

Report of the
SIXTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE
FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST

Kuala Lumpur, Federation of Malaya, 15-29 September 1962



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

CORRIGENDUM

In reading the recommendations p. 71, with the exception of the first two lines, should be taken immediately after p. 69.

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of the
SIXTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE
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ASIA AND THE FAR EAST

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYA
15-29 September 1962

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Sixth FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East was held at Kuala Lumpur, Federation of Malaya, from 15 to 29 September 1962. Member Governments represented were:

Australia	Malaya
Burma	Netherlands
Ceylon	New Zealand
France	Pakistan
India	Philippines
Indonesia	Thailand
Japan	United Kingdom
Korea	United States of America
Laos	Viet Nam

2. The following organizations were represented:

- United Nations
- (United Nations Technical Assistance Board
- (United Nations Special Fund
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- World Health Organization

and the following Organization was represented by an observer:

World Veterans Federation

3. A full list of the names of the participants is given in Annex I of this report.

4. The Director-General opened the Conference by expressing his warm appreciation to the Government of Malaya for the excellent arrangements made for the Conference. He drew attention to the successful efforts of the Government in knitting together peoples of different cultural, racial and religious creeds into a new nation noted for its tolerance and hospitality. He referred to Malaya's rich natural and human resources and said that in spite of a higher standard of living than that enjoyed by many of its neighbours, Malaya shared with them a number of problems in the field of food and agriculture, the crucial ones being chronic malnutrition, lagging productivity and trade in tropical products.

5. In welcoming the delegates to Kuala Lumpur, His Excellency, Tunjku Abdul Rahman, the Prime Minister of the Federation of Malaya, who inaugurated the Conference, observed that, as a staunch supporter of the activities of the United Nations family, the Government of Malaya was particularly proud of being host to the Sixth FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East. He reminded the delegates of the noble objectives of FAO designed to raise the levels of nutrition and the living standards of rural people all over the world by improving agricultural production and the distribution of food. He then referred to a few measures his own Government was pursuing with similar objectives with regard to the Malayan people. In his view, the stabilization of commodity prices, diversification of agriculture, and a fair price both to the producer and to the consumer of food were essential factors in stepping up production to meet the needs of the increasing population in the region. He stressed the importance, in a rapidly changing world, of nations working together for human betterment, and expressed his firm conviction that FAO had proved itself a most valuable international instrument for men and nations to work together on common problems. In conclusion, the Prime Minister touched upon the favourable developments in the formation of the Federation of Malaysia which would enable his Government to make a greater contribution than hitherto to the economic and social progress of the region.

6. On behalf of FAO and the delegates present, Mr. Ahsan-ud-Din, FAO Regional Representative for Asia and the Far East, thanked the Prime Minister for his warm welcome. He touched upon the agricultural and mineral resources of Malaya and referred to the scope offered by modern science and technology in the more efficient exploitation of such resources, particularly in forestry and fisheries. He pointed out that FAO could cooperate with the Government of Malaya in achieving these objectives.

7. Following the inaugural ceremony, His Excellency Abdul Aziz bin Ishak, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives for the Federation of Malaya, was unanimously elected as Chairman. The Conference also elected all the Heads of Delegations as Vice-Chairmen.

8. The Chairman thanked the meeting for his election which he considered as a great honour done to him and to his country. He stressed the importance of FAO Regional Conferences as not only providing a forum for an exchange of ideas on agricultural and economic development measures but also by serving as a constant reminder of the wide gap between food production and food requirements, particularly in the developing countries. While stressing the need for greater efforts to increase food production he pleaded for a fair deal for the farmer who, while working against tremendous odds, was making a great contribution to his country's economy. He referred in appreciative terms to FAO policies, under the leadership of Dr. B.R. Sen, and to the active and dynamic role played by the Organization in improving the economic and social well-being of peoples all over the world. In particular he cited the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign and the World Food Program as two positive steps taken in the right direction.

9. As its first order of business the Conference adopted the agenda as shown as Annex II of this report.

10. A list of the working papers placed before the Conference is given in Annex III of this report.

THE WORK OF FAO IN ASIA AND THE FAR EAST AND THE
FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

II. TRENDS AND OBJECTIVES IN THE WORK OF FAO IN
ASIA AND THE FAR EAST

Statement by the Director-General

11. The Director-General observed that the Conference was meeting at a time when there was a new awareness all the world over of the problems of the developing countries and of the importance of facing up to those problems boldly and constructively. Consequently, a heavy responsibility devolved on every participant at the Conference to find ways and means for providing a swiftly increasing population with enough food, shelter and clothing to ensure a tolerable standard of life.

Agriculture Situation

12. The Director-General observed that the Governments of the region had continued to direct considerable efforts towards increasing the productivity of agriculture with notable success. Agricultural production had been increasing at an average rate of about 3 per cent per annum. In the 1960/61 crop year when seasonal conditions were favourable production reached a new record for the region. In 1961/62 when the weather was not so favourable it was not possible to do anything more than hold production at about the same level as in the preceding year.

Food Production

13. Food production had on the average been increasing about one per cent per year faster than population. Viewed against food consumption levels, however, there was no room for complacency. While in terms of calories there had been appreciable improvement in the diets of many millions of people in the region, the quality of the average person's food consumption was still grossly inadequate, and malnutrition remained widespread. It was obvious that although commendable progress had been made, further vigorous efforts were needed to achieve the goal of an adequate food consumption level for all people in the region.

Trade Prospects

14. The region's exports of agricultural products had continued their upward trend in volume. With variations in individual commodities in many instances, however, the gains in the volume of exports had been offset by lower prices. Although the total volume of agricultural exports from the region increased by about 7 per cent between 1951 and 1961, foreign exchange earnings had actually declined. When measured against their purchasing power for manufactured goods, prices of which had been rising, the larger exports in 1961 would purchase 10 per cent less than in 1959. This obviously had serious implications for economic development programs, for which foreign exchange was usually a critical factor. Unfortunately the situation was not likely to register any improvement in 1962.

Imports versus Exports

15. The Director-General pointed out that since the last Conference a development of far-reaching importance had been the change in the status of the region from that of a net exporter of agricultural products to that of a small net importer. The food exporting countries of the region had increased their shipments considerably since the war, but imports of foodstuffs from outside the region (some on special terms) had also increased at a faster rate. Imports of agricultural raw materials had also gone up with advances in industrialization in the region and by 1960 countries of the region accounted for about one-quarter of total world imports of such products.

Agriculture in Economic Development

16. Having outlined recent trends in agricultural production, food consumption and trade, the Director-General went on to examine those trends in the perspective of the populations affected. There were some 910 million people in the region, excluding Mainland China, of whom some 70 per cent earned their living from the land. There could be no doubt therefore that the key to the problem of economic development of countries in the region lay in agriculture, a fact which must never be overlooked. This was also true of the over 16 million people in Oceania who earned their living mainly from agriculture.

Population and Food

17. The Director-General referred to a study recently made which showed that 10 to 15 per cent of the world's population, or 300 to 500 million people, suffered from active hunger, that is, lack of sufficient food, while another 1,000,000,000 suffered from malnutrition or diet deficiencies. With the high rates of population growth in the developing regions over the last decade (between 2 and 2.5 per cent per annum) and expected to increase further (2.5 to 3 per cent) during the current decade, there could well be a doubling of the population in Africa, a trebling in Latin America, and an increase in the Far East and Near East by two and a half times by the end of the century. At such a rate of population growth, world food supplies would need to be doubled by 2000 A.D. simply to maintain the current inadequate levels of nutrition. In many of the underdeveloped regions it would have to be trebled to provide only a moderate improvement.

18. The magnitude and gravity of the situation, therefore, called for urgent attention. Either developing countries faced up to it with all the material and technical resources at their disposal or it would worsen and reach the "explosion" stage. What was needed, therefore, in the short term was a careful husbanding of available resources and their planned utilization.

Development Planning

19. The Director-General observed that an essential condition for success, whether in the use of domestic resources or foreign aid, was planning. He was glad to find that almost all countries of the region had adopted plans for expanding agricultural production as an integral part of their economic development program. Naturally, plans in the field of agriculture should be integrated with plans for broad economic development, since the two were inseparable. Indeed, agriculture, which provided employment for the bulk of the population and which should provide also the resources on which improvements must be based, should be the cornerstone of all economic development.

20. In order to achieve an annual growth rate of 5 per cent in the gross national product - the minimum increase required - agricultural production must increase at the rate of 4 to 4.5 per cent per annum. Whilst this figure was certainly higher than the current level of expansion in several countries, it was below that achieved in some, and was within the capacity of all. Agricultural plans framed by countries of the region should be guided by this target figure which took into account the population trends in the region. The Director-General reminded the delegates that having regard to the importance attaching to planning, a number of agenda items were devoted to the several aspects of planning, including the need for securing people's cooperation in framing national plans; the use of statistics as a basis for planning; the introduction of nutritional considerations into national plans, and some commodity implications of current national plans. He underlined the great importance FAO attached to the establishment of an Asian Institute of Economic Development and assured the Conference that FAO would take an active and continuing interest in the institute when it was established.

21. The Director-General stressed the fact that the main developmental effort must be a national one, which should utilize in a planned program all the available resources, including multilateral aid channelled through international agencies. He cited some figures on external aid provided to the region during the past six years under EPTA, Special Fund and other programs. Referring to the steadily increasing volume of aid he said that viewed against the background of needs, this no doubt appeared small, but the special significance of such programs was that they served as a catalyst for national developmental efforts, fostered the sharing of technical skills, and provided facilities for training.

Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign

22. The great significance of the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign launched in 1960 was that it brought the problems of hunger, food and agriculture into sharp focus in relation to economic and social development. For the developing countries, the central message of the Campaign was that, for the first time in history, it was within the power of mankind to banish hunger. Many countries of the region had formed Campaign committees. The Director-General expressed the hope that these committees would take a leading part in bringing the message of the Campaign to their peoples, recognizing that improvements must flow from enlightened public opinion and public support.

World Food Congress

23. The Director-General reported that the World Food Congress would be held in Washington in June next year at the midpoint of the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign. This was intended to help in the effort to ensure the identity of both purpose and method between the public and the private groups within each country. The Congress was to be so designed as to highlight the world objectives of the Campaign, to discover gaps in knowledge and point to directions requiring greater efforts.

Development Decade

24. The Director-General referred to a resolution of the General Assembly designating the 1960's as the Decade of Development, and calling upon Member States to intensify their efforts in order to achieve self-sustaining economic growth. Agricultural development had a basic importance in the Development Decade ideology, and FAO's main contribution in this field would be through increased emphasis on the objectives of the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign which was a re-dedication to the aims of the Organization itself.

International Rice Commission

25. Turning to the technical items on the agenda, the Director-General briefly dealt with the important findings of the International Rice Commission and its Working Party on Engineering Aspects of Rice Production which had held their meetings prior to the Conference. One important conclusion arrived at independently at various meetings was the need for improved nutrition. This would have to be achieved in different ways, one of the most important being through the diversification of agricultural production. Emphasis on rice production should therefore be looked at in the context of better nutritional standards.

Nutrition

26. In order to be of assistance to Governments, FAO had joined forces with UNICEF in promoting programs in the field of expanded nutrition through such measures as school gardens, fish ponds, and improved supplies of milk and milk products. Governments, however, needed to give serious consideration to the possibilities presented by those programs to see how they could draw the maximum benefit from them now and in the future. They also had responsibility to see that in the context of nutritional needs agricultural diversification found an important place in all national planning.

Fisheries

27. Special importance was attached to Fisheries development in the region. It was an important source of food and nutrition for millions of people, while providing gainful employment for tens of thousands. The possibilities were vast, but only a few countries had availed themselves. Economy and care were called for in the use of resources of trained personnel and facilities. External aid should be sought in providing the highly trained personnel and costly equipment required for the survey of large ocean areas. International cooperation was needed and the Director-General strongly urged governments to seek ways and means of strengthening the activities of the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council to this end.

Forestry

28. The Director-General recalled that the previous Regional Conference had devoted much time to a consideration of the reorientation of national forest policies in relation to requirements, based on the conclusions reached by the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission after reviewing the joint FAO/ECAFE study "Timber Trends and Prospects in the Asia-Pacific Region", and the findings of the Tokyo Conference on Pulp and Paper Development in Asia and the Far East. The situation which existed in the region as a whole, and in most of the individual countries, was a low level consumption, an underdeveloped pulp and paper and other forest industries, a rapid potential growth in future requirements, and a high and growing cost of net imports of forest products, despite the rich forest wealth of many areas of the region.

29. Since then the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission had completed an appraisal of special national reports of member countries on a reconsideration of the problems of wood supplies and requirements, and of measures being taken to ensure a sound development of forestry and forest industries. All recent studies had pointed out the lack of sufficiently comprehensive statistical data, which should be remedied.

Fertilizers

30. In enhancing agricultural production in Asia and the Far East region, fertilizers had played an ever-increasing role. It was more and more realized that the efficient use of fertilizers could be a major factor in increasing crop production especially if used in combination with other improved practices.

31. During the decade 1951-1961 the use of fertilizers in terms of plant nutrients had more than doubled in the region (1 million metric tons to almost 2.5 million metric tons). Japan accounted for the greatest proportion of the increase (nearly 1,100,000 metric tons or 75 per cent of the total increase), although a few other countries, particularly India (225,000 metric tons), Pakistan (90,000 metric tons), and Taiwan China (65,000 metric tons), had also considerably increased their use of fertilizers. Still greater efforts would need to be exerted in the immediate future, in the light of estimated requirements for the region.

Trained Personnel

32. The Director-General emphasized that to ensure success investment measures must be supported by strong, active and progressive institutions, particularly training and research institutes. Such institutes must be developed where they did not exist, strengthened where they did, and encouraged in every way to make available the trained manpower needed for agricultural development.

Agrarian Reform and Training

33. The Director-General reminded the delegates that the Tenth Session of the FAO Conference in 1959 gave him a mandate to initiate the establishment of an Agrarian Research and Training Institute in the region. Both then, and at the last Regional

Conference in 1960, there had been strong and unanimous support for the establishment of the Institute, and several governments had offered to serve as host. After careful consideration he had accepted the offer of the Government of the Federation of Malaya, and FAO assisted in the preparation of a request to the United Nations Special Fund. He reported with satisfaction that the Thirty-fourth Session of the Economic and Social Council had given strong support to programs of land reforms, laying particular emphasis on the establishment of Agrarian Research and Training Institutes of the type recommended by FAO Conferences, which he thought should provide further encouragement for the establishment of the proposed Institute for Asia and the Far East.

Agricultural Credit

34. The Director-General then referred to agricultural credit as a vital need of small farmers in the region. Some countries had already carried out extensive surveys on the subject, while others had been contemplating to undertake such surveys assisted by a recent FAO publication entitled "The Methodology of Agricultural Credit Surveys". He underlined the need for developing a sound system for channelling credit to small farmers in order to step up farm production. Cooperative organizations had proved to be of great help towards that end and should be freely used, but efforts must at the same time be made to ensure that the personnel employed were well trained. In 1963 FAO would be organizing a regional centre on institutions for supplying credit to farmers.

World Food Program

35. The Director-General briefly apprised the delegates of the results achieved at the World Food Program Pledging Conference he had attended in New York. Funds and commodities had been pledged by Member Nations for carrying out this 100 million dollar experimental program under the joint auspices of the UN and FAO, and there was unmistakable evidence of support from public opinion in the donor countries. There was indeed no real surplus of food in the world, and the Director-General thought that the Program would expand in future as its role in the economic and social development field became clearer as a result of the experience gained. It was for governments to find ways and means of cooperating with the World Food Program in using food, amongst other things, as an aid to economic and social development, particularly for labour-intensive and rural welfare projects.

The Future Task

36. The Director-General concluded by reminding the delegates that plans and efforts to increase food supplies must comprehend the fact that at current rates of population growth, there would be in Asia and the Far East region alone by the year 2000 A.D. more people than there were in the entire world at the time of the Conference. That was the measure of the task ahead and the stupendous challenge to nations. Member Nations must not, and indeed dare not, fail to make the earth and the vast oceans and seas yield their full bounty so that man might be free from the fear of hunger and want.

III. REVIEW OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION IN THE REGION

37. The Conference reviewed the current and prospective food and agriculture situation in the region, as it appeared in a general analysis prepared by the FAO secretariat (document FERC 62/2), and from more detailed information on the situation in individual countries provided by delegates. The review made it clear that determined efforts were being made to develop the agricultural resources of the region, but that accelerated progress was needed to meet the ever increasing requirements for food for a rapidly growing population and to ameliorate the unsatisfactory nutritional status of a majority of the people in the region. An integrated approach toward agricultural development within the framework of overall economic plans was generally accepted as the best approach.

Agricultural Production

38. Agricultural output in the region ^{1/} had continued to make forward strides since the last Regional Conference. Large gains were made in the 1960/61 crop year, but less favourable weather in 1961/62 resulted in little, if any, additional progress for the region as a whole. Some concern was expressed that the advances had been made principally in grains, sugar and oilseeds, while the production of animal protein foods did not seem to be keeping up with population growth. The region's production of rice may have declined slightly in 1961/62, but wheat production had continued to climb. Record grain crops were reported by the delegates of Korea, Pakistan and the Philippines, and Thailand also had a better than average rice crop, but those in Burma, Japan and Vietnam were not as large as in the preceding year.

39. The production of commercial crops also showed general increases in almost all countries in 1961/62. The main exceptions were static or declining coconut production in Malaya and the Philippines. Sugar production in the region had been maintained at the previous year's level, while tea, jute and rubber production showed substantial increases. The cotton crop was, however, not so favourable.

40. Total agricultural production in Japan increased in both 1960 and 1961, but while output generally followed the pattern of expanding demand, it was insufficient to satisfy increased consumer purchasing power for some products. Consequently prices rose, particularly for fruit, vegetables and milk. Agricultural income per household had registered a 13 per cent increase in 1961, but was still well below those in other occupations.

41. At the time of the Regional Conference, little was known as yet about crop prospects for the 1962/63 crop year. A serious drought had occurred in May and June in Korea, but active measures had been taken to counteract its effects and a harvest slightly above average was expected. Rice production in the Philippines was also likely to increase despite typhoon damage as much replanting had been carried out wherever necessary. Sugar production was also expected to be higher.

Food Consumption and Nutrition

42. Although the average per caput intake of calories had almost reached the pre-war level in most countries in recent years, there had been little noticeable improvement in the quality of the diet. As the production of animal products had generally shown little increase except in Japan, the consumption of animal protein as well as of other protective foods remained far below requirements.

43. The United States delegate reported on a World Food Budget made by his Government. It indicated that only one-third of the world's population had a nutritionally adequate diet, and most of these people lived in temperate zones. For the other two-thirds, which lived generally in semi-tropical and tropical areas, projections to 1962 and 1966

^{1/} Excluding Oceania and Mainland China.

indicated consumption would roughly fall short of nutritional requirements in animal protein equivalent to 1.5 million tons of non-fat dry milk, in pulse protein equivalent to 150,000 tons of dry peas and beans, in fat equivalent to 3 million tons of vegetable oil, and in other protein and calories equivalent to 29 million tons of wheat. The world food problem centred in the Far East which (excluding Mainland China) had two-thirds of the wheat shortage and nearly one-half the animal and pulse protein shortage.

44. The agricultural development plans of most countries of the region focused attention on diversification of agriculture, with a view to improving nutrition through increased production of livestock, livestock products, oil seeds, fruits and vegetables. For example, the present development plan of Thailand placed increased emphasis on production of other crops like legumes, vegetables, fruits. India aimed at providing a balanced diet through the increased production of those protective foods as well as fish, eggs, etc. Malaya had given priority for production of more poultry, eggs, goats and swine to provide more animal protein in the diet and dairy colonies had been started in a small way. Many governments planned to increase fish production, both inland and marine, to provide more animal protein in the diet. India had developed protein-rich foods from oil meals and promotion of this product was being undertaken under the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign.

45. The UNESCO representative mentioned the cooperation with FAO in the field of training teachers in nutrition and home economics. The representative of WHO gave a detailed account of the activities of the Joint FAO/WHO Nutrition Committee under which joint projects had been undertaken for the prevention of nutritional deficiency diseases and nutrition education.

46. However, the general nutrition situation in the region had not improved. Although malnutrition might be due mainly to economic reasons, lack of nutrition education also played an important role.

International Trade in Agricultural Products

47. Many delegates expressed concern at the continuing decline in the terms of trade for agricultural products, which was affecting Member Countries in Oceania as well as in Asia. Prices of agricultural commodities, the principal source of foreign exchange of countries of the region, were falling while the need for capital and other goods for development was increasing. These developments made even more necessary an increase in the efficiency of agricultural production and a lowering of production costs in order to meet better the very competitive conditions in world commodity markets, as noted by the delegates of Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines.

48. The delegates of Ceylon and Indonesia pointed out that population and the demand per caput for food were also increasing, which gave an added impetus to efforts to come closer to self-sufficiency because otherwise the need for increasing food imports might threaten further their already difficult foreign exchange positions. It was a tragic irony that achievement of greater self-sufficiency by food importing countries might have adverse effects on the food exporting countries of this region.

49. Problems of international trade are discussed in greater detail in the next chapter of the report. The statement of the delegate of Indonesia that the rapidly developing technology of the more developed countries was being devoted in part to finding synthetics and substitutes for agricultural products should, however, be specially noted. He felt it would be desirable for such technology to be concentrated more on discovering new uses for such products, and suggested that a technological research institute might be established in the region for this purpose by the UN and FAO.

Agricultural Development Plans and Policies

50. Planning for agricultural development, usually in the context of overall economic plans, had been adopted by all of the less-developed countries of the region, and some

of the other countries as well. Since the last Regional Conference, new plans had been announced or implementation begun by Bhutan, Burma, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, the Federation of Malaya, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Viet-Nam. Agriculture had a prominent place in all the plans, in many cases more so than previously. All less-developed countries of the region had more or less the same problems as pointed out by the delegate of Ceylon: a shortage of capital and foreign exchange resources, population pressure, low levels of income and investment, a dearth of people trained in the technical skills needed to apply the fruits of modern science and technology, a heavy dependence of the economy on agriculture (especially to earn foreign exchange), and problems of unemployment or under-employment. An increase in the efficiency of agriculture was basic for economic development.

51. Some of the main themes which ran through the statements of most delegations as an indication of the type of development programs now being planned and implemented in the region were:

i) Technical measures to increase production and raise productivity

52. There was general agreement that considerable research, agricultural education, and extension of the results to farmers were needed if better methods of agricultural production were to be put into practice in the countries of the region. This was particularly difficult because of the multitude of very small farmers who produced the bulk of the food of the region, as pointed out by the delegate of Ceylon. Research was under way in many countries to discover or adapt improved technical measures to local conditions and to reduce costs of production. For example, it was reported that a soil survey in North Borneo had discovered extensive tracts of fertile soil in the eastern part of the country which were little used for agriculture, while there was a concentration of population in the northern part on poorer soil. A program was therefore under way to move farmers to the more fertile area. A soil fertility survey was also to be made in Ceylon.

53. Almost every delegate reported increased activity in research to raise the productivity of food and other crops, as well as of livestock products. Agricultural education was also undergoing rapid expansion in many countries. For example, India had already established one agricultural university in each of three states and planned to expand this to one in each of all fifteen states by the end of the decade. Pakistan had also set up two rural universities. Equally as important was the training of technicians and field staff to carry the results of research to the farmers. There was a great need to coordinate the efforts at all levels, from the central research and plan formulating agencies to the districts and villages, as mentioned by the delegates of Burma and Indonesia. Associations of farmers at the village level were being encouraged in Thailand to serve as a point of contact for extension workers, while in India the Community Development organization was concentrating on promoting the adoption of improved agricultural practices. In Pakistan, the newly created Agricultural Development Corporations, one in each wing of the country, were to mobilize resources for intensive efforts to improve production, provision to farmers of services and supplies, and marketing.

54. The research on and distribution of improved seeds and other improved planting materials to raise productivity was an important part of the agricultural programs of almost all countries of the region. Several countries, including Burma, Ceylon, the Philippines and Thailand, reported that subsidies were used as a means of hastening the widespread adoption of better seed. A hybrid variety of rice had been developed in Ceylon which gave much higher yields besides responding to fertilizers. In North Borneo, a technique had been developed which permitted rubber trees to be tapped one year earlier than had previously been possible. Replanting programs with high yielding stock were under way in a number of countries, for example, rubber, tea and coconuts. This had in some cases resulted in a temporary drop in a country's production of rubber for example, as old stock was uprooted, but as the new trees came into bearing much higher yields and production were expected.

55. Considerable emphasis was placed by many countries on improving soil fertility as a means of raising output. This included not only plans for a much greater use of chemical fertilizers on food and commercial crops, sometimes under subsidies as in Burma, Ceylon, Malaya and the Philippines. Greater use would also be made of manure and compost, and of green manure crops in some countries.

56. Greater exploitation and more efficient use of both surface and ground water for irrigation were included in the agricultural plans of many countries, including Burma, Ceylon, India, Korea, the Federation of Malaya, Pakistan and Thailand. One important fact was the full use of potential irrigation facilities already created, which, as the delegate of India pointed out, farmers were sometimes slow to adopt. As water was often a limiting factor on production in the region, it was important to put available supplies to the most efficient use. Research and training of cultivators in better use of water was an important aspect of the development program of Malaya, while flood control had a prominent place in Thailand's water resources program. Land development and reclamation were given a prominent place in the programs of, for example, Burma, Ceylon, Laos and Viet-Nam to provide for resettlement. This was also important in the Federation of Malaya, where, in addition, the land under double cropping had increased three-fold in the last decade.

57. Better cultivation practices, land use and farm management were mentioned by the delegates of Ceylon, the Federation of Malaya, India, the Philippines and Thailand. Better farm implements, including simple machines, were expected to increase output in India and Japan. These would ease the toil of farmers, and permit more timely operations. The delegate of Pakistan reported that two pilot schemes of mechanized farming by smallholders on a cooperative basis were to be implemented.

ii) Increased diversification of production and diets

58. This was an important and even urgent aspect of all the agricultural plans of the region. However, changing present patterns of production was an enormous undertaking, as stated by the delegate of Indonesia. A number of different motives for diversifying agricultural production (including fisheries and forestry) were put forward. These included improving the nutritional balance of average diets, reducing excessive dependence of the economy on one or two crops, providing fuller employment for the rural population, increasing farm incomes, and meeting changing conditions of demand. Earnings or savings of foreign exchange were mentioned by a number of countries. The delegate of Ceylon pointed out that the drain on foreign exchange resources resulting from the importation of agricultural commodities which could be produced successfully in his country had acted as a severe limiting factor on the pace of economic development.

59. The development of livestock production was mentioned by most delegates as one important aspect of diversification. This was to be accomplished by importing or upgrading domestic breeding animals, better disease control measures, the distribution to farmers of good quality livestock, the establishment of dairy colonies, provision of more and better animal feedstuffs, etc.

60. Better diets were also expected to result from increased production of fruits, vegetables and pulses, as discussed under another chapter of the report. Development of fisheries and forestry was also of importance in many areas, as outlined below. Other agricultural products mentioned for development included fibres in Viet-Nam, cash crops in Korea, including sericulture, and oil palm, tea and coffee in the Federation of Malaya.

iii) Incentive measures and institutional reforms

61. If farmers were to be expected to increase their efforts and cash outlays to increase and diversify production, it was essential that they should have a reasonable expectation of gain for themselves by so doing. This often called for the removal of social and economic hindrances to greater production, as was pointed out by the delegate of Korea.

62. A first requisite, of course, was security for the farmers' person and property, problems which accounted in part for the modest nature of the current agricultural development programs of Laos and Viet-Nam.

63. A number of delegates stressed that the prompt availability of credit when needed and on reasonable terms was of great importance to increased production, particularly if new cultural practices and materials called for increased cash outlays by farmers. However, this was quite difficult to accomplish in a region where much of the agriculture was carried out on a multitude of very small farms. For example, the delegate of Ceylon reported that 36 per cent of the paddy holdings in his country were one-half acre or less, 44 per cent were between $\frac{1}{2}$ and $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres, and only 15 per cent were larger than $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres. He mentioned that a study of the Japanese system of granting credit was likely to be of great help to his country. Various aspects of credit problems are discussed in more detail under another chapter.

64. Improved marketing systems were also of great importance in ensuring the cultivator a larger share of the price paid by consumers. In this region there was a trend toward greater use of cooperatives for this purpose. These were often of a multi-purpose nature including credit, processing and storage facilities and services, as for example in Ceylon, the Federation of Malaya and India. But the numerous small holdings mentioned above also made the implementation of a better marketing program a major undertaking.

65. Some assurance of a reasonable degree of price stability was considered necessary to provide some guarantee to farmers that prices would not drop to unremunerative levels. The delegate of Laos noted this as a particular need in his country. Most countries in the region had such programs in operation for at least one, and usually for a number of crops, while a program had recently been introduced in Japan covering livestock products as well. Another example was the Rice and Corn Administration in the Philippines which purchases these grains at a floor price, and sells them to consumers when prices reach a specified ceiling. Interest was also expressed in the crop insurance program operated in Japan, which was also operating in Ceylon and in one state in India.

66. Various agrarian reform measures were also being implemented or were under study in a number of countries. For example, in Japan a new law provided that agricultural cooperatives could hold and transfer title to land, and cooperative farming was being encouraged. A land consolidation program was also under way. In Korea, the new Land Reclamation Encouragement Act was intended to stimulate the farmer's desire to expand his holding, and included provision for a subsidy. This country had also established a committee to determine what improvements were needed in the agrarian structure.

iv) Package programs

67. The Conference heard reports from the delegates of India and Pakistan concerning a program under which, in selected districts, all inputs, for example, irrigation, drainage, fertilizer, improved seeds, credit, marketing, extension, etc., necessary for increasing farm production were to be supplied to cultivators in an integrated and intensive manner. The delegate of Pakistan supplemented an earlier report by adding that under the "model scheme" in his country, production in the selected districts since 1960 had already shown an increase of 16 per cent in West Pakistan and 48 per cent in East Pakistan. The delegate of Korea hoped the successful experiences with these programs as well as with pilot cooperative farms in these and other countries would provide illuminating information for his country's study of the agrarian structure.

v) Fisheries

68. The delegations reported that considerable efforts were being made in a number of ways to develop the fisheries resources of the region, and the catch had been increasing. This was of marked importance in a region where the animal protein

consumption of most people was very low, and fish was acceptable to many who did not consume other forms of animal products for religious and other reasons.

69. There was a movement in a number of countries to use mechanized craft and more modern gear for marine fish, for example in Korea, the Philippines, India, Pakistan, Hong Kong and Thailand. In Ceylon and the Federation of Malaya, credit was also provided for this purpose. Mechanization was being accomplished by installation of outboard motors on traditional craft, as well as by inboard diesel engines, and the purchase of modern craft which would permit fishing farther from the shore. An example of international cooperation was the joint fishing company formed by Japan and Ceylon to seek tuna. The need for improved or new harbours and jetties was noted by the delegates of Korea, Ceylon and Pakistan, among others. Research on marine fishing possibilities was also important (see item 14 of the agenda).

70. Many of these new developments required, of course, training of fishermen in such skills as navigation, the handling of modern fishing gear, motor maintenance, fish preservation and storage, etc.

71. Another resource that was being developed was inland fisheries, both by stocking natural water resources and by fish culture in ponds for which some governments provided fry.

72. There was great room for improvement in fish marketing, processing and storage. In some countries, such as the Federation of Malaya, these activities were being organized on a cooperative basis.

vi) Forestry

73. Many delegates stressed the contribution that the forestry resources of the region could make to economic development. Forestry programs in the region included development of farm forestry, economic plantations, rehabilitation of degraded forests, development of forest research, nature conservancy schemes and forest protection measures, all of which were included in the plans of India as well as a number of other countries. The general objective was to help meet long-term requirements for forest products, and ensure more efficient utilization of the available forest products.

74. The delegates of Korea and Pakistan noted the need for reforestation in their countries. In the Federation of Malaya, Burma and Thailand, forest reserves were being established or expanded. The control of shifting cultivation was a long term task which, as the delegate of Laos said, required the development of a type of agriculture new to those people. Attention was also being given to research and to programs for upgrading existing forests and so increasing the yields that could be obtained from them on a sustained basis.

GENERAL POLICY QUESTIONS OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION

IV. AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

- (a) Commodity implications of current national plans in the light of world outlook with special reference to trade problems and economic growth in the region.

75. The Conference recognized that at a time when each country was endeavouring to base its economic development on a well-conceived national development plan, the item on development planning brought up for discussion was most timely and of immediate interest to the countries concerned. It noted that the item dealt with a few selected aspects of planning and proceeded to handle each item separately.

Inter-action between national plans

76. In introducing the first aspect of development planning the Director-General reminded the Conference of the discussions at the Fifth FAO Regional Conference held at Saigon when the need for harmonizing national development plans in the mutual interests of all member countries of the region was raised at his instance. That Conference, after some discussion on the longer-term outlook for agricultural commodities, had recognized that an all-out attempt in every country to achieve national self-sufficiency in agricultural products, important in intra-regional trade, could have harmful effects on the overall economies of individual countries within the region and on the region as a whole. It had accordingly requested the Director-General "to make an objective study of the development plans in the region".

77. The Director-General thereafter presented his study with regard to three important commodities of the region, namely rice, sugar and oilseeds, the results of which were briefly reported in the Conference document FERC 62/3.

78. For each of the three products the studies set out projections of production, of total national requirements, of the consequential import requirements and export availabilities and compared the last two. The Director-General had also taken into account the projections of international trade in 1970 prepared by him for the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems.

Rice

79. The Conference noted that the Director-General's study showed that most of the traditional rice importing countries in the region were planning to increase their own production of rice so as to reduce their imports and, in some cases, even to achieve self-sufficiency in rice. At the same time, some of the traditional rice exporting countries were planning to increase their production for export and were relying on finding larger markets within the region. The Conference was apprised of the concern of the Consultative Sub-Committee on the Economic Aspects of Rice over "the risk of the conflicting national policies causing instability with accompanying repercussions on the economies of exporting countries".

80. The delegate of Malaya announced that as a result of the findings of a recent census carried out in his country, the future import requirements of rice for Malaya were estimated to be considerably higher than the figures available to the Director-General at the time when he had prepared his study. The delegate of Ceylon pointed out that despite the efforts of his country to increase rice production, imports of rice were likely to be maintained for some time to come. Pakistan and the Philippines both estimated that their countries would, on balance, be self-sufficient. Among the traditional exporters, Burma still planned to restore her former rice average, but

Thailand intended to increase her rice output only sufficiently to maintain the present level of her exports. The delegate of Viet-Nam stressed the importance of rice exports for the economy of his country where conditions were particularly favourable for the growing of rice. Nevertheless, Viet-Nam did not plan to increase rice production greatly as she feared difficulties in finding export markets, partly owing to the imports of surplus wheat from other regions on terms specially favourable to buyers. The Conference noted that the outlook for rice would be reconsidered by the Consultative Sub-Committee on Economic Aspects of Rice at its next session in Tokyo, starting on 14 February 1963.

Sugar

81. The Director-General's study showed that the national plans envisaged a greater increase in the import requirements of the region than of its export availabilities. No immediate conflict between national targets was therefore apparent for the region, and intra-regional trade might, in fact, expand, but the situation needed to be carefully reviewed.

82. The delegate of the Federation of Malaya explained that the probable construction of sugar refineries in his country would not reduce import requirements which were, in fact, likely to expand. The only change would be that raw sugar would be imported by Malaya instead of refined sugar.

Oilseeds

83. The Director-General's study indicated that for oilseeds - as for sugar - the import requirements in the region were likely to rise to a greater extent than the export availabilities of countries in the region. There was thus so far no apparent conflict between the national plans within the region. So long as governments permitted consumption demand to be met fully by allowing unrestricted imports, intra-regional trade might well increase.

84. The Philippine delegate stressed the great importance of the exports of oilseeds for the economy of his country. Malaya was proposing to develop the cultivation of oil-palms, but expected her production of copra to decrease until the planned rehabilitation of the coconut palms could become effective.

85. The Conference noted that difficulties similar to those in prospect for rice, might arise for jute and welcomed the news that a special inter-governmental meeting on jute would be held in Bangkok in December 1962 under the joint auspices of FAO and ECAFE to examine relevant aspects of jute.

Self-sufficiency

86. The Director-General, in summing up his studies, emphasized the fallacy of basing development policies on conventional factors in a world which was rapidly changing. Self-sufficiency in food was a concept that needed to be reviewed in the light of such changes.

87. He pointed out that "the main consideration behind the concept of self-sufficiency was the need to assure the people of the basic necessities of life and to take into account any disrupting circumstances such as wars, natural disasters or climatic and other factors affecting production and trade". In this nuclear age, war could mean only total destruction - not just of one or two countries or regions but of the world as a whole. Local disturbances need not interrupt food supplies which could be assured by various means. For needs arising out of natural factors, the world conscience was sufficiently alert to bring the assistance needed and modern means of communication made the task easier. Those conventional factors which in the past had weighed with governments to make self-sufficiency a cardinal policy of national economy therefore no longer applied. The Director-General pleaded that the United Nations

Development Decade should be viewed in the light of such considerations and that national planning should be reviewed broadly to meet the problems which faced the world in the years ahead. He also asked whether the investment each deficit country proposed to make to step up rice production as an "all-out effort" would be commensurate with the results to be achieved. It might be well, he said, if countries did not think in terms of complete self-sufficiency "at any cost" but of "increasing rice production only up to the point where it was economically profitable". Beyond that point the expansion of other more profitable crops would be in the interest of national development. The issue also raised the question of proper land use and maximum agricultural production and raising "productivity" in areas suitable for maximising production instead of extending rice cultivation to marginal land incapable of giving economic returns.

88. Various delegations explained the reasons which made their governments plan for self-sufficiency, or at least lean towards a much smaller reliance on imports for the basic food requirements. The delegate of Ceylon stressed that the present insecurity of the foreign exchange earnings of primary producers was a principal factor in such planning. The delegate of Indonesia stated that his country had saved large sums of foreign exchange by the expansion of her rice production which had not involved any undue capital investment. Pakistan emphasized the great and growing food requirements of the country which made it very risky for her to depend on external supplies. If exporting nations wished to preserve or expand their foreign markets, they should give assurances to their prospective customers that export availabilities would be sufficient to cover import requirements; furthermore, very adequate provision would have to be made for quality control, inspection, loading facilities and economies in shipping costs. The delegate of Laos added the need for the provision and safe-guarding of transit facilities, if land-locked countries were not to join in the race for self-sufficiency. Japan stressed the need for selective expansion based on the changing patterns of consumption.

89. The Conference agreed that, in preparing their plans, countries needed to consider carefully the extent to which the cultivation of any particular crop could be profitably expanded. Thus for rice there were clearly large areas where, owing to ecological conditions, almost no other crop could be grown. But there were also other marginal lands where the ecological factors were such that the cost of growing rice was prohibitively high and yields so low that the land could be used to greater advantage for other crops. The main consideration in choosing crop patterns should be to maximize production by increasing productivity and by making the best possible use of the scarce resources available, having due regard to the diversity of the types of land and water resources available. The diversification of agricultural production, resulting from balanced and efficient use of resources, was also needed to cope with the malnutrition which afflicted many people in the region and which required a greater provision of protective foods.

90. The Conference therefore adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 1/62

THE CONFERENCE

Commending the great efforts already made by Member Governments in the implementation of national development plans,

Noting that these efforts, compared to desirable consumption levels, are nevertheless still not adequate,

Stressing the paramount need to maximize agricultural production as essential to overall economic development in the region,

Noting the resources available for this purpose are limited,

Recognizing the need to make the best use possible of such scarce resources,

Noting the diversity of types of land and water resources both in the region and in each country,

Recalling the malnutrition which afflicts many people in the region and which calls for a greater provision of protective foods,

Stressing the need for the greatest diversification of agricultural production consistent with balanced and efficient use of the region's resources,

Urges Member Governments to pay due regard to the need to increase productivity through more efficient methods of production,

Requests Member Governments to review their national plans so as to encourage the use of each type of land for the growing of the crops economically best suited to it.

Harmonization of national policies

91. The Conference found that countries still tended to draw up their development plans on an uncoordinated unilateral basis. However, there was a growing realization of the great advantages that might accrue from the harmonizing of national plans. The delegate of Japan urged that FAO, possibly in conjunction with ECAFE, should provide a forum in which the countries of the region could compare and discuss their own plans to the mutual advantage of all concerned. Other delegations associated themselves with the recognition of the need for concerted action within the region through the coordination of efforts in agricultural planning.

92. A limited form of such concerted action through bilateral agreements had been welcomed by the Fifth Regional Conference session in 1960. The delegation of Thailand suggested as an example of such possible action an agreement between Thailand and the Philippines, whereby Thailand would sell rice to the Philippines and buy sugar from there in return, thus avoiding the creation of high-cost sugar production in Thailand and of the increase in high-cost rice growing in the Philippines.

93. There was also a general recognition of the fact that such planning within the region must also take into account developments outside the region. Since, as stated elsewhere in the report, the insecurity of foreign exchange earnings was a very important factor in determining government policies, the Conference stressed the need for measures to stabilize the prices of agricultural commodities through International Commodity Agreements or other appropriate arrangements and urged the governments of developed countries to ensure reasonable access into their markets for the agricultural products exported from the region.

94. The Conference also considered the need for measures specifically devised to assist and improve national planning and to enable an approach to be made toward harmonization. As one of these measures, the Conference welcomed the study which the Director-General had prepared for it (FERC 62/3), as well as the Commodity Projections for 1970 published by FAO, which the delegate from Japan described as one of the most valuable documents ever issued by FAO. Delegates also expressed their appreciation for the reports prepared by the Director-General on world markets for individual commodities as well as for his study of the repercussions on countries of the region of economic integration in other regions. The Conference felt it to be very desirable that all such studies should be continued and kept up to date, including if possible, Mainland China.

95. Delegations also considered that the work of these planning authorities in their countries would be assisted by a meeting of experts from the region to review the work

done in the region on commodity projections and on the improvement of techniques to be used in such work. Views were also expressed that national planning authorities might also require technical assistance from FAO to help them in their agricultural planning and with the improvement of their own commodity analysis need for such planning.

96. The Conference then adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 2/62

THE CONFERENCE

Noting a general tendency for countries to draw up their development plans on an uncoordinated unilateral basis,

Commending the Director-General for his analysis of the implications of current development plans of countries of the region for each other,

Noting that such analysis could provide advance warning if conflicts between their agricultural policies seemed likely to arise to the detriment of countries in the region,

Commending the FAO commodity projections to 1970 as being of value as a reference in formulating national agricultural plans,

Considering that agricultural planning must take into consideration trends and projections of markets for agricultural commodities both within the region and for the world as a whole,

Recognizing the great advantages that might accrue from the harmonizing of national plans,

Noting that increased agricultural production in the region is not resulting in increased export earnings,

Considering that this limitation of export earnings from agricultural products, the principal source of foreign exchange, seriously retards the development of countries in this region,

Considering that the achievement of national self-sufficiency at all costs is likely, in the long run, to be harmful to each country and to the region as a whole,

Urges all Member Governments in this region, when formulating or revising their own national plans, to take into consideration the plans of other countries,

Stresses the need for measures to stabilize the prices of agricultural commodities through International Commodity Agreements or other appropriate arrangements,

Urges the governments of developed countries to ensure a reasonable access into their markets for the agricultural products exported from this region,

Requests the Director-General to continue his study of the repercussions of economic integration in other regions on the markets for the agricultural products exported from this region,

Further requests the Director-General to:

- i) Issue similar analyses periodically of the agricultural plans of countries of the region and analyse their implications for each other;
- ii) Convene, possibly in conjunction with ECAFE, a working group of experts in planning from countries of the region to consider these analyses with a view to achieving greater harmony among the targets and policies for agriculture;
- iii) Provide technical assistance in agricultural planning and commodity analysis to countries requesting such aid;
- iv) Issue periodically studies of the world commodity markets;
- v) Continue to bring up to date his commodity projections giving a record of past progress in production;
- vi) Convene a meeting of experts in the region for the purpose of reviewing work done in the field of commodity projections in the region and of improving the techniques to be applied in such projections.

(b) Other major problems being encountered in the planning of agricultural development.

97. The Conference reviewed a wide range of factors involved in enlisting the support of the farmer in achieving national agricultural planning targets.

98. Those responsible for formulating food production plans were sometimes apt to overlook some of the important elements which influence decisions of small farmers upon whom the success of agricultural production plans depend. This was mostly due to insufficient knowledge about the problems of the farmer, the environment under which he worked and the handicaps which militate against his making a greater effort to apply new irrigation methods, fertilizers, improved seeds and improved farm practices which contribute to higher farm production. The Conference therefore recognized the need for improved machinery and arrangements by which more accurate factual information on the situation in which farmers live, work and market their crops and livestock products could be assembled and put at the disposal of planning and development agencies as well as some means of securing participation of representatives of farmers in formulating agricultural plans.

99. The attention of the Conference was drawn to the Report of the FAO/ECAFE Expert Group on Selected Aspects of Agricultural Planning in Asia and the Far East which was regarded as a valuable document on agricultural development planning. Delegates exchanged their experiences regarding some of the specific problems in rural development planning. In the matter of agricultural extension, the services can have their full desirable effect only if the extension agents win the confidence of the farmers with whom they work, in order to be able to convince them of the need to modify traditional cultivation practices which are too often static. In this connection, the association of village councils (Panchayat Raj in India) with the extension workers was regarded as one of the means of securing people's active participation in the implementation of plans. Practical field demonstrations and enlisting the cooperation of farm youth, the future farmers, were also considered as being effective steps.

100. Special efforts were being made in a number of countries to mobilize the capital resources of under-employed rural manpower. In Indonesia and Malaya the tradition of self-help ("Gotong royong") whereby villagers work together in constructing small irrigation ditches and dams and build houses, was a means of developing capital from labour resources not utilized during some seasons of the year.

101. There was general agreement with the conclusion of the Expert Group that in some countries extension and other resources available to promote agricultural development might have been extended too thinly over wide areas which was not conducive to bringing forth the most productive results. Because the cost of providing credit, fertilizer, extension services, and similar facilities on an adequate basis over the whole country might be too great, a policy of concentrating efforts for maximizing production in selected favourable areas had been adopted in India, Pakistan and in the Philippines. This was in addition to providing reasonable facilities in other areas. While the economies of such a policy were recognized in Indonesia, it was felt that social and political considerations required a more uniform allocation of facilities over the country as a whole.

102. Other points significant in agricultural development planning included the provision of accurate weather forecasts which would enable precautions to be taken to minimize losses from crop failures. Arrangements to take advantage of experience in the organization of land settlement could be valuable in countries where there were obligations to settle refugees, for example in agriculture.

Meeting of specialists on techniques of project appraisal

103. Expert analysis had indicated that many of the techniques of financial and economic appraisal of agricultural development projects needed considerable modification before they could be put into practice effectively in this region. A suggestion that a meeting of specialists examine the available techniques in this context in the fairly near future was welcomed by a number of delegations. A question was raised as to whether this work was being undertaken by other agencies. It was pointed out that the techniques of appraisal of agricultural projects in developing countries were not dealt with by any other organization. This subject could, however, become part of the program of the Asian Economic Development Institute which was being established.

104. Particular importance was attached by most delegations to the provision of adequate incentives to farmers to increase their output. Agriculturists could not be expected to make greater efforts and incur extra cost under condition of unsatisfactory tenure, indebtedness, limited and expensive credit, restricted choice of market outlet and excessive marketing margins whereby their expectation of gain was greatly reduced. Unfortunately such deterrents were often still present even where minimum price programs had been introduced by governments for basic food crops, and where substantial effort had gone into fostering the establishment of cooperative marketing and credit associations and other improved rural institutions. In Ceylon, Korea and a number of other countries many difficulties were being experienced in setting up these institutions on a sound footing. The problems of breaking through producer ties with traditional moneylender merchant buyers and of finding suitable personnel to staff new marketing and credit organizations were difficult to solve.

Regional technical meeting on marketing aspects of implementing price policies

105. The Conference noted that in pursuance of a resolution passed at the Fifth FAO Regional Conference held at Saigon in 1960, a technical meeting on Marketing Aspects of the Implementation of Price Policies in Asia and the Far East was to be held at New Delhi, India, in February/March 1963. Since almost every country in the region had adopted price policies intended either to provide greater incentives for increased production of certain basic agricultural food products or to safeguard the interests of the consumer, or both, the meeting could be an important and valuable means of exchanging experiences in this field, and for analysing the information available on the specific problems involved. This meeting was expected to contribute significantly toward making these programs more effective.

Regional marketing survey

106. Unfortunately reliable quantitative information on marketing institutions and channels, credit, cooperatives, social and other factors affecting market incentives

to farmers at the village level was lacking in almost every country in the region. Since these factors influence the effectiveness of agricultural development programs, a proposal that an intensive marketing survey of the region paying special attention to credit cooperatives, etc. be undertaken, was supported unanimously. Whilst FAO could take a lead in this, the collaboration of governments and perhaps universities, private foundations and sources of bilateral and other aid interested in the agricultural development of the region would also be needed. The Korean delegation further suggested that the survey should also cover the interrelationship between marketing and supervised credit as the success of the latter depended to a great extent on the efficiency of the former. Almost all the countries of the region offered their full cooperation in carrying out this survey.

Training of marketing personnel

107. The Conference considered that, in the countries concerned, training of personnel to staff food and agricultural marketing enterprises and services (private, cooperative and public) was of paramount importance. Such training should place special emphasis on practical operational needs in order to provide qualified managers, labour supervisors and skilled technicians essential for the various developmental projects undertaken. Because of the diverse economic and social conditions prevailing in the various countries of the region and as between them and the more highly developed countries it was essential that this type of training should be developed on a permanent national basis so as to cater for the individual needs of each country. It would in any event hardly be feasible to send intermediate and lower level personnel for training in other countries.

108. Certain countries in the region, as for example India, had made a beginning with training courses for marketing officers and market secretaries and superintendents. The Government of Pakistan had recently decided to establish a marketing training and research institute. The FAO assistance rendered hitherto, and planned for 1963, in organizing national training centres was considered a useful step. The Conference urged FAO to continue providing assistance in this field and specifically to give all possible help to the member countries in organizing such training courses, preferably on a permanent basis.

Regional Marketing Advisory Group

109. The setting up of a Regional Marketing Advisory Group which could take greater advantage of the experience in marketing improvement available in a few countries of the region was considered. The Group could help in developing marketing training techniques under local conditions and otherwise assist in national training and improvement programs. It could also become a valuable means for exchange of experiences, appraise progress and provide guidance. A number of delegates, including those of Korea, India, Burma and Pakistan, supported the proposal, considering that it reflected the needs of the region especially those of countries which had recently initiated marketing improvement programs and wanted to benefit from the experience of others who had had an early start in this field.

110. The Conference adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 3/62

THE CONFERENCE

Considering the vital importance of marketing systems in providing an incentive to farmers to expand their output of needed produce,

Noting the improvements needed in marketing in most countries of this region,

Urges the governments of the region to participate in a technical meeting on Marketing Aspects of Price Policies in 1963;

Viewing the lack of reliable information on marketing, especially at the farm level,

Considering the many complaints by cultivators of unfair prices,

Considering also the lack of trained personnel and training facilities which constitutes a serious obstacle to plans for establishing better marketing structures,

Further considering that a few countries of the region have gained some experience of ways to improve marketing,

Recommends to the Director-General of FAO that he take the initiative in:

- i) sponsoring, with the cooperation of governments and other interested agencies, an intensive marketing survey of the various countries of the region including credit and cooperative marketing, etc.;
- ii) providing assistance in organizing national marketing training centres;
- iii) the establishment of a Marketing Advisory Group or similar machinery to promote suitable training techniques and offer other needed services.

Nutritional considerations

111. Despite the availability of cereals, especially rice, in most countries of the region, calorie deficiency was below the required level and nutritional deficiency diseases like protein malnutrition, anaemia, and beri-beri, were still prevalent in most of the countries.

112. Nutritional considerations had been taken into account in the agricultural development plans of some of the countries in the region though in other countries this concept had not received much attention as yet. The production of protective foods like fish, meat, milk, pulses, vegetables and fruits was far below the nutritional requirement to satisfy even present needs let alone to meet the needs of rapidly increasing populations.

113. In order to take into account nutritional considerations in agricultural development plans, it was felt that nutrition services might be started or strengthened in the Ministries of Food and Agriculture in the region. Some of the governments in the region were reported to be taking appropriate measures. In Indonesia, a Food Council at ministerial level had been functioning as a coordinating body for food production as related to nutrition. In Central Java, a nutrition committee was also focussing the attention of farmers on the need to increase production of nutritive foods with the main objective of improving people's diets. The third five-year plan of India focused attention on providing a balanced diet for the population, and a National Nutrition Committee had been established with members from the Ministries of Health, Agriculture, Community Development and other appropriate agencies. A Nutrition Division had also been set up in the Department of Food in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. Nutritional standards had been taken into consideration in setting national targets for agricultural production in the Philippines. While recognizing the awareness of the individual countries of the need for agricultural planning and the diversification of their agricultural crops, it became apparent that such planning should consider the immediate nutritional needs of the growing population. Consequently, short and medium term plans were found to be necessary in the countries of the region as a means to improving their nutritional standards. The delegate of Malaya proposed that a Regional Food and Nutrition Commission with a permanent Advisory Committee might be established with a view to assisting Member Governments in formulating short and

medium term plans. After some discussion it was generally agreed that the matter would require most careful examination, not only because of the financial implications it raised but also because of the possibility of achieving the same objectives by practical measures other than the setting up of an independent commission to deal with nutritional planning aspects alone.

114. The Conference accordingly recommended that the Director-General of FAO examine appropriate machinery through which countries of the region could be assisted in developing short and medium term measures designed to satisfy nutritional considerations based on attainable consumption targets within their overall agricultural development plans.

(c) The problems of statistical data
in planning.

115. The Conference noted that earlier discussions on the need for an integrated and well coordinated approach to agricultural development planning in countries of the region had brought into focus the importance of statistical data in planning. The main difficulty with regard to such development activities of countries in the region is the shortage of adequate statistical data and information, particularly in the fields of food and agriculture. Such data as were available in many countries of the region had many gaps with respect to scope, coverage, timeliness, accuracy and comparability and therefore fell short of satisfying the needs of national planners. While the FAO had succeeded in promoting the world agricultural censuses in the region, much remained to be done in the development of a sound permanent system for current agricultural statistics.

116. The Eleventh Session of the FAO Conference had recommended the increase of assistance to countries in developing their systems of agricultural statistics and food consumption surveys and the strengthening of the regional statistical set-up in the various regions. It recommended that consideration be given to the establishment of a permanent machinery which would review continuously the state of food and agricultural statistics, advise countries on their development within a standardized co-ordinated framework, and assist in the establishment of specialized groups of national experts to discuss technical statistical problems posed by conditions prevailing in the region. The Conference noted that pursuant to the above recommendations of the FAO Conference, Regional Commissions on Agricultural Statistics were in the process of being established in other regions. The question of possible duplication of work of such a Commission, should one be set up in the region, and that of the Conference of Asian Statisticians was raised. It was pointed out that in the absence of a more satisfactory machinery, FAO's activities in the field of food and agriculture statistics in the region had to be referred to the Conference of Asian Statisticians. It was observed, however, that the Conference of Asian Statisticians and its working groups had been concerned mainly with statistics in fields other than food and agriculture. For this reason it had been barely possible at their meetings to pay adequate attention to the methodological aspects of specialized fields of food and agricultural statistics. The question of the financial implications of setting up such a permanent machinery for agricultural statistics was also raised. It was explained that this was a matter for the FAO Conference to examine, should there be a recommendation from the Regional Conference in favour of setting up such a body.

117. The Conference, after full discussion on the merits of setting up machinery for statistical data, came to the conclusion that there were strong grounds for making suitable arrangements for meeting the needs of agricultural statistics and for this purpose it recommended that the Director-General should be requested to examine the feasibility of setting up suitable machinery for the purpose, taking into account the functions of existing organizations in the region and their possible contributions towards the same end.

(d) Effective use of external assistance

1) Technical cooperation programs

118. The Conference noted with satisfaction the steadily increasing number and variety of technical assistance programs sponsored by or through FAO. Information was provided by the Resident Representative of the United Nations Technical Assistance Board and Director, Special Fund Projects in Malaya, to the effect that, during 1961, total expenditure on field projects under the UN Technical Assistance Program totalled US\$31.3 million, of which US\$8 million related to projects within the fields of activity of FAO. Of this sum, about US\$2.3 million was directed to agricultural and related projects in Asia and the Far East. This comprised the provision of 154 international experts and of 61 awards of fellowships for studies and training abroad. Since January 1959, when the UN Special Fund was set up, a total of 246 projects had been approved calling for Special Fund support to a total value of US\$210 million. FAO was made the executing agency for 96 projects with a total contribution of over US\$76 million. Eleven of these projects, with Special Fund support of US\$9.7 million, were in the Asia and Far East region.

119. The Conference noted that the Organization's activities in the field included the rendering of technical assistance under its own Regular Program, the Expanded Program of Technical Assistance, the UN Special Fund, Joint FAO/UNICEF Program, projects under the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign, the World Food Program, the use of volunteers and Trust Funds projects. In addition, governments received bilateral assistance from other sources such as governments, foundations and other agencies. Each of the technical assistance programs had its own characteristic features and its own distinctive role to play in the economic development of the countries concerned. Utilized in appropriate combinations, such assistance could meet a variety of needs of governments, and should have the greatest impact when coordinated and integrated with a country's own development plans.

120. With the increasing number of projects and aid programs, the Conference recognized the importance attaching to the coordination and integration of such programs within each country. Views were expressed by some of the delegates on arrangements made for administering technical assistance funds. Such arrangements included special coordinating committees consisting of representatives of concerned departments and international agencies as well as separate administrative units devoting exclusive attention to the problem, in certain cases directly under the Prime Minister's secretariat. It was noted that the experience of such countries would be of value to other countries wishing to set up similar suitable machinery to achieve these objectives.

121. In this connection emphasis was laid on the importance of having access to readily available information and advice on the various types and sources of technical assistance programs, including their special features, namely, the procedures for submission of requests, time of submission and agencies involved. Views were expressed that a seminar might be arranged for key officials dealing with technical assistance programs in order to enable an exchange of ideas between countries in this regard. A publication on rules and procedures and methods of operation of the various technical assistance programs sponsored by the FAO was regarded as another useful method of providing information to member countries.

122. The Conference recognized the important role of FAO Country Representatives in providing useful advice with regard to the various types of assistance channelled through FAO. It was also noted that the UN Technical Assistance Board Resident Representative served as a contact point for resources and help available through all UN agencies and that he was supported in this task by the Country Representatives of Specialized Agencies in their respective spheres of competence.

123. Observations were also made that, with the growing volume of assistance programs, the Country Representatives would require some strengthening of their offices to meet their increasing responsibilities.

124. Emphasizing the training aspects of the program, the Conference stressed the need for technical manpower resources surveys. Such surveys would indicate the availability of technical skills in a country, which correlated with the foreign aid required to implement development activities would facilitate the judicious selection of those fields of interest where the foreign aid programs could play a valuable role.

125. The Conference was apprised of proposals approved by the 34th Session of the Economic and Social Council that EPTA experts might perform OPEX-type assignments, as and when appropriate, if a country wished to strengthen its administrative structure temporarily while its own officials were being trained. This view was strongly shared by FAO and member countries could now take advantage of the EPTA program to strengthen the local administrative structure where necessary pending the training of key officials.

126. A number of suggestions were made designed to improve the administering of technical assistance programs. It was thought that assistance should be given in such a way that a technical assistance expert would have a clear indication of the type of work to be done according to a program to be given to him on appointment. The expert should also be briefed in advance about the social characteristics of the people and the need to fulfil the ideals of the United Nations. Action on requests for UN experts should be processed more rapidly.

127. In addition to internal coordination within a country, there was scope for improving coordination at the level of international agencies. The Conference was apprised of standing arrangements under the supervision of the Economic and Social Council to review, on a continuous basis, such coordination and consequent avoidance of duplication.

128. In the light of the discussions, the Conference made the following recommendations:

- a) The effective utilization of various technical assistance programs would require suitable coordinating machinery within a country, and arrangements already satisfactorily made by some member countries through ministerial coordinating committees and special units in appropriate ministries could be usefully followed by other governments.
- b) To achieve their greatest impact, aid programs should be coordinated and integrated within a country's own national development plan.
- c) In the process of coordination and integration, the Country Representatives of FAO should play an important role.
- d) FAO should consider organizing a regional seminar for national administrators and key officials engaged in technical assistance programming operations in order to acquaint them fully with the different programming, planning and operation processes and the rules of procedure for administering the various programs.
- e) The Director-General should consider the issuance of a suitable publication describing the characteristic features and the distinctive role of the different types of aid programs handled by FAO.
- f) For the effective utilization of training facilities provided under the technical assistance programs, Member Governments should consider the feasibility of undertaking technical manpower resources surveys and FAO should be requested to render all possible assistance in this regard.

ii) World Food Program

129. The Conference took note of Conference document FERC 62/6(b) on the World Food Program, and the statement of the Regional Representative of the Director-General bringing up to date the information provided in the document. The Conference particularly noted that the World Food Program should be regarded as one of the important means available to FAO to fulfil the objectives of the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign started by the Organization in July 1960. It was also apprised of the origin of the World Food Program which could be traced to a report prepared by the Director-General entitled "Development through Food - A Strategy for Surplus Utilization". That report recognized that surpluses of food in certain parts of the world could indeed be used for economic development in other parts which were not so fortunately situated, and in fact on a global basis there could hardly be any surplus at present.

130. The Conference also noted that a 20-nation joint UN/FAO intergovernmental committee meeting from time to time gave broad guidance on the implementation of the World Food Program. It was also then apprised of the appointment of an Executive Director of the World Food Program with a joint UN/FAO Secretariat located at FAO Headquarters in Rome. The Executive Director had been working under the general direction of the Secretary General of the United Nations and the Director-General of FAO following procedures jointly framed by both Organizations.

131. The Conference was appreciative of the fact that the essential features of the World Food Program were intimately linked with the work of FAO and that it would make extensive use of FAO's technical guidance and administrative services in executing the Program.

132. The Conference welcomed the establishment of the World Food Program as a multi-lateral program designed to meet not only emergency food situations but also to assist in seeking solutions through economic development to the basic problems of malnutrition and hunger.

133. The Conference recognized both the experimental nature of the Program and the limited resources at present available to it and stressed the need to utilize those largely for supporting projects in the field of agricultural development in the recipient countries which would contribute to enduring results.

134. An enquiry was made as to the availability of stocks from the World Food Program to build up food reserves, but it was indicated that the scale of the present program would only permit allocation for this purpose in a small area where needs were modest.

135. A suggestion was made that a suitable project for support under the program might be the provision of assistance to Laos to help in the program of resettling refugees and the soldiers likely to be demobilized in the near future.

136. The Conference expressed its great satisfaction at the setting up of the World Food Program and keen interest in its future progress.

V. FREEDOM-FROM-HUNGER CAMPAIGN IN RELATION TO
DEVELOPMENT AND THE WORLD FOOD CONGRESS

137. The Conference recognized that the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign symbolized a re-dedication of FAO to its basic purposes, by seeking to raise the productivity, income and welfare of rural peoples everywhere. This was to be achieved through a mobilization of the talents, energies and determination of the people in the battle against hunger and poverty.

138. Among the new approaches started since the FFHC was launched two years ago, six major types of activities were considered: i) setting up of National FFHC Committees; ii) World Food Congress; iii) programs of information and education; iv) action programs; v) cooperation with industry; and vi) cooperation with other UN agencies.

139. National FFHC Committees had been set up in 46 countries, of which 12 are located in this region. In addition, five other countries of the region were participating in the Campaign in one form or another. These Committees included representatives not only of the government but also of private, cooperative and other non-governmental organizations and individual leaders from many walks of life, so as to make the Campaign a vigorous peoples-to-peoples program and to provide a link between governments and people for promoting effective measures to combat malnutrition.

140. A World Food Congress was to be held in June 1963 in Washington which would be attended by participants from all parts of the world and from all walks of life. The problems of hunger and malnutrition would be discussed at the Congress from the technical, economic, social, educational and research points of view. The Congress would focus the attention of the world public on the tremendous task of providing adequate food supplies for the world's rapidly growing population. As a forerunner to the Congress there would be a "Freedom-from-Hunger Week" in March 1963 to be observed throughout the world. It was urged that all countries of the region hold a National Food Congress.

141. The Conference was apprised of an information and education program organized by FAO to assist all those engaged in the Campaign which would be centred around a series of 14 "Basic Studies", which dealt with key issues, such as "Possibilities of Increasing Food Production", "Population and Food Supplies", "National Economic Development and Demand for Food", and "Nutrition and Working Efficiency". These studies would be written in non-technical language so that the general public could read and understand them. Nine of the 14 studies had already been issued or would soon be released. In addition, FAO was preparing a report on a World Food Survey which would be presented at the World Food Congress.

142. Action programs had been started in various parts of the world through the support of National Committees and civic organizations. In this region, a growing number of countries had a variety of projects in various stages of preparation and implementation.

143. The Conference learned that various industries are cooperating in the Campaign. An example was the fertilizer industry which, through associations in various parts of the world, was sponsoring a 5-year program of studies of fertilizer requirements and fertilizer trials and demonstrations in the Near East, Africa and Latin America. The industry was contributing about US\$350,000 a year to FAO for carrying out this work. Similarly, food processing industries and others were offering their cooperation in the Campaign.

144. Cooperation with other UN agencies on matters concerning the Campaign had been established, as for example in the broad planning activities under the UN Development Decade and the UN Special Fund and EPTA programs. Cooperation with National FFHC Committees in the Region would be strengthened through meetings with FAO.

145. The Conference considered that the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign could give a new sense of purpose and direction and unify the dispersed efforts now being made in different fields of work by national governmental and non-governmental organizations in the field of food and agriculture. Work in food and agriculture should, it believed, be treated as vitally urgent, demanding a new impetus, if it was to meet the challenge offered by the need to feed a rapidly increasing population.

146. Delegates expressed their strong support of the Campaign and reported on progress in their own countries. India had set up an FFHC Fund to which non-governmental organizations had so far contributed two million rupees which were exempt from income tax. The National FFHC Committee had so far approved 13 projects for implementation and had undertaken an intensive information and education campaign. The United Kingdom reported on the widespread efforts of their National Committee to stimulate public interest in the Campaign for which it expected to raise £8 million. In Australia, the National Committee aimed at a target of £A1 million and had already sanctioned a number of projects to be implemented mainly in this region. New Zealand also had an active Committee carrying on information and education work which was provided with funds from voluntary contributions for initiating a series of active projects. The USA would serve as host to the World Food Congress, and in addition, a Freedom-from-Hunger Foundation has been formed to promote the Campaign and receive voluntary contributions. Moreover, the government was cooperating in the Campaign on a bilateral basis through the Food for Peace Program. The Philippines was in the process of establishing not only a National FFHC Committee but also committees at the provincial level, while the cooperation of rural schools was being enlisted to promote home gardens and poultry enterprises. Pakistan had organized an FFHC Symposium in March 1962. Her National Committee was very active and had already launched several schemes. Laos was making preparations leading to the formation of a National Committee, and was giving its full support to the Campaign. Japan was preparing a comprehensive case study of the history of the development of Japanese agriculture as a contribution to the FFHC. In Indonesia, the Campaign was going ahead under the title "Command for Operation Welfare" and was concerned with such practical matters as the use of better seeds, fertilizers, farming techniques, improved irrigation and control of pests and diseases. France reported that for the year 1961 the National FFHC Committee had collected one million new francs to finance action projects, especially in the fields of nutrition, food production and education. In the Netherlands, Youth, and other organizations, had contributed US\$1 million for use in improving the diet of people in African countries. The Federation of Malaya reported on activities of its National Committee. Funds contributed to the FFHC were exempt from taxation. The government had also authorized the issue of FFHC postage stamps. The delegate of Ceylon termed the FFHC "the noblest of all programs initiated by FAO" and reported that their Committee had approved a number of action projects. The Observer from the World Veterans Federation said that his organization strongly supported the Campaign and was especially interested in food producing projects.

147. Reports from delegations showed that a great deal of stress was being placed by governments and by National Committees on educational and informational aspects of the Campaign. Many of them were preparing and distributing FFHC booklets, leaflets, posters and other material and were seeking the support of their national press and radio.

148. The Conference was advised that the population explosion and the attainment of political independence by the countries of Asia and Africa, both invested the problems of hunger and malnutrition with a growing urgency. The Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign was primarily educational in aim and intended to create in the developed countries a climate of informed opinion with a view to intensifying aid, whilst in the developing countries it would emphasize the need for national effort and national planning with foreign aid acting as a supplement.

149. The World Food Congress would meet in June 1963 in Washington. All the member nations of the United Nations family were expected to attend and it was believed that

about 1,200 people would be present. The World Food Congress was a "people to people" meeting. It aimed at mobilizing public opinion with a view to the involvement of the people in future action. The number of written papers would be kept to the minimum and ample scope given for full and free discussion. The Conference also noted the details of the organization and procedure of work of the Congress.

VI. INCREASING GRAIN LEGUMES AND VEGETABLE PRODUCTION
FOR BETTER HUMAN NUTRITION

150. The Conference recognized that there was a serious problem of malnutrition prevalent in the region. Particular stress was laid on the need for intensified production of protein-rich protective foods which should invariably be taken into account when preparing long-range development plans. Other measures which would bring about desired improvements were crop diversification and the development of well-balanced crop rotations which should comprehend both the agronomic and nutritional factors involved. Special attention should be paid to leguminous fodder crops and the role of research in bringing about these desired improvements should be fully recognized. Increasing attention should be paid to protein-rich foods such as eggs, milk, meat and leguminous plants. The Conference noted that the production of animal protein was certainly expensive and recognized that there was competition between food and fodder crops. It considered that this could best be resolved by improved animal husbandry practices on the one hand and, on the other, the consumption of the products of improved animal husbandry by the local populations.

151. The Conference heard with interest reports presented by the delegations of India, Indonesia, Japan, Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand, who reported in some detail on the progress achieved in their respective countries in the production and consumption of protective foodstuffs such as vegetables, fruits and grain legumes. The Conference expressed concern at the losses in these valuable crops through deficient transport and inadequate marketing and storage facilities. It emphasized that all governments should pay particular attention to the problem of avoidance of such losses.

152. Other basic problems which faced governments in the region and militated against increased production were the strong food preferences and dislikes and the food habits of the people in many countries of the region. It was recognized that food habits are slow to change and that improvements could not wait on such changes. In this connection, particular attention should be paid by governments to nutritional education and they should take the lead in persuading the rural population to consume more fruits and vegetables. The Conference urged FAO to assist the governments in every way it could to achieve greater progress in this field. Some of the delegates stressed the need for developing export markets for fresh fruits and vegetables, while at the same time industries for the conversion of such fruits and vegetables should also be encouraged; for example, canning, dehydration and the manufacture of fruit preserves and juices.

153. The Conference noted that there was quite a wide variation in the progress achieved in this field in the different countries of the region. Consequently, the assistance to be provided to governments depended on each country's state of advancement. Some required assistance in initial surveys and information on research carried out elsewhere in the field of production. Others who had passed beyond that stage were faced with the problem of promoting consumption and improving the marketing of their perishable products. The more advanced countries, on the other hand, were faced with the problem of finding suitable foreign markets as well as with the problem of raising the necessary finances for the development of the industries referred to, such as canning and processing of fruits and vegetables.

154. The Conference welcomed the expressions of goodwill on the part of many governments and commended the close cooperation which already existed between certain countries. The Conference also expressed gratification for the offers of help made by the delegates of Australia and the Netherlands. Unanimous support was expressed for the holding of a technical meeting on the improvement of grain legumes and vegetable production and protection in tropical Asia proposed to be held in 1964. The Conference considered that the meeting should provide a forum for the exchange of information and experiences between countries with similar agro-climatic conditions. The delegate of the United Kingdom, whilst supporting the proposal, expressed concern lest the subject-matter scope of the meeting should be so wide as to inhibit the presence of the specialists in these fields.

155. The Conference, in the light of the problems discussed, recommended to the Director-General that he organize a Technical Meeting for Asia and the Far East in 1964 which would deal with the production of improved legumes. The aim of such a meeting, which should be attended by both agriculturists and nutritionists, should be to:

- a) Study available technical and economic information on present and potential production of food legumes in Asia and the Far East.
- b) Study the measures necessary for expanding production of these legumes, with particular reference to:
 - i) agricultural research facilities available in the various countries;
 - ii) the means for introduction of suitable crop rotations within the overall framework of, and bearing in mind the necessity for, crop diversification;
 - iii) the measures necessary to persuade farmers to adopt improved cultivation practices.
- c) Consider the uses to which food legumes, whether fresh, dried or processed, could be put.
- d) Consider measures for reducing losses by pest disease in the production of legumes.
- e) Consider how improved transport and storage could also serve to reduce losses.
- f) Study the food preferences and dislikes, and food habits, of people in the region, insofar as they affect the increased consumption of legumes.

156. The Conference also recommended to the Director-General that he consider the possibility of appointing a specialist in food legumes in the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Far East.

VII. THE ROLE OF INTEGRATED LAND AND WATER DEVELOPMENT
PLANNING IN ACCELERATING ECONOMIC PROGRESS

157. The Conference noted that most of the older cultivated areas in the region have problems of heavy population density, small and fragmented holdings, and low levels of production. The suggested solution was to break the vicious cycle of low production and low living standards by increasing farm productivity. To this end, it was considered necessary to adopt modern aids in agricultural production such as fertilizer use, plant protection, improved cultivation practices, better crop varieties, good irrigation practices and drainage facilities. The delegations from India, Pakistan, Thailand and the Philippines reported that judicious combinations of modern farming methods often doubled production, and served to raise the farmers' incomes two or three-fold making new farming systems possible. In areas where the systems of fallowing were found, the use of suitable soil amendment measures could assist production. Areas of land could also be diverted to the growing of livestock feeds so as to increase the livestock products as well as animal power and contribute to soil improvement.

158. The Conference considered that it would not be possible to apply all improved farm practices at once and everywhere. It would be more effective to start with some carefully selected measures in a few carefully selected pilot demonstration and on-the-job training projects. This required a fairly detailed survey and the preparation of a plan for specific action. The Conference recognized that the implementation of such pilot, demonstration and training projects required well-qualified personnel and certain supporting government services, such as extension advice and farm credit for farmers to enable them to adopt improved land and water use practices. The Conference emphasized that the number and sizes of such pilot demonstration and training projects should not be larger than the government could adequately administer and finance.

159. The Conference supported the following measures for integrated planning of land and water development both on presently cultivated and newly developed areas.

160. The Conference considered that improvement of land and water use and assistance to farmers in attaining higher productivity and income, should be based on surveys of soil and water resources, current patterns of land use, existing farming systems and present practices, potential use capability of soil and water resources in relation to marketing possibilities, and on the characteristics of the rural economy of the area. Such surveys should be based largely upon available information and must be of sufficient detail to lay the groundwork for planning specific projects. It was pointed out that the project area should be large enough to represent the main problems in adjustment of land use in a given area, and small enough to be adequately administered, serviced and financed. In the selection of such a project area, it was important to consider the potential productive capacity of land and water including the basic soil characteristics which must be sufficiently favourable so that the prospective increase in returns will more than repay costs to farmers and to the work.

161. The Conference emphasized that the preparation of a land and water use improvement plan for each project area should lay out in some detail the main adjustments in land use as between cultivated, grazing, and forest land; the major practical measures needed to achieve maximum beneficial use of the land and water resources through improved soil and water conservation practices; appropriate cultural and cropping practices; improved crop varieties and seed fertilizer and machinery use; animal production and other farm management practices and their likely effect on farm income; estimates of possible production increases and of costs and benefits to be expected from the project. It would be essential to ensure that farmers were offered effective incentives and protected against real or imagined risks before they would be willing to participate actively in the project; specific kinds of government services required to implement the program, including adequate provision for in-service or on-the-job training of local technical officers, village administrative officers and farm leaders.

162. The Conference recognized that serious difficulties and waste of funds and human effort had occurred in the past, because adequate surveys of land and water resources had not preceded land and water development including colonization projects and that proper planning and implementation had not always been carried out. The Observer from the World Veterans' Federation stressed the importance of such pre-investment surveys in the light of the Federation's experience in assisting several land and water use projects.

163. The delegates from France, U.K. and U.S. pointed out that integrated planning in land and water development should carefully consider the human factor. Certain projects which were considered technically sound could not be successfully implemented because of the lack of understanding and support of the local people.

164. The Conference favoured the use of subject matter specialists attached to the FAO Regional Office, to cooperate as a team and to advise Member Governments, upon request, on various aspects of planning for increased production through a simultaneous application of a few simple strategic practices such as water use, fertilizer, better seeds, pesticides, farm implements and machinery, and farm management and planning in order to get the best returns from land and water development projects. Many delegations stressed the need for specialists in the field of water control, irrigation and drainage practices, to combat water logging, salinity, and other yield-depressing effects resulting from improper water use. In view of the urgent need for integrated planning in this field, such a "team approach" should include a nucleus of specialists on water use, soil fertility, mechanisation, tropical crops and farm management economics appraisal, which might from case to case be complemented by one or more other specialists according to the nature of the project.

165. The Conference therefore recommended that the Director-General be requested to provide for a regional specialist in irrigation practices and drainage facilities needed to fill a serious gap, and to consider the feasibility of making available to Member Governments, on request, an appropriate team of specialists to advise them on land and water development and farming improvement projects in which they are interested; such as (1) planning realistic production programs for rice and other important crops in the context of agricultural development planning, (2) selection of several typical farming areas for organizing concrete demonstration and on-the-job training projects for accelerating improved land and water use and farming methods and evaluation of projects already in progress, (3) preparation of specific project proposals for the UNSF and other agencies offering technical assistance pre-investment or capital aid, (4) other tasks related to agricultural development planning and implementation of programs for accelerating agricultural progress.

VIII. THE ROLE OF SUPERVISED CREDIT IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

166. The Conference was unanimously agreed on the urgency of the credit needs of the average farmer in the region. Since credit in many cases was provided by government sponsored institutions, not only was the amount in circulation small in comparison with needs, but in addition the formalities required in obtaining it were often so rigid and complicated that it was almost impossible for small farmers to comply with them. Consequently the farmer continued to rely on money-lenders and paid an exorbitant rate of interest as a result.

167. The Conference noted that the paper dealt specifically with supervised credit which could be carried out in conjunction with the organization of local co-operatives and the strengthening of extension services. The proposal was limited to a few pilot areas for demonstration and training purposes, and for providing valuable lessons in the application and methods of agricultural credit.

168. The attention of the Conference was drawn to the distinction between supervised credit and ordinary bank credit. The former laid emphasis on the education of the farmer through the services of the extension worker, and the provision of credit on the basis of a farm plan. Loan security would be based on the credit-worthiness of the individual farmer, his production potential, and the marketing of his produce through a co-operative organization.

169. The Conference learned that the idea of promoting supervised credit on a pilot project basis was not altogether new in the region. The Intensive Agricultural Districts Program in India, the Supervised Credit Projects in Burma, the Mechanized Farming Project in Comilla, East Pakistan, were cited as practical examples of this idea. In Taiwan/China, there was an integrated pilot project on rural reconstruction while in Burma there were two pilot projects on supervised credit, referred to above: one on sugar cane production and the other on cotton production.

170. The Conference noted that in any pilot area there were always some progressive farmers, who could be selected and trained, to serve as demonstrators of improved practices. They would gradually become centres of influence in their own neighbourhood.

171. The Conference was advised that at the start a pilot project should not be too ambitiously planned, nor too limited, and that it might begin with production loans for one or two major crops. The initial success of the project would gain the confidence of the people, and it would also set up a chain of reaction among them, making other improvements feasible later on.

172. Credit without supervision might be wasted. Farm-planning without adequate financing and provision of farm supplies would remain a paper plan. To do all these things successfully, farmers must be trained and organized so that they could become more productive and rely more on themselves.

173. The Conference learnt with satisfaction that the FAO Regional Office in Bangkok had been assisting and would continue to assist member governments upon request, in the organization of national extension training centres and the planning of extension pilot projects, by providing the services of a team of experts for a period of two to four weeks in each case, depending upon the level of training to be imparted. The Conference was advised that such requests should be made to the Regional Office at least six months in advance so as to allow time for the necessary preparations to be made.

IX. THE DEVELOPMENT OF LIVESTOCK INDUSTRIES IN THE FAR EAST

174. The Conference noted the general trends of development in livestock production in the Region, and recorded its conviction that the accelerated production of proteins of high biological value in the forms of meat, milk and eggs was a matter which called for urgent measures. Although livestock production was showing considerable gains in most countries, it was offset by the increase in populations and by the demand for better living standards including improved nutrition. It was appreciated that the satisfactory increases in crop yields were approaching the human requirements for carbohydrates, but that the production of assimilable proteins required longer term planning and the full integration of animal production with plant production.

175. The Conference considered the report of the Third Far East Meeting on Animal Production and Health, held in Bangkok in December, 1961, and endorsed the recommendations with emphasis on the following:-

- a) Increased beef and dairy production through planned breeding programmes for cattle and buffaloes, allied with increased fodder production.
- b) The provision of such incentives as improved marketing provisions and processing facilities.
- c) Improved swine, sheep and goat production, with the establishment of breeding centres from which stock could be distributed to farmers, this having a special application in locations where cattle production is difficult.
- d) The integration of teaching, research and extension work in all fields of agriculture, with added emphasis on specialised training and the dissemination of current information.
- e) The improvement of livestock and poultry production through modern methods of disease and parasite control, which offer a means of rapid increase in output and the prevention of the crippling losses caused by disease and sub-standard health in livestock and poultry.

176. Considerable emphasis was laid by delegations on the rapidity with which results can be obtained from poultry and pig production, especially when disease could now be adequately controlled. It was appreciated that beef production required lengthier planning, but it was obvious that both beef and dairy production were on the increase in the Region, and it appeared that this trend would continue and should be encouraged wherever it was feasible. Delegations laid emphasis on the small farmer, especially in regard to pig and poultry production and to the necessity for disease control measures.

177. In regard to protein production it was obvious that the work and objectives of the Technical Divisions of FAO were interlocking and complementary. Delegations indicated the great opportunities for expansion of animal production which were associated with rational land and water use, economic crop rotation, competent farm management, improvement and wider utilization of range lands, and elimination of the mismanagement which leads to over-stocking, over-grazing and erosion. Special consideration was given to the world situation in regard to epizootics, and the Conference noted with concern the severe depredations caused in many countries by such diseases as foot-and-mouth disease (in particular the SAT I virus), African horse sickness, African swine fever, and other diseases, which, in part as the result of the growing ease and speed of transport, appeared now to be escaping their traditional boundaries and invading new territories. It was appreciated that the Far East Region was no less vulnerable to invasion by disease than other areas. It was suggested that consideration should be given to an agreed convention on livestock quarantine regulations along the lines of the Phyto-Sanitary Convention for South East Asia.

178. The Conference unanimously approved the convening by FAO of a technical meeting in the near future on the Differential Diagnosis of Rinderpest and indicated that, in view of recent advances in this specialised subject, all countries should be fully informed of the latest techniques and methods. It was stressed by numerous Delegations that satisfactory vigilance by uninfected countries depended upon a full knowledge of the latest scientific advances, and that such a meeting was therefore of equal importance to

both infected and free countries. The Conference noted with satisfaction the achievements of many countries in the Region in attaining and maintaining freedom from rinderpest, and approved of the great efforts which were currently being made by India and Cambodia, through their extensive vaccination campaigns, to eradicate the disease from their boundaries, and to establish and maintain freedom from infection.

179. The Conference considered in detail the proposals for a Far East Animal Health Institute and a Far East Animal Production Institute as formulated by the Far East Meeting on Animal Production and Health. The view was expressed that while animal health was obviously a matter which required to be viewed from the regional angle, animal production was primarily a national question. It was appreciated that the term "institute" was collective and that as many as fifteen units in different countries of the Region might be involved. A number of interesting proposals were made, including one for the addition to the existing list of an institute for fodder production. Delegations unanimously re-affirmed the interest of their governments, and appreciated the necessity for official expressions of intention to participate which included an offer of specific facilities. Definite proposals from Governments were necessary in regard to the location of units to deal with rinderpest, diseases of reproduction, parasitism, poultry diseases and nutritional deficiencies. Proposals were also needed for the location of suitable centres for production and research in poultry, ducks, sheep and goats, dairying beef cattle, and climatology. Delegations supported the proposal that, at the earliest practicable opportunity, FAO should appoint a regional livestock production expert and a veterinary expert to survey the facilities in the Region, and to advise upon the most suitable locations for the various units and on the scope of the work which should be undertaken. It was understood that their services would be available to assist governments in the preparation of their submissions. The abandonment, in the initial stages, of the regional approach in favour of direct action by the individual interested countries was approved in view of the desirability of establishing units as rapidly as possible. In this connection the early action by Thailand in submitting the foot and mouth laboratory project to the Special Fund was commended.

180. The Conference reviewed the accelerated progress in animal production, and health matters in all countries of the Region and the developments which could confidently be anticipated in the near future. Special consideration was given to the need to provide assistance to individual countries in these matters, to improve disease control and to exercise control over livestock movements.

181. The Conference accordingly adopted the following Resolution:-

RESOLUTION No. 4/62

THE CONFERENCE

Recognising the enormous and preventable losses caused by livestock diseases throughout the Region and the necessity of improving animal production methods in order to increase the output of protein for human consumption;

Recalling the terms of Resolution 11/61 of the Eleventh Session of the FAO Conference;

Considering that the countries of Asia and the Far East have expressed the desire to co-operate in increasing the productivity of the animal (livestock, poultry) industries, both by improved management and through the control of disease;

Recommends to the Director-General that there be included, at the earliest practicable date, provision in the Regular Program for the appointment of:

(a) a Regional Veterinarian, and

(b) a Regional Livestock Production Expert; and

Further Recommends that until such time as these appointments can be included in the Regular Program they should, in view of the urgent current needs, be implemented under ETAP.

SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES OF FAO IN THE REGION NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE
WHICH REQUIRE CONFERENCE GUIDANCE OR GOVERNMENT ACTION

X. REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
FIFTH REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST

182. The Conference took note of the report of action taken on recommendations of the Fifth Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East prepared by the Secretariat and expressed its appreciation. The Conference recognized the usefulness of governments providing information on action taken by them on recommendations adopted at Regional Conferences which called for action on their part. The Conference adopted a recommendation proposed by the delegate of Laos and supported by the delegate of Ceylon that a Regional Centre on Land Settlement should be organized under the 1965/66 EPTA or earlier, if other financial resources became available. The cooperation of interested organizations such as the W.V.F. might be sought.

XI. FOREST RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

183. The Conference reviewed the progress made by countries of the region in preparing and implementing new development programs for their forests and forest industries. It had before it the final report of the Sixth Session of the Asia Pacific Forestry Commission (Hong Kong, 12-17 September, 1962,) which incorporated the Commission's views on progress to date, as well as a note prepared by the FAO Secretariat (Doc FERC 62/13).

The trend in timber requirements and timber supplies.

184. The Conference noted that, while the general trends predicted in the joint FAO/ECAFE study of Timber Trends and Prospects in the Asia-Pacific Region had been amply confirmed, the course of actual consumption over the last six years, coupled with reappraisals undertaken in several countries of the region, had shown that not only was timber consumption rising faster than had earlier been envisaged but also the volume of industrial timber needed by 1975 at a conservative estimate, was considerably higher than had earlier been estimated: 185 against 161 million m³.

185. Turning to prospective supplies, the Conference recorded with great satisfaction the positive steps which had been taken by most countries of the region to raise their forest production goals. Not only had the Region's output of industrial wood risen from 86 to 111 million m³ over the past six years, but also supplies in 1975 were estimated at 173 million m³ against the 140 million m³ that were expected on the basis of plans existing a few years ago.

186. The Conference observed, however, that there still remained a prospective deficit of 12 million m³ by 1975 with signs of further increase in subsequent decades. The Region's deficit had grown from 1.3 to 3.7 million m³ since 1954. Exports still consisted largely of unprocessed goods, and imports into the Region consisting of manufactured forest products were largely of higher value.

Measures needed to raise forest output

187. The Conference heard from many delegations of the plans which had been prepared and already partly implemented for raising forest production, (plans which would bring about a progressive rise in the Region's industrial wood supplies,) and was of the view that in order to avert a serious shortage in the region, a further upward revision of production goals would be necessary as well as a realization by wood surplus countries of the opportunities afforded by current and prospective trends.

188. The Conference drew the attention of Member Governments to some of the directions in which efforts would have to be intensified. As yet, insufficient provision had been made for the establishment of coniferous plantations to provide the expanding pulp and paper industry with adequate supplies of long-fibred material. Though many successes had been recorded at the research and experimental level, as was pointed out by the delegate of Malaya, many countries had been slow to extend the practice of high-yield intensive tropical forestry. Many delegates, including those of Burma, Malaya and Indonesia, emphasized the need for expanding education and training facilities. Several delegates emphasized the contribution which tree plantations by farmers, could make to raising rural incomes and expanding industrial wood supplies. Success in Indonesia, the Conference was informed, had been achieved by encouraging farmers to plant those species assured of a ready outlet, e.g. for match manufacture, box-making, or pulp and paper. The delegate for Australia emphasized the importance, whenever planting programs were under consideration, of selecting species with due regard for their utilization, as well as their silvicultural, characteristics.

189. The delegate for the UK emphasized the need, when forest areas were cleared for agricultural settlement, of ensuring, not only that the cleared timber was fully utilized,

but also that sufficient areas of forest were left to satisfy local timber needs, serving local wood-processing industries, and thereby providing supplementary employment opportunities for the settlers.

190. Forestry development was still hampered in many countries, the Conference noted, by failure to assure the future of the forestry estate. It was imperative that sufficient areas, in suitable locations, be reserved so as to ensure the forest fulfilled its protective role as well as yielding an expanding volume of timber supplies. The need for encouraging "the use of each type of land for the growing of crops economically best suited to it" had already been recognized by Conference (Resolution 1/62), and this would in some cases require the allocation of good land, and sometimes irrigated land, to forestry. Correct choices would be facilitated, as was pointed out by the delegate of Australia, if more data were available relating to costs and returns in forestry operations. Given the nature of forest operations, the delegate of the UK pointed out, sound forestry development would not occur unless forest departments were steadily accorded adequate funds. The Conference, endorsing this view, stressed the importance of ensuring, in countries where royalties, concession and license fees contributed substantially to the general revenues, that an adequate proportion of the income from forestry was ploughed back into development.

Stimulating the development of forest industries

191. The Conference heard with interest information provided by delegates on the progress made by wood-processing industries in their countries. Special note was taken of the increasingly important role of plywood, fibre-board and particle board for housing and other constructions. The Conference however came to the conclusion that the rate at which forest industries were expanding in the Region was not keeping pace with the rise in consumption of forest and paper products. Here it was important to note that not only was industrialisation based on the forest resource lagging in relation to needs; it was also lagging in relation to possibilities. The reasons for the failure to recognize or take advantage of the opportunities which now presented themselves were many and various: lack of detailed market surveys, inadequacy of forest resource data, unfamiliarity with processes presently available, lack of feasibility studies, shortage of special skills and entrepreneurial ability, and lack of capital.

192. The Conference commended to the attention of other member Governments the "production share" scheme of collaboration with wood-deficit countries, reported by the delegate of Indonesia, whereby credits, equipment and expertise received were to be repaid over a period from the additional output of forest products generated by this assistance.

193. The need for accurate and reliable resource data for planning forest development was stressed by the delegates for the Philippines and the United Kingdom and the Conference urged the Director-General to continue and extend the assistance he was according to countries of the region, under both the regular and field programmes, in forest inventory.

The need for integrated forest and forest industry planning

194. The Conference agreed with the view expressed by the delegates of India, Burma and Indonesia that perhaps the most important reason why forest industrial development was still lagging behind possibilities was that insufficient attention had been paid as yet to the co-ordination of forest production plans and plans for the establishment of forest industries, and the complete integration of such plans with overall economic development plans.

195. If investment in forest industries was to be encouraged, the Conference pointed out, it was necessary that those responsible for industrialisation programs should be fully familiar with the complex technical and economic conditions under which forestry was practised. It was equally necessary that foresters should clearly understand the

technical and economic requirements of modern forest industries, many of which are relatively new, and in most of which technological progress has been very rapid in recent years. This required the establishment of appropriate organs to facilitate the interplay of disciplines and decision-making, and the training of staff in project appraisal, operating data, and programming procedures. In addition, the close interrelationship between these and other economic sectors, partly because of the pattern of demand for forest products (much of which arose in sectors influenced by public policy) and partly because forestry development and the successful establishment of forest industries was closely linked with infrastructural investment in power, water and communications, underlined the need for close integration of plans for forest and forest industry development with overall economic plans.

196. A prerequisite for sound planning, the delegates for Thailand, the United Kingdom and the Philippines emphasised, was the availability of statistical data. Conference urged member Governments to pay greater attention to this matter, and requested the Director-General of FAO to give advice and assistance as required to assist member governments to implement the minimum long-term program in forestry and forest products statistics as recommended by the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission.

197. The Conference also expressed the hope that, having regard to the importance of the forest and forestry industry sectors in the economies of many Asian countries, the proposed Asian Institute for Economic Development would make appropriate provision for these sectors in its work program.

The need for harmonizing policies at the regional level

198. Because forest resources are unevenly distributed in the region, being often complementary in character, and because scale economies weighed heavily in some branches of forest industry, while several national markets were still small, the problems of the forest and timber economy of Asia and the Far East could only be finally resolved at the regional level. The delegate for India emphasised the need for regional planning and referred to the contribution which might be made by bilateral barter agreements between wood-surplus and wood-deficit countries.

Recommendations of the Sixth Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission

199. Believing that the report of the APFC (see document FAO/APFC-62/11.1 Rev.1) pointed the way to a solution of the problem of future timber supplies confronting the region, the Conference generally endorsed the recommendations contained therein and urged governments and the Director-General to implement them.

200. The Conference adopted the following resolution:-

RESOLUTION No. 5/62

The Conference

Having reviewed the report of the Sixth Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission, and the up-to-date analysis there included of trends in the Region's forest and timber economy;

Noting with satisfaction that, as a result of measures taken to implement the recommendations of the Fifth FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East, forest production goals in many countries of the Region have been radically revised;

Noting, however, that timber requirements are rising faster than had been anticipated, largely because of the satisfactory economic growth rates achieved in certain parts of the Region;

Recognising that the Region, therefore, is still faced with the prospect

of a considerable deficit in 1975, which will continue to grow in subsequent decades;

Noting too that the establishment of forest industries in the Region is still lagging behind both needs and possibilities;

Recognising the significant contribution which soundly-based forest and related industries can make to accelerating economic growth, import-saving and exchange earning, as well as raising living standards;

URGES Member Governments to:

- (i) Once again review their forest production goals, taking into account regional needs, extra-regional export possibilities, and the new techniques of intensive wood production now available;
- (ii) Take necessary administrative, staff, legislative and financial measures to assure the forest estate necessary to enable the forest to discharge its protective role, and to provide for future timber needs;
- (iii) Create, where it does not yet exist, appropriate machinery for the medium and long-term planning of forest and forest industries development.

REQUESTS the Director-General to:

- (i) Keep under review national trends in the forest and timber economy in the Region, and issue at intervals a thorough analysis of these trends drawing attention to the regional and world implications;
- (ii) Devote greater attention, in planning his future work program, to the need for promoting high-yield intensive forestry in the countries of the region both through raising productivity in the natural forest and through the establishment of plantations of quick-growing tree species;
- (iii) Assist countries of the Region to improve their methods of planning for forest and forest industry development by:
 - (a) preparing suitable manuals and teaching materials
 - (b) organizing training centres, and
 - (c) providing technical assistance experts when requested.

XII. ORGANIZATION OF FISHERY RESEARCH IN RELATION TO DEVELOPMENT

201. Following a statement introducing the item "Organization of Fisheries Research in Relation to Development" (FERC. 62/14) several Member Governments described their approach to research on fisheries problems and pointed out that the limiting factor was the scarcity of trained personnel. This extended not only to the more advanced long term researches covering the fields of biology, technology and economics but also to the training of personnel in the applied field where results could be expected in a shorter period of time.

202. A recommendation by the delegate from Indonesia that the Director-General be invited to explore the possibility of establishing regional training centres under E.P.T.A. especially directed towards the training of instructors and methods of instruction was endorsed by the Conference. It was generally felt that such action would assist training institutions already established in the region to become more effective. Accordingly, the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council which was about to meet in Korea, was invited to consider the problem and lend its support to the proposal.

203. It was generally agreed that inland fisheries production of the region, especially that from pond culture, would greatly expand in the future and that such expansion would be accelerated by the application of selective breeding and genetic studies as well as by the development of methods of breeding under controlled artificial conditions, as for example, the successful techniques which had been developed under the FAO - Malayan program for the giant fresh water prawn. The Conference taking note of the promising developments in the culture of such prawn and of the existence of the species in almost all countries of the Region, supported a recommendation made by the delegate from Thailand that fish culture specialists in the Region should be given training in artificial culture of this valuable species of prawn. It accordingly requested the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council to consider the question at its next Session to be held in October 1962.

204. On the other hand, it was thought that the increase in production might be limited by the spread of fish diseases about which little was yet known.

205. Moved by the delegate of Malaya, the following Resolution was adopted:-

RESOLUTION No. 6/62

THE CONFERENCE

Recognizing the importance of inland fisheries including pond culture in the economy of the countries of the region,
Believing that these fisheries are destined for greater expansion and intensification,
Believing also that the incidence of fish disease, the origins and etiology of which are still largely unknown, is likely to be an increasingly menacing deterrent to such expansion and intensification,
Calls the attention of Member Governments to the desirability of encouraging universities, colleges and appropriate research institutions to undertake basic studies in fish pathology which can lead to practical methods for preventing, controlling and curing such diseases,
Requests the Director-General to explore the possibilities of securing the co-operation of U.N.E.S.C.O. in rendering assistance to such universities, colleges and institutions in order to develop facilities for basic studies on which action may be based for the prevention and cure of such diseases,
Invites the I.P.F.C. to:-

- (i) associate itself closely with such efforts

- (ii) foster these studies by such means as are at its disposal
- (iii) advise on the practical application of the results of such studies.

206. It was generally recognized that any large increase in fisheries production in the region would depend upon the development of the off-shore or ocean fisheries. This would require improvement in fish finding, provision of better boats and gear, the training of fishermen to use appropriate navigation equipment and better shore facilities all of which would need increased investment, besides the training of personnel at all levels.

207. It was recognized that increased production would call for improvement in the preservation of the product and better marketing. The Conference endorsed a suggestion made by the delegate from the Philippines that a group country project be organized under E.P.T.A. for the training in statistical methods as a prerequisite to economic studies of marketing and distribution of fish.

208. As to the methods employed by Governments to guide research and to determine priorities therein, the Conference was in agreement with a recommendation made by the delegate from India that Governments of the region consider the systems used by other well developed countries, as for example, the principles governing the establishment and conduct of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada.

209. The Conference generally welcomed the work done and the international approach to fisheries oceanographical problems, the solution of which was the key to greater oceanic production. It stressed the importance of research in fisheries oceanography and noted that international cooperation in this field exists also in Oceania.

XIII. REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE FAO/ECAFE AGRICULTURE DIVISION

210. The Conference took note of the progress report on the work of the Joint FAO/ECAFE Agriculture Division (Document FERC 62/15) and the introductory statement, commended the Division for its very useful activities and endorsed its program of work. It noted that the Division provided the means for integrated study and action in fields of common interest to the FAO and ECAFE and thus helped to avoid duplication of effort.

211. The activities of the Division in the field of agricultural development programming (which include the undertaking of purposive studies and the provision of assistance for training of personnel) received general support, while the useful role the division could play in undertaking studies of national plans with a view to facilitating their harmonization, was specifically mentioned. It was noted that some of the recommendations of the Conference for more studies with economic implications would increase the work-load of the Division. In this context, some delegates suggested the strengthening of the staff of the Division.

212. Several delegates supported the case study approach and referred to the studies made by the Division which they had found useful, especially the studies relating to capital formation in agriculture and the utilization of agricultural surpluses for economic development. The delegate from Ceylon suggested the undertaking of case studies to appraise the results of past efforts in that country to secure increases in agricultural production through price support measures or provision of agricultural credit.

213. The Conference noted the importance of providing adequate and timely credit at reasonable interest as an essential element of agricultural development.

214. It also noted that in most countries the main source of agricultural credit was the money-lender whose interest charges were considered exorbitant. The Governments of the countries in this region were trying to increase the supply of institutional credit but were facing many practical problems. For example, the type of institution at the primary level that would be most suitable, (single purpose or multi-purpose cooperative, or other institution), the factors to be considered in determining its size, the procedures to be adopted for advancing loans, their recovery, the arrangements to be made for linking credit with marketing extension, and the types of training required for personnel at different echelons of a cooperative or other system, were some of the problems being faced. The Conference welcomed the proposal to convene a joint FAO/ECAFE Centre on Institutions for Agricultural Financing and Credit in 1963 at which the problems involved in this field (including those of supervised credit) would be discussed in detail in order that participants could contribute effectively to the Centre, and urged that the detailed agenda should be made available to the countries as soon as possible.

215. The delegate from Korea referred to the new program in the field of agricultural credit and price policy now in operation in that country and expressed the hope that members of the Joint Division would be able to observe these programs and to discuss them with the authorities concerned.

XIV. AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION

216. The Conference stressed the importance of agricultural information services supplementing and supporting the work of extension officers, in the task of reaching scientific information to farmers as a means of stepping up production.

217. It heard a statement on the range, scope, nature, and frequency of farm radio services and their important role in education and agricultural extension work.

218. The delegates of Pakistan, Japan, India, Malaya, the Philippines, Australia and the USA described the present state and extent of their agricultural information services and made a number of suggestions as to how FAO could be of assistance in strengthening those services. The Pakistan delegate stated that his country would welcome the services of i) an expert trained in the art of disseminating scientific knowledge amongst the farmers; ii) an expert for the production of agricultural films; iii) training facilities for three persons in the art of disseminating technical knowledge; iv) provision of cheap radio sets, and v) provision of equipment for the production of agricultural films.

219. The delegate of Japan offered technical cooperation in improving agricultural information services in the countries of the region. The delegate for India also appealed for cheap radio sets and for FAO to publish from time to time a magazine on the experience gained in agricultural information services by technically developed countries. The delegate of Malaya said his country would welcome assistance from FAO in the use of mass media and through the provision of radio and other equipment and technical training. The delegate for the Philippines also stressed the need for equipment and the training of personnel.

220. There was unanimous support for the view put forward by the delegate for Australia that FAO should, through its Headquarters and regional information services in the region, supply them with a greater flow of material suited to their needs, especially in the first place, radio tapes, film-clips and other visual material and aids. This should be a cooperative effort with the agricultural information services in the region keeping the FAO Public Information Service advised as to the type of information material best suited to their purpose. The Conference also recommended that the Director-General of FAO should be urged to arrange a training centre on farm radio for the Far East as soon as possible, preferably early in 1963, and that FAO should organize training centres on rural and farm broadcasting each year over a three year period commencing in 1964, the centres to be financed from technical assistance funds as part of the Expanded Technical Assistance Program.

221. The delegate for the USA stated that his country wholeheartedly supported FAO in its task of helping member governments to improve their agricultural services, of which rural and farm broadcasting should be a part. He emphasized the need to develop a well-balanced program embracing the use of all media, and laid stress on the organizational and training aspects of FAO's work in this field. His government recognized that the program would call for a budget increase but thought this budget item should be modest enough to initiate the work and give FAO experience in what should be done.

XV. THE ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF FAO IN THE REGION

222. The Conference in examining Item 17 (FERC 62/17) noted that it had been invited to give its views on the question of how FAO's work in the region could be made as effective as possible consistent with the resources available.

223. The delegate of Pakistan, while affirming his Government's continued support for the existing regional offices thought that in view of the limited financial resources at the disposal of the Organization; the administrative overhead costs involved in the setting up of a new office; the steadily increasing volume of work in the region particularly in view of the demands of the operational programs; the need for strengthening the technical services and the desirability of extending the services of the Organization equally to all the member countries; instead of sub-regional offices, the situation could best be met by providing a full-time country representative to each country as envisaged in Resolution No. 17/61 adopted by the Eleventh Session of the FAO Conference. He suggested that the Director-General be requested to prepare a detailed statement setting forth his plans for the expansion of the work in the region over the next 5 years along with the financial implications. In so doing he should examine also the relative merits and costs of strengthening existing regional offices vis-à-vis the establishment of new sub-regional offices. He should make the study available to all countries of the region for a fuller expression of their views. If, however, it was thought desirable to set up a sub-regional office in Oceania, he would have no objection due to its geographical location.

224. The Indian delegate considered that as the cost of strengthening the country representatives' offices would have to be met from Technical Assistance funds, any such action would reduce the funds so badly needed for field programs. He expressed doubts as to whether the country representative would be able to fulfil the administrative and coordinating functions normally performed by the regional or sub-regional office. Other regions such as Latin America, Africa and Europe had regional and sub-regional offices, and it was logical that this region, the biggest and most populous of all, with manifold problems should not be treated less favourably. In his view, the solution would be to strengthen the regional structure, if need be, by the addition of sub-regional offices.

225. Referring to the document under discussion, the delegate of Indonesia thought that the title of the region implied three distinct geographical groupings within the region, South East Asia, the Far East, and Oceania. In his view, the situation would have to be approached from a realistic point of view because of the limited resources available and the need for their rational use. Geographical location, physical conditions, cultural differences and social standards of the people would require also to be taken into account. While supporting the cost study suggested by the delegation of Pakistan, he wanted the study to include the cost of dividing the region into the three specific geographical areas as mentioned earlier each to be serviced by a separate regional office. A comparative study of the cost involved would enable the delegates to make purposeful suggestions with the sole objective of obtaining the best servicing facilities within resources available.

226. The delegate of France drew the attention of the Conference to the additional cost involved in whatever proposal that might ultimately be agreed upon, and thought that the setting up of an additional sub-regional office for Oceania was not necessary at present, since the South Pacific Commission was providing adequate technical services for the region on most of the agricultural issues. Close cooperation of the Commission with the FAO would, at least for the time being, meet the need. The FAO/ECAFE Joint Division at Bangkok might be interested to establish closer liaison with the South Pacific Commission.

227. The Australian delegate, while endorsing the views expressed by the French delegate, pointed out the proximity of Oceania and the community of problems which it shared with countries in the region.

228. The New Zealand delegate also drew attention to the work of the South Pacific Commission and its cooperation with the U.N. and Specialized Agencies. With regard to Western Samoa which had attained independence from 1st January 1962, he thought that such valuable technical assistance should be continued. He agreed that at the present stage, it might be premature to consider a sub-regional office in Oceania.

229. The delegate of Burma was in favour of additional sub-regional offices to serve the region if the cost were not unreasonable, while the delegate of Japan thought that appointment of country representatives should be based on the needs of a country depending on the size of its technical assistance programs and not be regarded as a routine matter of having a representative for each country.

230. The delegate of Thailand associated himself with the views expressed by the delegate of Japan.

231. The U.S. delegate favoured the strengthening of the system of country representatives where appropriate, but expressed the view that a decision on the matter should be left to the representatives of member countries situated in the region.

232. On behalf of the FAO, the Assistant Director-General, Mr. Weisl, traced the history of the regional and sub-regional offices and the institution of country representatives in countries. He indicated clearly the importance attached by the Director-General to a decentralization of the work in order to improve the services provided by the Organization to member countries. The regional and sub-regional offices are much closer than Headquarters not only in terms of distance but also in terms of community of interests to the needs and problems of member countries. They were also the main channels through which the Director-General and the Headquarters could feel the pulse of member countries. In this way the needs of countries in the region could be quickly met.

233. The Conference was also apprised of the relations between the regional representative, deputy regional representative and the country representatives and the overall responsibility the regional representative, as the Director-General's representative, had in the region, for coordinating all FAO programs and communicating with the Director-General on the needs of the region to ensure they are taken into consideration in formulating the program of work and budget of the Organization.

234. The consensus of opinion was, that taking into account the financial implications involved, there was not an adequate case, at present, for the establishment of additional sub-regional offices in the region. There was general agreement that strengthening the existing offices in the region, particularly by the addition of specialists to fill gaps in particular subject-matter fields as recommended by the Conference earlier agenda items, should have priority. For a more concrete expression of views, the Conference thought it would be helpful if a comparative study could be undertaken on the cost of (i) establishing a new sub-regional office, (ii) strengthening existing offices with specialists for the more effective servicing of the region as a whole, and (iii) dividing the entire region into more compact areas taking into account geographical, social and other relevant factors.

XVI. POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF REPORTS, MEETINGS AND STUDIES

(a) Eighth Session of the International Rice Commission (IRC)

235. The Conference commended the I.R.C. for its very comprehensive report and indicated general agreement with its recommendations. It appreciated the emphasis given by the I.R.C. to long-term programming and suggested that its program of work should closely reflect the needs of member countries in the improvement of their rice agriculture within the framework of overall economic development. The Conference endorsed the recommendation that the long-term program of the I.R.C. could best be served by the forward planning of the agenda of future meetings of the I.R.C. Working Parties on Rice Production and Protection, Rice Soils, Water and Fertilizer Practices, and Agricultural Engineering Aspects of Rice Production, Storage and Processing.

236. The Conference adopted a recommendation, proposed by the delegate of Indonesia, that FAO should examine the question of associating with the I.R.C. the rice-producing countries of Latin America and Africa so that the problems of rice could be dealt with on a global basis. The findings of such an examination should be reported to the next F.A.O. Conference.

(b) First Session of the Regional Working Party on Farm Management

237. The Conference noted with satisfaction the Report of the First Session of the Regional Working Party on Farm Management held in Kyoto, Japan, in October, 1961. The Conference agreed with the view expressed by the Working Party, that improvement of management techniques at the farm level was the key to the successful implementation of agricultural development projects. It was pleased to note that a Committee on the Preparation of a Farm Management Manual had been established and would shortly meet.

238. The Conference appreciated the Circulation of Farm Management Notes for Asia and the Far East published in June and December each year and considered that such a publication was the best medium of communication amongst the farm management workers in the Region.

239. The Conference recommended that FAO should conduct a survey on farm management work in the Region early in 1963 and transmit the survey to member governments.

240. The Conference felt that the organization of national training centres and seminars on farm management on the basis of successful centres sponsored in Pakistan and India should be extended to other member countries in the region.

241. Recognizing the importance of expanding the farm management work in the Region, the Conference supported the recommendations made by the First Session urging member countries to undertake pilot schemes on (i) desirable changes in farming systems needed for production increase, (ii) farm planning and programming in land settlement and irrigation project areas, (iii) productive utilisation of rural man-power, (iv) preparation of farm plans with effective supervised credit, and (v) improvement of management efficiency at the farm level in selected areas.

(c) Fifth and Sixth Sessions of the CCP Consultative Sub-Committee on the Economic Aspects of Rice.

242. The Conference noted the Reports of the Fifth and Sixth Sessions of the Consultative Sub-Committee on the Economic Aspects of Rice and expressed its appreciation for the work of this Group. The recommendations made by the Sub-Committee were generally welcomed and the Delegate for India stated that his Government had accepted, and would implement, the recommendations of the two sessions.

243. The policy conclusions of the Sixth Session of the Sub-Committee had been found very relevant to the discussions of the Conference on the commodity implications of

national plans. The Conference requested the Director-General to transmit to the next, i.e. the Seventh Session of the Sub-Committee - to be held in Tokyo starting 14th February 1963 - that part of the Conference's own report (Chapter IVa) and to draw the Sub-Committee's particular attention to Resolutions No. 1/62 and 2/62 adopted by the Conference.

(d) Fourth Session of the FAO Group on Coconut and Coconut Products

244. The Conference welcomed the Report of the Fourth Session of the FAO Group on Coconut and Coconut Products. The great importance of markets in other regions for this commodity, mainly exported from this region, was stressed, and the Conference requested the Director-General to transmit to the next Session of the Group its Resolution No. 2 drawing particular attention to the passage urging the governments of developed countries to ensure a reasonable access into their markets for the agricultural products exported from the region.

245. The Conference requested the FAO Group on Coconut and Coconut Products to explore the possibility of widening the market for coconut products by a better utilization of the protein content, thereby also helping to reduce the protein deficiency of the region.

(e) FAO International Conference on Fish Meal and the FAO International Conference on Fish in Nutrition

246. The Conference welcomed the report of the FAO International Conference on Fish Meal, which had been called specially for the purpose of seeking relief from the situation brought about by the impact of greatly increased production of fish meal and the instability of export markets. The Conference expressed the view that a solution to the problem lay in creating new demands for the product.

247. The Conference also took note of the report of the FAO International Conference on Fish in Nutrition held in Washington in 1961. It was also noted that fisheries technologists, nutritionists and the fishing industry had participated in the International Conference on Fish in Nutrition through appropriate contributions. The Conference further noted with satisfaction that action on the report would, among other things, lead to the publication of a book entitled "Fish in Nutrition" containing valuable data in support of increased fish consumption.

(f) Food Legislation Seminar

248. The Conference was apprised of the important recommendations of the Food Legislation Seminar sponsored by FAO in Bangkok in August 1962. It particularly noted deficiencies in the enforcement of food legislation resulting in a high percentage of food adulteration, the need for starting food control on the raw food products such as meat, fish and poultry, adoption of appropriate food standards and marketing certification systems, and the lack of laboratory facilities as well as of technical personnel at all levels in testing food and food products.

249. While generally endorsing the recommendations of the Food Legislation Seminar for action, the Conference placed particular emphasis on the item dealing with laboratory facilities in food-testing, including a model blue-print for food control laboratories, specialized equipment needed, and the staffing and training of personnel of such laboratories. It also endorsed the recommendation of the Seminar to explore the possibility of convening, at an appropriate time, a meeting on food legislation, hygiene and sanitation to be organized jointly by FAO and WHO.

XVII. FUTURE ORIENTATION OF FAO'S WORK IN THE REGION

250. The Regional Representative, Mr. Ahsan-ud-Din, reviewing the future orientation of FAO's work in the region as it had emerged from the deliberations of the Conference, referred to the high level of discussions which had taken place and the cordiality which had prevailed throughout. He mentioned the contributions of delegations on the agricultural situation in their countries and the many proposals made for invoking FAO's assistance, which would prove most valuable to the Director-General in preparing his Program of Work and Budget for the ensuing biennium. He thanked the delegates for their expression of confidence in the Organization and in its leadership and assured them of FAO's continuing desire to serve the best interests of Member Governments.

251. He expressed the view that the objectives of the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign had in a sense pervaded the work of the Conference and thanked delegations for their interest in and support of the Campaign, while commending the establishment of National Committees and the activities undertaken by those Committees. He emphasized the educational aims behind the Campaign and the necessity to create an awareness among the people in the countries of the region that in the ultimate analysis only their own efforts could serve to eliminate hunger and improve living standards. He expressed confidence in the support governments would give to the World Food Congress.

252. He described the UN/FAO World Food Program as offering an opportunity to member countries to cooperate in the solution of food and agricultural problems, particularly in the implementation of projects where food could be used as an aid to economic and social development. He considered that the Conference had rightly emphasized, bearing in mind the relatively small sum of money available, that projects should be carefully selected, well prepared, clearly defined, and with a clear demonstrational effect. He hoped that on the basis of the experience gained, wider multilateral programs might in the future be launched.

253. He recalled the stress the Conference had laid on the need for coordinating the assistance received through various technical assistance programs, which should be related to the development plans in each country. He assured the Conference that these views were strongly supported by FAO and its sister agencies.

254. Turning to the broad guidelines provided by the Conference for the future work of FAO, he stressed the great advance which had been made in planned agriculture. He was happy to note that Member Governments had fully recognized the necessity for taking into consideration the plans of other countries in relation to their own, particularly with reference to agricultural commodities of basic importance in intra-regional trade. He believed that the Conference had fully recognized the advantages which could accrue from the harmonization of national plans and welcomed the steps suggested for bringing about greater harmony in targets and policies. He thought delegates had rightly expressed concern on the limitations of their export earning from agricultural products which retarded development and had correctly appreciated the need for the stabilization of prices of agricultural commodities through international commodity agreements or other appropriate arrangements. Of particular importance was the recommendation addressed to governments of developed countries to ensure reasonable access into their markets for the agricultural products of this region.

255. In the drawing up of national plans the Conference had recognized that certain important elements were deserving of special attention. There was a great need to enlist the support of farmers in the preparation of such plans since no plan would be successful which did not have the farmers' support. In this connection great attention should be paid to incentives, credit (including supervised credit), and marketing.

256. The harmful effects of the pursuit of self-sufficiency at all costs was stressed, while the development of agricultural statistics as a basis for sound planning was clearly recognized. The Conference had also recognized the importance of taking nutritional considerations fully into account in the preparation of national plans.

The need for diversification of agriculture and the production of protective foods had been repeatedly emphasized. The importance of farm management and land and water development had also been stressed. He promised that in all these fields FAO would assist to the full extent of its resources and would continue to publish the various studies which had been found so useful.

257. He was happy to note the great importance that the Conference had attached to agricultural development planning, especially as oriented towards increasing agricultural productivity and assured the Conference that it was FAO's firm intention to cooperate closely with the proposed Asian Institute for Economic Development which would, he hoped, pay full and adequate attention to the sector of agricultural planning.

258. In the matter of animal production and health, he was pleased to note the interest of governments in the establishment of an Animal Health Institute and an Animal Production Institute, both under the Special Fund. He observed that the Conference had paid particular attention to the development of fisheries, especially the study of fish diseases, the exploration of offshore fisheries, and the preservation of fish. In addition, the vital necessity for the training of personnel had been repeatedly stressed.

259. In the field of forestry, countries had taken vigorous measures to raise forest production goals to meet a critical situation. Demand was growing and urgent attention to the development of forest industries was necessary. He pointed out that in forestry particularly the futility of pursuing autarchic policies was clearly demonstrated.

260. Referring to the agrarian structure, he itemized the action taken by FAO leading to the proposed establishment of an Agrarian Research and Training Institute in Malaya which was now before the Special Fund for its consideration. He recognized the unanimous support the governments of the region gave to this proposal and the high expectations they entertained in its successful establishment. He mentioned also the great interest shown by delegates in the possibilities presented by mass information media, particularly farm radio.

261. He was glad to note the support expressed for the work carried out by the Joint FAO/ECAFE Agriculture Division, especially in the field of agricultural development planning. On the organization of FAO's work in the region he thought there had been a consensus of opinion on the need to strengthen the technical services in the region so as to provide more effective help and to fill existing gaps. He recognized the desire of the Conference to have before it more detailed information on which decisions could be based regarding the further strengthening of FAO's work in the region as a whole through the possible establishment of additional offices.

262. In conclusion, he assured the Conference that the Director-General would take fully into account all the proposals made in connection with his Program of Work and Budget for 1964/65. He pointed out, however, that it was up to the main FAO Conference to take the final decisions and that it was necessary for government representatives at that Conference to make their wishes clearly known.

A N N E X I

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Representative: Abdul F.M.K. RAHMAN, Regional
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WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Representative: W.W. YUNG, Regional Representative,
Singapore

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FARMERS ASSOCIATION

H. AHMAD B.H. ABDULLAH, Farmers' Association, Johore.

B. CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

Director-General's Regional Representative	Mr. Ahsan-ud-Din
Secretary	Mr. Warde-Jones
Assistant Secretary	Mr. Peebles
Reports Officer	Mr. Nehemiah
Translators	Mr. Roland-Gosselin
	Mr. Lafrance
Documents Officer	Mrs. Mortera
Information Officers	Mr. Mulgrue
	Mr. Day
Secretaries	Miss Dingley
	Miss Bernard
	Miss Almagià
	Mr. Nana

C. STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. B.R. Sen, Director-General
Mr. F. Weisl, ADG, Admin. and Finance
Dr. Finn
Mr. Krishnaswamy
Dr. Schickele
Mr. Aung Din
Mr. Abbott
Mr. Bantegui
Mr. Chang
Mr. Cochrane
Dr. Cockrill
Mr. Day
Mr. De
Mr. Ellington
Mr. Fugalli
Dr. Jacoby
Dr. Kahane
Mr. Loerbroks
Mr. Mulgrue
Mr. Parthasarathy
Mr. Thielebein
Mr. Westoby

D. GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

Inche Abdul Rahman bin Hamidon - Senior Conference Officer (Malayan Sectr.)
Inche Raslan bin Datu Abdullah - Secretary Organizing Committee (Malayan
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E. Chairman of the FAO Council - Mr. Louis Maire.

A N N E X I I

Agenda - SIXTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST

Kuala Lumpur, Malaya, 15-29 September 1962

A. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

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

B. THE WORK OF FAO IN ASIA AND THE FAR EAST AND THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION

4. Trends and objectives in the work of FAO in Asia and the Far East - Introductory statement by the Director-General
5. Review of the food and agricultural situation in the region - Statements by delegates

C. GENERAL POLICY QUESTIONS OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION

6. Agricultural development planning:
 - (a) Commodity implications of current national plans in the light of the world outlook with special reference to trade problems and economic growth in the region
 - (b) Other major problems being encountered in the planning of agricultural development
 - (c) The problems of statistical data in planning
 - (d) Effective use of external assistance:
 - i) Technical Cooperation Programs
 - ii) World Food Program
7. Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign in relation to economic development and the World Food Congress
8. The role of integrated land and water development planning in accelerating economic progress
9. Increasing grain legumes and vegetable production for better human nutrition
10. The role of supervised credit in rural development programs
11. The development of livestock industries in the region

D. SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES OF FAO IN THE REGION NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE
WHICH REQUIRE CONFERENCE GUIDANCE OR GOVERNMENT ACTION

12. Report of action taken on recommendations of the Fifth Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East
13. Forest resources and economic development
14. Organization of fisheries research in relation to development
15. Report on the work of the FAO/ECAFE Agriculture Division
16. Agricultural information
17. The organization of the work of FAO in the region
18. Policy implications of reports, meetings and studies:
 - (a) Eighth Session of the International Rice Commission
 - (b) First Session of the Regional Working Party on Farm Management
 - (c) Fifth and Sixth Sessions of the CCP Consultative Sub-Committee on the Economic Aspects of Rice
 - (d) Fourth Session of the FAO Group on Coconut and Coconut Products
 - (e) FAO International Meeting on Fish Meal (Rome, March 1961) and FAO International Conference on Fish in Nutrition (Washington), September 1961)

E. CONCLUDING ITEMS

19. The future orientation of FAO's work in the region
20. Adoption of the report

A N N E X I I I

WORKING PAPERS

SIXTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST

Kuala Lumpur, 15-29 September 1962

- FERC 62/1 Provisional Agenda
- 1a Provisional Annotated Agenda
 - 2 Review of the Food and Agricultural Situation
in the Region
 - 3 Commodity Implications of Current National Plans
in the Light of the World Outlook with special
reference to Trade Problems and Economic Growth
in the Region
 - 4 Other major problems being encountered in the
planning of agricultural development
 - 5 The problems of statistical data in planning
 - 6a Effective use of external assistance (technical
cooperation programs)
 - 6b Effective use of external assistance (World Food
Program)
 - 7 Freedom from Hunger Campaign in relation to
economic development and the World Food Congress
 - 8 The role of integrated planning of land and water
development in accelerating economic progress
 - 9 Increasing grain legumes and vegetables production
for better human nutrition
 - 10 The role of supervised credit in rural development
 - 11 The development of livestock industries in the
Far East
 - 12 Report of action taken on recommendations of the
5th Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East
 - 13 Forest Resources and Economic Development
 - 14 Organization of fisheries research in relation to
development
 - 15 Report on the work of the joint FAO/ECAFE
Agriculture Division

List of Documents (Cont'd)

FERC 62/16	Agricultural information
17	The organization of the work of FAO in the Region
18	Policy implications of reports, meetings and studies
18a	Eighth Session of International Rice Commission
19	First Session of the Regional Working Party on Farm Management.

Information documents:

FERC 62/ INF/ 2	Advance list of delegates and observers
3	Presentation and report time-table
4	List of documents

A N N E X I V

RECOMMENDATIONS ADDRESSED TO MEMBER GOVERNMENT AND FAO

A. THE CONFERENCE RECOMMENDED THAT MEMBER GOVERNMENTS.-

- 1) pay due regard to the need to increase productivity through more efficient methods of production, and review their national plans so as to encourage the use of each type of land for the growing of the crops economically best suited to it.
- 2) of developed countries should ensure reasonable access into their markets for the agricultural produce of this region.
- 3) when formulating or revising their own national plans,
 - a) take into consideration of the plans of other countries;
 - b) consider the measures to stabilise the prices of agricultural commodities through International Commodity Agreements or other appropriate arrangements.
- 4) participate in a technical meeting on Marketing Aspects of Price Policies in 1963, in :
- 5)
 - a) Effectively utilize the various technical assistance programs; this would require the setting up of suitable coordinating machinery within a country.
 - b) coordinate and integrate external aid programs within the national development plans.
- 6) consider the feasibility of undertaking technical manpower resources surveys and request FAO to render all possible assistance in this regard.
- 7) stress the educational and informational aspects of the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign.
- 8) take every step to participate fully in the World Food Congress and urged governments to hold national food congresses prior to the World Food Congress to be held in 1963.
- 9)
 - a) again review their forest production goals, taking into account regional needs, extra-regional export possibilities, and the new techniques of intensive wood production now available;
 - b) Take necessary administrative, staff, legislative and financial measures to assure the forest estate necessary to enable the forest to discharge its protective role, and to provide for future timber needs;
 - c) Create, where it does not yet exist, appropriate machinery

for the medium and long-term planning of forest and forest industries development.

- 10) pay attention to the desirability of encouraging universities, colleges, and appropriate research institutions undertaking basic studies in fish pathology which could lead to practical methods of preventing, controlling and curing such diseases.

And invited the I.P.F.C. to:

- (i) associate itself closely with such efforts
 - (ii) foster these studies by such means as are at its disposal
 - (iii) advise on the practical application of the results of such studies
- 11) adopt the recommendations of the C.C.P. Consultative Sub-Committee on Economic Aspects of Rice.

B. RECOMMENDATION ADDRESSED TO THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

THE CONFERENCE RECOMMENDED THAT:-

- 1) FAO, possibly in conjunction with ECAFE, should provide a forum in which the countries of the region could compare and discuss their national plans.
- 2) the Director-General continue his study of the repercussions of economic integration in other regions on the markets for the agricultural products exported from this region; and further requested him to:
 - (a) Issue similar analysis periodically of the agricultural plans of countries of the region and analyse their implications for each other;
 - (b) Convene, possibly in conjunction with ECAFE, a working group of experts in planning from countries of the region to consider these analyses with a view to achieving greater harmony among the targets and policies for agriculture;
 - (c) Provide technical assistance in agricultural planning and commodity analysis to countries requesting such aid;
 - (d) Issue periodically studies of the world commodity markets;
 - (e) Continue to bring up-to-date his commodity projections giving a record of past progress in production;
 - (f) Convene a meeting of experts in the region for the purpose of reviewing work done in the field of commodity projections in the region and of improving the techniques to be applied in such projections.
- 3) the Director-General take the initiative in:
 - (a) sponsoring, with the co-operation of governments and other interested agencies, an intensive marketing survey of the various countries of the region including credit and co-operative marketing, etc.,
 - (b) providing assistance in organizing national marketing training centers,
 - (c) the establishment of a Marketing Advisory Group or similar machinery to promote suitable training techniques and offer other needed services.
- 4) the Director-General examine appropriate machinery through which countries of the region could be assisted in developing short and medium term measures designed to satisfy nutritional considerations based on attainable consumption targets within their overall agricultural development plans.

- 5) the Director-General examine the feasibility of setting up suitable machinery for assisting countries in developing their systems of agricultural statistics and food consumption surveys.
- 6) The Director General consider:
 - a) organizing a regional seminar for national administrators and key-officials engaged in technical assistance programming operations in order to acquaint them fully with the different programming, planning and operation processes and the rules of procedure for administering the various programs.
 - b) the issuance of a suitable publication describing the characteristic features and the distinctive role of the different types of aid programs handled by FAO.
- 7) the Director-General organise a Technical Meeting for Asia and the Far East in 1964 on the production of improved legumes.
- 8) the Director-General consider the possibility of appointing a specialist in food legumes in the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Far East.
- 9) In view of the urgent need for integrated planning in the field of land and water use development, that the subject-matter specialists attached to the FAO Regional Office in Bangkok cooperate as a team to advise member governments on request.
- 10) the Director-General provide for a regional specialist in irrigation practices and drainage facilities.
- 11) The FAO Regional Office in Bangkok assist member governments, upon request, in the organization of national extension training centers and the planning of extension pilot projects.
- 12) Consideration should be given to an agreed convention on livestock quarantine regulations along the lines of the Phyto-Sanitary Convention for South East Asia.
- 13) FAO convene a technical meeting in the near future on the Differential Diagnosis of Rinderpest.
- 14) The Director-General include at the earliest date, provision in the Regular Program for the appointment of:
 - a) a Regional Veterinarian, and
 - b) a Regional Livestock Production Expert, andfurther recommended that until such time as these appointments could be included in the Regular Program they should, in view of the urgent current needs, be implemented under ETAP.

- 22) The Director-General organize a regional center on land settlement under the 1965/66 EPTA program, or earlier, if other financial resources became available.
- 23) The Director-General:-
 - a) Keep under review national trends in the forest and timber economy in the Region, and issue at intervals a thorough analysis of these trends, drawing attention to the regional and world implications;
 - b) Devote attention, in planning his future work program, to the need for promoting high-yield intensive forestry in the countries of the region both through raising productivity in the natural forest and through the establishment of plantations and quick-growing tree species;
 - c) Assist countries of the Region to improve their methods of planning for forest and forest industry development by:
 - (i) preparing suitable manuals and teaching materials
 - (ii) organizing training centers, and
 - (iii) providing experts under technical assistance when requested.
- 24) The Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council consider at its next session the cultivation of giant freshwater prawn.
- 25) The director-General explore the possibility of establishing fisheries regional training centers under ETAP especially directed towards the training of instructors and methods of instruction.
- 26) The Director-General explore the possibilities of securing the cooperation of UNESCO in rendering assistance to universities, colleges and research institutions in order to develop facilities for basic studies on fish pathology on which action could be based for the prevention and cure of fish diseases.
- 27) A group country project under EPTA be organized on training in statistical methods particularly with regard to the marketing and distribution of fish.
- 28) The Director-General:-
 - a) organize a training center on farm radio for the Asia and Far East Region as soon as possible, preferably early in 1963,
 - b) organize training centers on rural and farm broadcasting.

- c) arrange to provide countries on request with suitable material for agricultural information needs.
- 15) FAO examine the question of associating in the I.R.C. the rice-producing countries of Latin America and Africa. The result of this examination to be reported to the next FAO Conference.
- 16) The Director-General conduct a survey on farm management work in the region early in 1963, and transmit the results to member governments.
- 17) FAO undertake a comparative study on the cost of (a) establishing a new sub-regional office, (b) strengthening existing offices with specialists for more effective servicing of the region as a whole and (c) dividing the entire region into more compact areas taking into account geographic, social and other relevant factors.
- 18) The Director-General to assist in organizing national training centers on farm management on request.
- 19) The Director-General transmit to the 7th Session of the C.C.P. Consultative Sub-Committee on the Economic Aspects of Rice Chapter IV (a) of the report of the Sixth FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East, drawing special attention to Resolutions Nos. 1/62 and 2/62.
- 20) The Director-General transmit to the Fifth Session of the FAO Group on Coconut and Coconut Products Resolution No. 2/62 drawing particular attention to the passage which urges governments of developed countries to ensure reasonable access into their markets for the agricultural products of this region.
- 21) The FAO Group on Coconut and Coconut Products explore the possibility of widening the market for coconut products by a better utilization of the protein content. The Conference endorsed the recommendations of the Food Legislation Seminar (Bangkok).

The Conference endorsed the recommendations of:

- a) the Third Far East Meeting on Animal Production and Health, held in Bangkok in December 1961.
- b) the First Session of the Regional W.P. on Farm Management
- c) the C.C.P. Consultative Sub-Committee on the Economic Aspect of Rice
- d) the Food Legislation Seminar (Bangkok) and the report of the Sixth Session of the A.P.F.C.

