessing 17 public programmes with a family farming component.

60. The Organization supports the market access of family farming groups through an integrated approach that covers training, promotion and assistance in good agricultural practices, complemented by actions in socio-entrepreneurial management, community organization and food security (TCP/COL/3101¹² and UTF/COL/027/COL¹³). Similar activities are underway in Nicaragua and, at regional level, in Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Mexico and Panama (TCP/RLA/3110¹⁴). A workshop on good agricultural practices for family farming in the countries of the Expanded MERCOSUR was held in Chile in 2006 to strengthen the institutional framework and the design of family farming policies.

Round Table "Institutional challenges for national, subregional and regional technological innovation"

61. *Recommendation 31 calls for a revision and amendment of the background document presented so that it better reflects the complexity of the subject and refines the analysis of the system of technological innovation in the specific conditions of the Region.*

62. The document was revised with an emphasis on relations between productivity and food security; relations between international trade and technological innovation; a better balance between the public and private sectors in the innovation process; the generation and adoption of technologies; rural extension activities; and relations between use of biotechnology and environmental sustainability.

¹⁰ International Organization for Standardization (ISO)/International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)

¹¹ Programme for the preparation of FAO-IAB joint rural development technical studies

¹² Strengthening capacities in good agricultural practices and community organization to help food security in the Department of Antioquia in support of UTF/COL/027/COL (TCP/COL/3101)

¹³ Strengthening rural food and nutrition security in the Department of Antioquia (UTF/COL/027/COL)

¹⁴ Analysis and strengthening of community food and nutrition programmes (TCP/RLA/3110)

Territorial policies for the economic and social development of rural areas

63. *Recommendation 37 states that FAO should continue to look more deeply and broadly into this subject and requests that studies currently being conducted with FAO support in three countries (Brazil, Chile and Mexico) be extended to other countries of the Region, including, in particular, the specific characteristics of the Caribbean islands.*

64. The lessons learned from the practical application of the territorial development approach in five territories (Brazil 2, Mexico 2 and Chile 1) add insight to current understanding and permit replication in other countries of the Region. Case studies were carried out in Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Paraguay and El Salvador to identify strategies, components and economic benefits that could justify government and international financial agency investment in territorial programmes and projects.

Food safety and animal and plant health. Trends and challenges for Latin America and the Caribbean

65. *Recommendation 40 supports the request of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC) that the criteria for the distribution of funds be modified and that the equitable distribution of those funds be assured as, under current arrangements, only one country of the Region could receive assistance for participation in three meetings of the Codex; the remaining would only receive funding for one meeting.*

66. The CCLAC request, supported by FAO, was submitted to the Codex Trust Fund, administered by WHO, for consideration by the Trust Fund Advisory Group.

67. *Recommendation 41 states that FAO's training activities should be coupled with the possibility of modernizing existing administrative and control measures in individual countries, within integrated programmes funded by institutions supporting FAO cooperation.*

68. During the biennium, regional workshops were held on traceability; determination of equivalence of sanitary measures and food control systems; improved participation in Codex; improved quality and safety of fresh fruits and vegetables; instruments to enhance decision-making on aspects of public health (Public Health Agency of Canada/WHO/FAO); microbiological risk assessment (PAHO/OIRSA/FAO) and good management practices to improve quality and safety in small and medium agroindustries in Central America.

69. A regional workshop on biosecurity was held to strengthen sanitary, phytosanitary and food safety systems. There was also a regional seminar on risk communication in food safety to spread the concept among official consumer and civil society associations in the South American countries.

70. *Recommendation 42 expresses an interest in having FAO coordinate training activities with the WTO on the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT).*

71. The Organization coordinated a study to identify the private systems of plant and animal health and food safety. A regional seminar is held annually to discuss proposals for new international rules on phytosanitary measures. Prior to the CCLAC meeting, a regional training workshop was held on equivalence of food control systems and measures with WTO participation.

Trends and challenges in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and food security in Latin America and the Caribbean

72. *Recommendation 44 requests that analyses of agricultural trends and challenges include a baseline analysis of agricultural products that can be traded, in a context of environmental sustainability and sanitary control, as the basis for greater economic growth.*

73. In collaboration with the governments of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, a study was conducted on recent soybean developments, with public policy recommendations.

74. **Recommendation 45** suggests including, in identified challenges, the implementation of development policies that favour social inclusion, particularly of marginalized groups, such as peasant farmers, artisanal fishers and rural fish farmers.

75. Through the National Forest Programme Facility and letters of agreement with governments and civil society, FAO supported the formulation and implementation of sustainable forestry policies that include the participation of communities through community forest development.

76. The PUEMBO II Initiative (Netherlands/GTZ/ACTO/Central American Commission on Environment and Development/FAO) completed studies and baseline proposals for the improvement of the national forest programmes.

77. **Recommendation 46** calls for more in-depth study of the trends and challenges in agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean, within an optic of development with equity to ensure a better distribution of the benefits of economic progress.

78. A report on forestry trends and outlook in Latin America and the Caribbean towards 2020 was produced and distributed. The report indicates a major expansion of planted forest and its associated industry; an increase in protected areas and concern at the high levels of deforestation in the Region. The document on trends and challenges in agriculture – currently being updated – strengthens and broadens analytical capacity to steer agricultural policy in the Region towards development with equity to ensure a better distribution of the benefits of economic progress.

Report on the outcome of the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development

79. **Recommendation 51** states that FAO bodies should take the necessary actions to implement the recommendations in the Final Declaration of the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD).

80. The FAO Council, Committee on World Food Security and Committee on Agriculture will continue discussions on follow-up to ICARRD to help develop a plan of action for implementation of the recommendations in the Final Declaration.

81. **Recommendation 52** indicates that it is fundamental for the Region to be able to follow-up on ICARRD in the Committee on World Food Security and the Council of FAO, including the possible formulation of Voluntary Guidelines for the National Implementation of the Right to Land.

82. At the 32nd Session of the FAO Committee on World Food Security, approval was sought to develop a Special Initiative on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development as a concrete mechanism of application of the ICARRD Declaration. A proposal was also made to produce a set of national guidelines for governments, civil society and UN agencies to monitoring the results of the Conference. It was recommended that the Committee on World Food Security examine the recommendations.

83. **Recommendation 53** requests that, through the Technical Secretariat of the ICARRD, FAO/RLC should coordinate, organize and conduct seminars and panel discussions, organized by country groups, with the broad participation of social movements, to lay the groundwork for a plan of action that would help resolve, on a voluntary basis, the more urgent problems identified by ICARRD.

84. The Expert Consultation on Agrarian Reform was organized to discuss the challenges of the 21st century. The case histories of Chile and Peru in the 1960s and 1970s were presented to

learn from past experiences, before analysis of the ongoing experiences of agrarian reform in Bolivia, Venezuela, Paraguay and Brazil.

85. At the request of the Technical Secretariat of the Special Meeting on Family Farming (REAF) and IFAD-MERCOSUR, FAO is supporting the Network of Institutions Responsible for Land Policy and Access and Agrarian Reform in implementing its plan of action.

86. ***Recommendation 54** requests that the Technical Secretariat of ICARRD in FAO, under the coordination of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, prepares a document, to be submitted for discussion and adoption at the 131st Session of the FAO Council in November 2006, to support the organization of subregional seminars in order to generate inputs for the preparation and future implementation of an ICCARD plan of action .*

87. The document was prepared and presented at the 131st Session of the FAO Council, which reiterated the request to the Committee on World Food Security to approve a Special Initiative on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development that would raise funds for follow-up activities to ICARRD and strengthen national stakeholder dialogue on issues agreed in its Final Declaration. Approval was also sought to expand and upgrade the database on agrarian reform and rural development, with indicators of access to land and other natural resources. Given the diversity of positions expressed, the Council agreed that further study was needed on appropriate complementary activities to ICARRD. The Council endorsed the conclusions of the 32nd Session of the Committee on World Food Security that the Committee on Agriculture should examine the recommendations of ICARRD.

88. ***Recommendation 55** states that FAO, through its appropriate units (in particular the Field Programme Development Service – TCAP), should draft a proposal, for example, a special programme for agrarian reform and rural development, to ensure the necessary support for implementation of follow-up activities to ICARRD.*

89. The first draft TCP in follow-up ICARRD in the Region was produced and circulated. The proposal is still being formulated.