

Report of the

SEVENTEENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

Managua, 30 August to 10 September 1982



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

FAO Member Nations serviced by the Latin American Regional Office (at 10 September 1982)

Argentina	Dominican Republic	Nicaragua
Bahamas	Ecuador	Panama
Barbados	El Salvador	Paraguay
Bolivia	Grenada	Peru
Brazil	Guatemala	Saint Lucia
Chile	Guyana	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Colombia	Haiti	Suriname
Costa Rica	Honduras	Trinidad and Tobago
Cuba	Jamaica	Uruguay
Dominica	Mexico	Venezuela

Date and place of FAO Regional Conferences for Latin America

First	—	Quito, Ecuador, 18 — 25 September 1949
Second	—	Montevideo, Uruguay, 1 — 12 December 1950
Third	—	Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1 — 10 September 1954
Fourth	—	Santiago, Chile, 19 — 30 November 1956
Fifth	—	San José, Costa Rica, 12 — 21 November 1958
Sixth	—	Mexico City, Mexico, 9 — 20 August 1960
Seventh	—	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 17 — 27 November 1962
Eighth	—	Viña del Mar, Chile, 13 — 29 March 1965
Ninth	—	Punta del Este, Uruguay, 5 — 16 December 1966
Tenth	—	Kingston, Jamaica, 2 — 13 December 1968
Eleventh	—	Caracas, Venezuela, 12 — 20 October 1970
Twelfth	—	Calí, Colombia, 21 August — 2 September 1972
Thirteenth	—	Panama City, Panama, 12 — 23 August 1974
Fourteenth	—	Lima, Peru, 21 — 29 April 1976
Fifteenth	—	Montevideo, Uruguay, 15 — 19 August 1978
Sixteenth	—	Havana, Cuba, 1 — 6 September 1980
Seventeenth	—	Managua, Nicaragua, 30 August — 10 September 1982

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ROME, 1983

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SUMMARY OF THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

General Debate

For the attention of FAO

1. It was suggested that FAO promote studies or projects involving better use of tropical foods produced in the Region to improve the quality of the average diet, thereby reducing wheat consumption and dependency on wheat imports (para. 38).
2. It was suggested that the FAO Fertilizer Programme be revised and strengthened, to help countries with a shortage of this input, which they have had to import at high prices (para. 47).
3. It was recommended that in future the Region should be known as Latin America and the Caribbean, and that the Regional Conferences be called Regional Conferences for Latin America and the Caribbean (para. 56).

FAO Programme in the Region

For the attention of FAO

4. The Conference expressed enthusiastic support for the Regional Office's initiative in promoting the establishment of networks for technical cooperation between national institutions in countries in the Region. It also requested that the Regional Office should continue to identify national institutions suitable for purposes of horizontal cooperation, and also that UNDP resources and those of other financial organizations be used for those purposes (paras. 62 and 64).
5. Greater participation by the Regional Office in the formulation, execution and evaluation of projects in the countries was requested (para. 67).
6. The importance of the FAO Prevention of Food Losses Programme was mentioned, pointing out the desirability of disseminating its results and seeking additional resources. It was recommended that this Programme should also give attention to losses during the harvest itself (para. 79).

For the attention of Governments

7. FAO efforts were recognized in relation to the promotion and control of exotic diseases of livestock. Additional collaboration was sought for countries still affected by African Swine Fever, with regard to the drastic methods that must be adopted to eradicate it (para. 78).

New and Renewable Sources of Energy for Agriculture and Rural Development

For the attention of FAO and other International Organizations

8. The Conference requested that FAO, together with ECLA and OLADE (Latin American Energy Organization), support national efforts and cooperation between countries to develop new and renewable sources of energy for rural areas. Most of the delegations expressed the wish that IICA and other institutions would collaborate in these efforts. It was also requested that these organizations obtain financial support for regional, sub-regional and national programmes intended to promote the production and efficient use of these sources, particularly fuelwood and other forms of biomass, biogas, animal traction, wind energy and others. It was also requested that a Latin American Symposium be held on new and renewable sources of energy for agricultural and rural development, which could be sponsored by FAO and OLADE (para. 128).

Follow-up to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development

For the attention of FAO

9. It was requested that, after the Director-General had received the necessary endorsements for the establishment of the Regional Centre on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development for Latin America and the Caribbean, FAO should convene the first meeting of the Centre in Quito (para. 96).

10. The Conference urged the countries to make use of the system of networks and horizontal cooperation for establishment of rural development funds, and proposed that at the next Conference of Central Banks, FAO submit a statement on the creation of a rural development fund for Latin America (para. 97).

11. It was proposed that a report evaluating progress in agrarian reform and rural development in the Region be presented at the next Regional Conference (para. 103).

Agricultural Trade and Regional Cooperation

For the attention of Governments

12. Various delegations pointed out the need for countries in the Region to make use of mechanisms like the UNCTAD Common Fund, which would enable them to expand their exports, and therefore it was urgent to ratify the relevant convention (para. 109).

13. The need to expand and strengthen cooperation between countries in the Region was noted as well as the desirability that it be based increasingly on specific, flexible and operational projects was stressed (para. 115).

14. The Conference recommended that countries in the Region adopt common positions in international fora for consultation and negotiation on matters of agricultural trade, in particular at the next ministerial meeting at ministerial level of GATT and in UNCTAD VI (para. 119).

For the attention of FAO and Governments

15. It was proposed that a Council on Regional Food Security at Minister of Agriculture level be established, and also a Working Party which would endeavour to make the most urgent aspects operational to establish a Regional Food Security System. The creation of a food reserve was also suggested. The Conference recommended that both FAO and Governments study these proposals carefully (para. 113).

Preparations for the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development

For the attention of FAO

16. The Conference recommended that the World Fisheries Conference play an important role in the practical implementation of the New Regime of the Oceans. It also recommended that the World Fisheries Conference cover not only marine fisheries, but also inland fisheries and aquaculture (para. 131).

17. The Conference suggested an extensive list of items of interest to the Region, which should be considered by the World Fisheries Conference (para. 133).

18. It was suggested that the World Fisheries Conference provide an opportunity to devise a programme for the Region aimed at assessing and managing the marine living resources, training technical cadres and promoting cooperative action among the countries in the Region (para. 136).

Regional Cooperation in Plant Quarantine and Protection

For the attention of FAO

19. The Conference pointed out the possibilities and advantages of horizontal cooperation between countries, under the network system being promoted by FAO in the regional context, and the importance of the Technical Cooperation Programme to meet urgent needs and plant health emergencies. The representatives of some countries of South America requested an expansion of FAO collaboration in control of plant pests and diseases (para. 150).

20. The Conference pointed out that crop loss assessment was essential in order to define and establish in each country plant health policies which would give permanence and consistency to national institutions and programmes. The delegates strongly emphasized the need to provide more assistance in the field of prevention of post-harvest losses (para. 154).

For the attention of FAO and Governments

21. It was emphasized that training of personnel in plant quarantine and protection was an urgent need and should be provided at all levels, through both local and sub-regional courses of varying duration. Producers, especially small farmers and peasants, should also join in the training process through extension, dissemination and transfer of appropriate pest prevention and control technologies. To this end, research should be aimed at development of efficient and easily implemented integrated control methods (para. 153).

22. Various delegations from that area stressed the desirability of extending the scope of activities of the Caribbean Plant Protection Commission (CPPC) to all countries completely or partially located in the Caribbean Basin; they could join CPPC by a simple notification addressed to the Director-General, as set out in the Commission's Statutes (para. 155).

Development and Operation of Regional Programmes and Projects

For the attention of FAO

23. The Conference recommended that two or three projects be identified for 1984, besides the three recommended by the UNDP Administrator's Advisory Working Group, which met in May this year in New York (para. 157).

24. It was noted that there was a need to give priority in regional projects to those addressed to small farmers and traditional agricultural sectors, without confining them to the modern rural sector of the Region alone. Among the priorities to be considered by regional programmes, mention was made of a regional soil conservation project which had been unanimously requested at the Sixteenth Regional Conference (para. 161).

25. The Conference requested that, in regional programmes and projects, greater importance be given to Caribbean countries and to increased cooperation with CARICOM (para. 162).

Representation of the Region on the CGIAR

For the attention of FAO and other international organizations

26. It was pointed out that greater participation by representatives of developing countries in CGIAR meetings would involve expenditure which these countries could not afford. To this end, it was recommended that the Group finance expenses incurred by representatives in carrying out their duties, including travel expenses (para. 176).

Other Business

For the attention of FAO

27. The Conference recommended that the duration of Regional Conferences and their Technical Committees be shortened, pointing out that this would lead to savings for both the countries and the Organization, and would also make it possible for more Ministers of Agriculture to attend (para. 181).

INTRODUCTION

1. The Seventeenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America was held at the César Augusto Silva Conference Centre, Managua, Nicaragua, from 6 to 10 September 1982, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Nicaragua.

Inaugural Ceremony

2. The inaugural ceremony was attended by: Coordinator of the Government Junta of National Reconstruction, Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra and the Minister of Agricultural Development and Agrarian Reform, Commander of the Revolution Jaime Wheelock Román.

3. The Director-General of FAO, Dr Edouard Saouma, took the floor to thank the Coordinator of the Government Junta for attending the ceremony and expressed appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Nicaragua for their warm and generous hospitality. In his statement, he underlined the realistic view with which the leaders of the Revolution were facing the future and the importance they have assigned to agriculture. He emphasized the role and participation of women and youth in the reconstruction process.

4. The Coordinator of the Governing Junta of National Reconstruction welcomed the participants and stressed the fact that the Regional Conference was taking place during one of the most critical times experienced by humanity, as reflected in the international financial crisis which was, in turn, the manifestation of exhaustion in the forms of production and trade that have been imposed in the world. He pointed out that the indebtedness of the poor countries has already exceeded 570 thousand million dollars and that inability to pay the debt service was the clearest proof that this imposed scheme had come to an end.

5. He added that it was neither just, nor logical, nor rational, nor economic to use the best lands, credit, technology, and the sweat and sacrifice of the peoples of the region in order to produce more coffee, more cotton, more sugar and more bananas which they must sell at ever lower prices while at the same time the prices to purchase medicines, inputs and capital goods in general were increasingly higher. Nor was it just, or logical, or rational or economic that food production should continue to be neglected in the countries of the region, and that the irrationalism imposed by the world market should lead them to the absurd position of being food importers to the point of investing one-fourth of their agricultural export earnings for this item.

6. In his speech, the Coordinator of the Governing Junta spoke of the irrationality of denying these countries the opportunity to process their primary products, when UNCTAD had pointed out that the less developed countries could obtain an additional 27 thousand million dollars merely by semi-processing ten of their leading primary products.

7. Nor was it rational, he said, that the production and food needs of the peoples of the region should be subject to political pressure and blackmail.

8. He mentioned the implications of this picture for Nicaragua, which were being aggravated by the material losses caused by the liberation struggle, and recent natural disasters that in the past decade have exceeded 3 500 million dollars. He emphasized the successes obtained in the task of national reconstruction through the literacy campaign, and especially the fundamental role of the agrarian reform as a support of economic, political and social transformations. All of this has already made it possible to exceed past record levels in production of eggs, poultry and pig meat, beans, sugar, rice and sorghum.

9. He recalled the principles recently agreed in the Eighth Latin American Council of SELA for defence of the security, and economic independence of Latin America, the battle against food dependency and the struggle against the use of foods as an instrument of political pressure. All this, he said, made it necessary to reorient Latin American trade to increase to the utmost an intra-regional exchange of basic foods utilizing the potential for production and complementarity of the region's products.

10. As a corollary to his speech, he reiterated the need for a New Economic Order, declaring that the financial crisis is indefensible, and he called for an immediate international moratorium.

11. He appealed for dialogue so that irrational violence should not blast humanity's hopes, and stressed the role played by FAO assistance in promoting full peace.

12. The complete text of the speech of the Coordinator of the Governing Junta was distributed as a Conference document at the unanimous request of the participants.

Opening of the Conference

13. The Director-General of FAO, Dr Edouard Saouma, opened the proceedings of the Conference.

Election of Officers

14. The Conference unanimously elected: as Chairman, Commander of the Revolution and Minister of Agricultural Development and Agrarian Reform of Nicaragua, Jaime Wheelock Román; as Vice-Chairmen, the Ministers of Agriculture of Argentina, the Bahamas and Mexico, Messrs Victor Hugo Santirso, George A. Smith and Francisco Merino Rabago, and the Ambassador of Ecuador to Nicaragua, Mr Rosendo Maridueña German. The Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Colombia to FAO, Mr Gonzalo Bula Hoyos was elected Rapporteur.

15. A Drafting Committee was set up, composed of the Rapporteur and the representatives of Barbados, Brazil, Cuba, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and Uruguay.

Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

16. The Conference accepted the proposal of the Delegation of Colombia to discuss under the item "Any other business" the preparations being made by FAO and the governments to celebrate World Food Day. It then adopted the Agenda and Timetable, the former being attached as Appendix A to this Report.

Statement by the Director-General of FAO

17. In his statement, the Director-General briefly recalled the world situation of food and agriculture pointing out that there had been a significant, although limited, improvement to which Latin America had contributed.

18. He noted, however, that the economies of the Latin American countries are being gravely affected by both internal and external destabilizing and depressive factors. He added that, according to provisional estimates, the growth rate of the GNP had once again fallen to 1.2 percent in 1981, thereby intensifying the loss of dynamism and causing it to become widespread.

19. He emphasized that the present world recession had aggravated the balance of payments and foreign indebtedness position of the countries in the region, bringing the deficit in the current balance of payment account to 39 000 million in 1981. Moreover high interest rates have further complicated the situation, and shortage of foreign exchange has become one of the main obstacles to the development process.

20. Referring to the specific situation of the region, he said that food prices were the leading factor in the inflationary process in most of the countries in the region. He added that the first problem of agriculture in Latin America was to bring production to keep pace with the high population growth rate, as well as the urgent need to create new sources of employment.

21. He then mentioned another item to be discussed by the Conference, that of agricultural trade, stressing that the real prices of some products were barely one third of what they had been 20 years ago. He said that protectionism was a serious obstacle and that therefore it was crucial to increase and liberalize the trade of the developing countries in the region.

22. In his statement he asked those Latin American countries which had not already done so to endorse the Constituent Convention of the Common Fund.

23. He stressed the importance of regional and subregional cooperation in the field of agriculture, food and food security. FAO, he added, will continue to assist regional cooperation and integration schemes. Intra-regional cooperation however should be based on practical mechanisms and, he said, FAO is taking administrative steps to be able to formalize its relations and working agreements with several inter-governmental agencies operating in Latin America and the Caribbean. Emphasis should be placed on subregional cooperation, and with that aim he stated his intention to give special attention to the Caribbean countries facilitating TCDC arrangements, particularly in the fields of food legumes, management of natural resources and recycling of organic matter and biogas.

24. He drew attention to the shortage of fuelwood faced by 160 million inhabitants which, should the present tendencies continue, could be aggravated by the end of the century to the point of affecting more than 300 million persons. He stressed the need for better conservation and utilization of wood resources and for introducing technological improvements such as more efficient cooking stoves.

25. Concerning World Food Security he said that progress had been slow and scarce. He gave details concerning the International Undertaking, the Global Information and Early Warning System, the International Emergency Food Reserve, the Convention on Food Aid and the Five Point Plan of Action. He emphasized the need for new ideas and daring innovations and informed the Conference that he would present proposals to this end to the next Session of the Committee on World Food Security.

26. In concluding his speech, he referred to the recent changes in the senior staff of the Regional Office with whom he hoped to make the work of the Organization more effective. He asked the Member States to continue to collaborate with the new staff members to achieve all these objectives.

27. The complete text of the speech was distributed to all the participants as a Conference document.

Statement of the Executive Director of WFP

28. Mr Juan Felipe Yriart, Acting Deputy Executive Director of WFP, spoke in his statement of the valuable experience acquired through the work of the Programme in Latin America, mentioning the total amount of the various projects and pointing out that the contribution was relatively modest. He added that although a large share of resources went to countries in other regions, the remainder could play a significant role in the countries of the region, giving momentum to development activities in support of the poorest population sectors through combined financial, technical and food aid.

29. He emphasized that continued priority would be given to the low-income countries in the region and - within the limits of the resources - to requests from the middle-income countries on condition that the assistance be used particularly to meet the needs for creating jobs and improving the nutritional level.

30. Lastly, he requested that countries in the region undertake efforts to reach the established target of 1 200 million dollars.

PLENARY SESSION ITEMS

General Debate on the Situation and Prospects of Food and Agriculture in the Region

31. Most of the delegations spoke on this item in order to review the situation of food and agriculture in their respective countries, contributing up-to-date information.

32. The Conference agreed with the Director-General's statement concerning the negative effects on the economies of Latin American countries of policies of subsidies, high tariff charges, low prices for agricultural commodities on international markets, high rates of interest, etc.

33. The Conference expressed its concern at the excessive burden which the service of the external debt represented for the economy of the countries and its negative effects on the development of food and agriculture, and agreed in this connection that the financial crisis was irreversible.
34. Other delegations agreed with the references in that statement regarding the importance it attributed to the peasant economy.
35. Unanimous support was expressed for the management of the Director-General and the Regional Representative, and for the work of the FAO Representatives in the countries.
36. The Conference stressed that food should not be used as an instrument of political pressure.
37. Many delegations mentioned the need for Latin America to achieve food self-sufficiency as a basis for solving the problems of hunger and malnutrition. It was suggested that the Conference should make a recommendation on this subject.
38. Various delegations suggested that FAO should promote studies or projects involving better use of tropical foods produced in the region to improve the quality of the average diet, thereby reducing wheat consumption and dependency on wheat imports.
39. Various delegations said that they were in favour of the creation of national food reserves.
40. The former President of Costa Rica, Don José Figueres, suggested that it would be useful to create a World Food Bank in the future. This initiative, he pointed out, could be complemented by others, such as a Common Fund for Basic Commodities and Food Reserves. The objectives of the Bank would be the stabilization of food prices, and food security.
41. In this connection, the Conference considered it desirable that the idea of a World Food Bank should be analysed carefully and realistically.
42. The participants commented favourably on studies being conducted by FAO on critical aspects of development.
43. They expressed gratitude for FAO support in the efforts made by the affected countries to eradicate African Swine Fever.
44. The Conference expressed the concern of countries in the region regarding pressure by developed countries to impose zero growth on the FAO budget. This, they said, was an attempt to replace multilateral by bilateral assistance which could not be in line with the interests of Latin American countries.
45. The Conference was asked to condemn any form of political and economic bloc, particularly the kind frequently used to obstruct access of developing countries to international loans.
46. It supported FAO's collaboration with SELA in the establishment of an Action Committee for Food Security.
47. It was suggested that the FAO Fertilizer Programme should be revised and strengthened to help countries having a shortage of this input which they have had to import at high prices.
48. The participants emphasized the Latin American countries' support for and solidarity with Argentina in the face of the sanctions imposed on it because of the Falklands (Malvinas) conflict.
49. It was requested that the Regional Conference ask Latin American representatives on the Committee for Food Aid to revise the criteria for granting WFP aid, such as per caput income, in the light of the progressive impoverishment of many countries.

50. It was requested that Latin Americans have more representation in WFP management and administration, and that in filling the vacant post of assistant to the Executive Director a Latin American should be considered.
51. The Conference requested that Latin American representatives on the FAO Council and on ECOSOC should support an increase of WFP funds to reach the target of US \$1 200 million.
52. The participants reiterated that Latin America needs to combine food aid to alleviate hunger, with the execution of socio-economic development projects. The Director-General was requested to integrate food aid provided by WFP with FAO technical assistance in the projects where technical inputs constitute a major factor of success.
53. Various delegations expressed support for rural development projects being implemented with WFP resources.
54. An evaluation of the methodologies used by WFP was recommended, and also a broadening of its parameters so that not only marginalized populations should be taken into account.
55. The Conference considered that technical cooperation between countries in the region was a strategic tool for the progress of Latin American countries.
56. The Conference recommended, with a reservation by Argentina, that in future the Region should be known as Latin America and the Caribbean, and that the Regional Conferences be called Regional Conferences for Latin America and the Caribbean.

FAO Programme in the Region

57. The item was presented by FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Latin America, Mr Mario Jalil, who based his remarks on two Conference documents: Report on FAO Activities in the Region 1980-81, and FAO Programme of Work in the Region 1982-83.
58. He then described the technical structure of the Regional Office and its way of operating. He particularly stressed the system of networks for technical cooperation between national institutions which was being promoted by the Regional Office as an effective mechanism for technical cooperation between countries in the region.
59. After this he presented a detailed review of FAO's implementation of the six Resolutions adopted by the Sixteenth Regional Conference in Havana in 1980.
60. Mr Jalil concluded by asking the Conference for clearly defined guidelines in the professional field, and for its support to redouble efforts of collaboration with member countries aimed at achieving sound, harmonious and stable agricultural, rural and food development.
61. During the discussion on this item, the Conference unanimously expressed satisfaction at the appointment of Mr Mario Jalil as the new Regional Representative, the quality of his introductory speech, and that of the supporting documents.
62. The Conference also expressed enthusiastic support for the Regional Office's initiatives in promoting the establishment of networks for technical cooperation between national institution of the countries in the region.
63. It was pointed out that the catalyzing role of the Regional Office in the promotion of technical cooperation networks was considered useful, but that the Office should gradually withdraw from the older networks, leaving their management in the hands of the countries, thereby making it possible to deal with new technical fields.
64. It was also requested that the Regional Office should continue to identify national institutions suitable for purposes of horizontal cooperation, and also that UNDP resources and those of other financing agencies should be used for those purposes.

65. It was requested that the Report should expressly mention the appreciation of the countries in the region for the work performed by the Regional Office, and the support they have been giving it. Thus the Director-General will have a valid mandate from the region to confront pressures by some developed countries to suppress the Regional Offices. These, together with the FAO Country Representatives, are the basic mainstays of the Director-General's decentralization policy.

66. The Conference emphasized the work carried out by the Regional Office in providing support to the Offices of FAO Representatives in the countries, which increases their effectiveness.

67. Greater participation by the Regional Office in the formulation, execution and evaluation of projects in the countries was requested.

68. It was suggested that the document on FAO Activities in the Region (LARC/82/2) should be distributed, as far as possible, in advance of the Conference so that countries could study it carefully, and that it should contain quantitative information on the cost of FAO projects in the countries and on the share of FAO's contribution to the total cost of the projects.

69. It was also suggested that the next Programme of Work and Budget of FAO grant more priority to the Organization's basic programmes (natural resources, agriculture, livestock production, forestry and fisheries), and that such priority be reflected in more substantial allocations for those programmes.

70. Several delegations considered that in document LARC/82/2 little importance was attributed to agricultural research.

71. The Conference noted with satisfaction the special attention that the Director-General has been giving to the Caribbean countries, in particular, the assistance of the Regional Office in the field of food legumes, small-scale fisheries, and the recycling of organic matter and biogas.

72. Support was expressed for the importance that FAO attaches and the collaboration it provides to regional and sub-regional cooperation and integration organizations.

73. Various delegations pointed out the desirability of having FAO sub-regionalize its activities in Latin America, referring, by way of example, to the type of assistance being provided to the Cartagena Agreement Board.

74. Several delegations expressed anxiety at the drop in the amount of resources that UNDP has been channelling to Latin America.

75. The importance of studies on the situation and the prospects of food and agriculture, and on the interpretation of the sectoral development process being carried out by the FAO/ECLA Agriculture Division was emphasized.

76. Concern was expressed at the fact that there was still no financing available for the regional soil conservation project formulated by FAO in response to Resolution 4/80 of the Sixteenth FAO Regional Conference in Havana in 1980.

77. FAO assistance was requested for a watershed management and conservation programme, particularly in the Panama Canal Zone.

78. FAO's efforts in relation to the prevention and control of exotic diseases of livestock were recognized. Additional collaboration was requested for countries still affected by African Swine Fever, in regard to the drastic methods that must be adopted to eradicate it.

79. Several delegations referred to the importance of the FAO Prevention of Food Losses Programme, pointing out the desirability of disseminating its results and seeking additional resources. It was recommended that this Programme should also give attention to losses which occur during the harvest itself.

80. The Conference expressed support for FAO cooperation with the regional and sub-regional organizations working in the region such as SELA, ALADI, IICA, CARICOM and the Andean Group, and agreed that work in this direction should continue.
81. One delegation offered to collaborate in a regional effort to improve studies of the physical and mechanical properties of tropical woods through the research laboratories the region possesses.
82. The Conference expressed agreement on support to Argentina, as contemplated in the FAO Programme of Work in the Region 1982-83, to help its economy recover.
83. It was noted with satisfaction that FAO planned to conduct a survey on cocoa processing.
84. Favourable comments were expressed on the preferential treatment which small and medium-size producers have been receiving from FAO concerning small animals.
85. The Conference expressed satisfaction with the statistical information prepared and disseminated by FAO, and also with analyses performed by the Organization on food and agriculture subjects and training in rural development projects being executed by the UNDP/ECLA project PROCADES.
86. The lack of freedom of peasants to organize in some countries was mentioned.
87. The Observer for the United States took the floor to speak on FAO's Programme in the Region.
88. The Observer for the United Nations Programme for the Environment described the programmes being executed in the Region by that agency.
89. The Conference expressed its gratitude for the work of Mr Pedro Moral López as FAO Regional Representative for Latin America.
90. The Regional Conference approved the following Resolution on FAO's Programme in the Region:

RESOLUTION 1/82

The Seventeenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. The need to adjust technical assistance mechanisms to changing and dynamic national situations;
2. The decreasing flow of resources to finance technical assistance projects in Latin America;
3. The magnitude of the feasibility and investment projects which will have to be formulated in the short and medium term to meet the demand for foods, the creation of jobs and, in general, improvement of the life of the rural population, estimated in the FAO study "Agriculture: Toward 2000", and the desirability of reiterating the terms of Resolution 2/80 of the Sixteenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America concerning the constraints and needs for more investment in agriculture;
4. That in the scientific and technical fields in Latin America there are centres of excellence and many national institutions which have developed technologies appropriate to the solution of specific problems and which can be useful to other countries of the region;

5. That in the region there is experience accumulated in numerous rural development projects which, at the regional level in different countries, can provide information on the best way to increase agricultural production and productivity and raise the social well-being of the rural population, and that therefore these experiences should be disseminated;
6. That FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) has proved to be a valuable tool for providing short-term assistance to the Member Nations flexibly, speedily and appropriately, and that because of these characteristics the Programme can facilitate technical cooperation between the countries in the region;
7. That the cooperation networks between national institutions of the countries in the Region which cover different ecosystems, production items, agro-environmental techniques or support services have been well received by an increasing number of those institutions, thereby already constituting a real horizontal cooperation mechanism between the countries at the regional and sub-regional levels;
8. That the countries of the Caribbean are confronting special agricultural and food problems due to the scarcity of their natural resources, and lack experience in sectors which other countries of the region can provide to achieve more sound and accelerated agricultural development.

Resolves:

1. To urge the countries of the region:
 - i) To intensify their ties of reciprocal cooperation, using the technical cooperation networks mechanism for that purpose through incorporation in it of those national institutions which are developing activities for research on or adaptation of technologies, or which are executing agricultural development projects;
 - ii) To continue supporting FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme both with regard to its structures and operation and its upkeep and, as far as possible, an increase of its funds within the Regular Programme of FAO;
 - iii) To make use of the technical cooperation networks system to improve and increase feasibility projects aimed at raising investment in agriculture to the necessary and sufficient level.
2. To request the Director-General of FAO:
 - i) To continue to provide his backing and support to the technical cooperation networks between national institutions operating in Latin America, with the technical and logistic support of FAO through its Regional Office;
 - ii) To earmark TCP funds for network activities as a support to technical cooperation between the countries of the region;
 - iii) To take steps to enable the networks, through their annual programmes prepared by the Coordinator of each of them with the support of the Regional Office, to identify the priority areas of training, research and transfer of technologies so as to have the greatest possible multiplying effect on resources which can be used to make cooperation feasible, including that of an inter-regional character;
 - iv) To ensure that within this approach special attention be given to the Caribbean countries, particularly in the fields of promotion of food legume production, small-scale fishery, recycling of organic matter and biogas, small stock raising systems and food technology.

Follow-up to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development

91. The Secretariat presented a detailed statement on the follow-up FAO is conducting at the national and international level to support the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

92. In its statement, the Secretariat reported on regional meetings, consultations of experts, specific projects and other activities being executed, addressed:

- to strengthening of rural extension mechanisms in Latin America to benefit peasants and small farmers;
- promotion of self-help organizations in low-income sectors of rural areas;
- incorporation in education activities of concepts of participation of women in development;
- an analysis of the problems of public administration in the agricultural sector, to benefit small farmers and peasants.

93. The Secretariat explained and emphasized the importance:

- of the efforts of the Director-General of FAO to implement the agreement adopted by the countries in the region for the establishment of a Regional Centre of Agrarian Reform and Rural Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, and
- activities in connection with meeting the commitment undertaken by the Member Countries to evaluate the progress that has been achieved in agrarian reform and rural development. In this connection the Secretariat reported on the pilot studies executed and to be carried out in the future in several countries in the region to identify a group of basic socio-economic indicators, perform in-depth analysis of the progress achieved in the agrarian reform and rural development process, and establish a permanent and appropriate mechanism for follow-up and evaluation of agrarian reform and rural development.

94. The Conference confirmed its support to the Declaration of Principles and Programme of Action as adopted by WCARRD, congratulating FAO on the way it has been implementing the agreements adopted by the FAO Conference, and in this regard said that it would be advisable to strengthen and expand activities in the fields of self-help organizations; participation of rural women in development; education, training and extension, and access to inputs, markets and services. It emphasized the importance of popular participation in development processes and upheld the development philosophy according to which man must be the protagonist and fundamental objective.

95. The Conference reiterated that integrated rural development requires social changes, better distribution of income and the consistent application of the Programme of Action as adopted by WCARRD.

96. In the course of the discussion, the Delegation of Ecuador informed the Conference that the procedure for endorsement of the Agreement for the establishment of the Centre was being carried forward according to the constitutional provisions and it was hoped that the House of Representatives would ratify it during the present session being held from August to October of this year; it requested that, after the necessary endorsements were deposited with the Director-General, FAO should convene the first meeting of the Governing Council in Quito. It also reported that the country was making progress in fulfilling the commitments it had undertaken such as providing physical space, installations, and financial contributions for operation of the Centre.

97. The Delegation urged the countries to make use of the system of networks and horizontal cooperation for establishment of rural development funds, and proposed that in the next Conference of Central Banks, FAO should submit a statement on the creation of a rural development fund for Latin America.

98. The Conference asserted the need to orient the financial policies of governments in a way that would create the conditions to make financing accessible to small producers and poor peasants in appropriate, flexible and efficient form, and to mobilize the financial resources necessary for this purpose.

99. The Conference reasserted its broad support for the creation of the Regional Centre for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development for Latin America and the Caribbean, and mentioned the importance of coordinating actions based on a sub-regional model in this respect. The Dominican Republic offered to act as host for the Centre in the Caribbean area once the sub-regional scheme had been adopted. Moreover, in the light of the present situation of Central America, it was requested that when the Centre began its activities it should give priority to a study and analysis of land tenure problems in that area.

100. Several countries described the institutional changes and innovations they have been introducing in the implementation of the Programme of Action and of their Agrarian Reform and Rural Development policies, such as the establishment of the National Peasant Training Institute and of the Secretariat for Rural Development and the Fund for Marginal Rural Development (FODERUMA) in Ecuador; the Extraordinary Ministry for Land Matters (Ministry of Lands) and the Legitimate Land Use Programme in Brazil; the National Rural Development Service in Chile; the Back-to-the-Land Programme in Costa Rica and the DRI Programme in Colombia. Barbados, Mexico and Nicaragua gave detailed explanations on their Agrarian Reform and Rural Development processes.

101. Most of the delegations expressed views of the following topics:

- Development models. Doubts were expressed regarding the efficiency of models aimed at modernization of agriculture for particular sectors to the detriment of the large majority of producers, and the tendency to give strong support to production of crops for export. It was felt that modernization should go hand in hand with the process of change, and that in many cases cooperative organizations and other associative forms would be an effective model for promoting the participation of beneficiaries, including women and young people. Regionalization was also proposed as a way of obtaining an integrated scheme based on planning;
- Horizontal cooperation. It was considered that in the countries of the region there were experiences and capabilities in different fields of agrarian reform and rural development, and that a dynamic and active horizontal cooperation programme would facilitate the harnessing of these valuable resources of the region;
- Research. It was noted that research in support of programmes and projects was necessary; on this point it was felt that there was a need for up-to-date studies on the situation of the peasants in the countries. It was pointed out that there had been no complete studies on land tenure in the region since the 1960 decade when the Inter-American Committee on Agricultural Development (CIDA) conducted its research, and the usefulness of making similar studies was pointed out;
- Cooperation. It was mentioned that better utilization of existing resources was necessary, and that, while not detracting from the competences of the different institutions, efforts should be made to obtain better cooperation.

102. The Conference expressed its support to inter-governmental consultations of a regional type, the activities for identification of socio-economic indicators, and the establishment of permanent mechanisms for follow-up and evaluation of the Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. It also declared its support for strengthening of participation mechanisms and rural extension systems.

103. It was proposed that, in view of its importance, the theme of Follow-up of the Programme of Action as adopted by WCARRD be included in the Agenda of the next meeting of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG). It was also proposed, in view of the need and usefulness of maintaining the priority held by this topic in the interest of the countries, a report evaluating progress in Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in the region be presented at the next Regional Conference for Latin America.

104. The Observer for IFAD noted FAO's close collaboration with the Fund in the preparation of projects. He stressed that the loans granted by that Agency could only be successful on condition that the recipient country was engaged in a development strategy aimed at the poor in rural areas. He pointed out that this required appropriate fiscal price, agrarian reform and credit policies for agricultural and rural development.

Agricultural Trade and Regional Cooperation

105. In presenting this item, the Secretariat pointed out the importance of its examination by the Conference and emphasized the characteristics defining the present situation and the inter-relationships between agricultural trade, food security and regional cooperation in Latin America. It spoke of protectionism in trade and agricultural production and described its negative and conflicting aspects. It also stated that there was a need for countries in the region to make use of some mechanisms that would enable them to expand their exports, such as the UNCTAD Common Fund, and that therefore it was urgent to take steps for its ratification. It stressed the importance of the FAO Five Point Plan of Action as a benchmark to assist the countries in the field of food security. Moreover it noted the need to orient agricultural cooperation along increasingly operational and practical lines through the implementation of specific projects.

106. During the discussion, the delegations repeatedly mentioned the international economic situation, the negative external factors affecting the economies of countries in the region and their repercussions on agricultural trade. They expressed their serious concern over the discouraging outlook for regional agricultural exports, due to the fact that in the short term no substantial changes in the world economic situation can be foreseen.

107. The delegations said that, as a consequence of market fluctuations and the appreciable drop in international prices for agricultural products, their export earnings had been substantially reduced, forcing them to increase the volume of these products to compensate for this situation.

108. The Conference condemned the clear increase of protectionism in trade and the subsidies to agricultural exports in the industrialized countries. It pointed out that not only were protectionist practices contrary to the intentions repeatedly expressed in different international fora of opening up these markets, but that they have also affected opportunities for the region's expansion of production and agricultural exports to a greater extent.

109. The Conference emphasized the restrictive implications for Latin American agricultural production of tariff barriers and non-tariff obstacles to trade in farm products. In this connection, various delegations pointed out the need for countries in the region to make use of mechanisms like the UNCTAD Common Fund, which would enable them to expand their exports, which made it urgent to ratify the respective agreement.

110. The Conference mentioned the critical and negative situation the sugar exports of the region's countries were experiencing in matters of prices and trade policies which were obstructing their access to the markets of some industrialized countries, as well as the EEC sugar production policies.

111. The Conference stressed the importance of expanding sub-regional trade in agricultural products and of its contribution to an increase of national exports and towards guaranteeing greater food security in the region.

112. The Conference pointed out the importance of the tasks which could be performed by SELA in regard to food security, through its recently established Action Committee on Regional Food Security.

113. One delegation proposed to the Conference that a Council on Regional Food Security at Minister of Agriculture level should be formed. It also proposed that a Working Party be established which would endeavour to make the most urgent actions operational in order to establish a Regional Food Security System. This delegation called for the creation of a food reserve.

114. The Conference agreed that this proposal contained very useful points and that the spirit inspiring it corresponded to the objectives which the Region must attain in that field. In view of the magnitude of the implications of these proposals, they would be carefully examined by governments and FAO.

115. The Conference reasserted the need to expand and strengthen agricultural and food cooperation between countries in the region. It referred to specific experiences of reciprocal support mechanisms between countries in the region. It was pointed out that the strengthening of cooperation should be based increasingly on the execution of specific, flexible and operational projects.

116. Various delegations also stressed the special role that technical and economic cooperation could play in stabilizing agricultural markets and in regional food security.

117. Various delegations noted the activities being carried out by different national and sub-regional schemes for integration and economic cooperation in the agricultural and food sector.

118. The Conference emphasized the task that FAO is performing in support of countries in the region, and of developing countries, in general, so that better conditions may be created for development of agricultural exports and for the establishment of international legal regulations which would facilitate it, lead to its expansion and create conditions of stability which would reduce price fluctuations.

119. The Conference asserted the need for countries in the region to adopt common positions in international fora for consultation and negotiation on agricultural trade matters, particularly in the next GATT meeting at minister's level and in UNCTAD VI.

120. The Observer for the Cartagena Agreement Board stressed the importance of agricultural trade, and the efforts being made to expand it between the countries of the Andean Group, and noted the collaboration FAO was providing for this purpose.

121. The Observer for SELA mentioned the interest of his Organization in the field of regional food security, reported on the results of the Eighth SELA Latin American Council, and noted the assistance FAO was providing to SELA.

122. In connection with this item, the Conference approved the following Resolutions:

RESOLUTION 2/82

The Seventeenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Taking note of:

The experience derived from the use of threats and the application of measures of a coercive nature by some industrialized countries as an instrument of political pressure against countries of the Region:

Considering:

1. that the threats used and measures taken by some developed countries against developing countries have established a dangerous precedent affecting Latin America as a whole;
2. that the application of economic sanctions of a coercive nature by countries or groups of countries constitutes unilateral, illegal and arbitrary acts violating the norms established in the United Nations Charter and in other international legal mechanisms of a multilateral world regional character.

Resolves:

1. To resolutely condemn threats and coercive economic measures as an instrument of economic repression and a means of exerting political pressure on developing countries;

2. To request FAO to continue its support to the activities being conducted in Latin American area regarding agricultural and food cooperation and the establishment of a food security system in order to attain food self-sufficiency aimed at strengthening regional economic security;
3. To support Decisions 112, 113 and 127 of the Eighth SELA Latin American Council referring to the imposition of economic measures of a coercive nature, regional economic security, and the establishment of the Action Committee for the creation of a food security scheme respectively.

RESOLUTION 3/82

The Seventeenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That the intensification of protectionist measures maintained by the developed countries concerning the leading agricultural basic commodities of the countries in the region is intended to aggravate the unfavourable effects of these policies on those countries' production and marketing;
2. That the recent protectionist and discriminatory measures established by some developed countries in regard to leading agricultural import products such as sugar have negative repercussions for the economies of the countries in the region, and that these measures can weaken the joint positions which the countries of the region can adopt to confront the harm caused by these imposed protectionist measures;
3. That, in spite of Latin American appeals to the United States of America, the European Economic Community and other countries, no steps have been taken to revise their increasingly protectionist policy;
4. That the EEC-Latin America dialogue has had no success due to the lack of a political will on the part of the European Economic Community to increase economic cooperation with the region;
5. That no major concessions for the agricultural trade of the developing countries have been obtained through the GATT Multilateral Trade Negotiations;
6. That the lack of progress in execution of the Integrated Programme for Basic Commodities and the weakening of already existing agreements can be attributed to the lack of flexibility of many of the developed countries;
7. That intra-regional agricultural trade is relatively small and that its expansion is highly desirable;
8. That because of its purpose and structure, the Latin American Economic System is the appropriate regional body for carrying out joint coordination and actions which the Governments may consider appropriate to the legitimate common interests of the region concerning economic and social questions vis-à-vis third party countries.

Resolves:

1. To exhort the governments of the region to explore the possibility of coordinating their actions in all international fora to attain the objectives established in the New International Economic Order and the strengthening of regional cooperation and integration in production and agricultural trade;
2. To denounce the growing intensification of protectionist measures applied by many developed countries to their agricultural production, and the negative repercussions of these policies on the production and marketing of products of interest to the developing countries, especially those in the region;

3. To recommend to the governments of the countries of Latin American and the Caribbean that they demand, in a coordinated manner, that the competent agencies take appropriate steps concerning matters of trade in basic commodities of decisive importance to the countries of the region which have not been resolved in the GATT Multilateral Trade Negotiations, with the aim of abolishing tariff and non-tariff barriers and suppressing duties on basic commodities of particular interest, to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean 1/;
4. To urge the developed countries to constructively heed consultations and negotiations aimed at establishing new basic commodities agreements in fulfilment of UNCTAD IV Resolution 93, and to promote sound implementation of those already existing;
5. To urge the countries of the region to maintain a coordinated position toward the forthcoming negotiations for holding UNCTAD VI;
6. To censure the EEC's agricultural policy, whose repercussions affect our economies, especially the items connected with sugar, meat and milk products;
7. To support and contribute to the application of the decisions emanating from the Eighth SELA Latin American Council, especially those concerning economic relations between Latin America and the United States and the relations of Latin America with the EEC;
8. To recommend, to the governments of the countries in the region that they formulate joint positions and strategies concerning intra-regional trade as a means of intensifying regional cooperation to facilitate the expansion of agricultural trade;
9. To recommend to FAO that it evaluate the economic impact on the countries in the region of the drop in international prices of agricultural products on the world market and report its findings to the Eighteenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America.

RESOLUTION 4/82

The Seventeenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That most countries in the region are facing increasing difficulties in meeting the food needs of their peoples, which obliges them to import substantial amounts of essential products;
2. That efforts being made in most of the countries to achieve food self-sufficiency are meeting obstacles caused by external factors, such as:
 - a) Deterioration in the terms of trade, which makes it necessary to increase areas under cultivation as well as the resources ear-marked for agro-export production.
 - b) Protectionist measures which are being adopted with increasing frequency by the industrialized countries.
 - c) The growing scarcity and high cost of financing available for developing countries.
3. That the disproportionate concentration of resources and technologies in the industrialized countries, as a result of the trade mechanisms prevailing in the world, enables them to produce and export large food surpluses and manufactured goods, increasing the gap between the developed and developing countries;

1/ The Delegation of Jamaica reserved its position on this section of the paragraph.

4. That food should not be used as an instrument of political pressure.

Resolves:

1. To express its support for considering the possibility of creating flexible and effective food security systems for the region;
2. To recommend that this idea should include the creation of a food reserve to cover needs arising in deficit countries, as well as to facilitate the development of production projects which can contribute to the achievement of food self-sufficiency in every country;
3. To recommend that all this be based on a multilateral scheme which could help to reduce the vulnerability of Latin American and Caribbean countries vis-à-vis one or more industrialized countries;
4. To request the Director-General of FAO to prepare a report on the food security situation in Latin America and the Caribbean, and to see to it that this item will be included in the agenda of the Eighteenth FAO Regional Conference.

New and Renewable Sources of Energy for Agriculture and Rural Development

123. In presenting this item the Secretariat emphasized that, although the agrarian sector is a relatively small consumer of commercial energy, it is essential to guarantee this supply of energy to it at prices accessible even to farmers having small resources. Otherwise the production of food and other agricultural commodities would be hindered, and rural development would be slowed down.

124. Mr Enrique Iglesias, Executive Secretary of ECLA, in his capacity as a special guest, referred in an extensive statement to the energy transition being experienced by humanity at present, and especially to its implications and consequences for developing countries, almost all of which are characterized by a modern economic sector coexisting with a traditional one. Therefore, these countries should encourage exploration and efficient use of fossil fuels and other non-renewable energy sources while at the same time developing renewable sources such as hydraulic energy, fuelwood and biogas. He stated that energy is the driving force in development and that the technological, economic, social and political aspects of the energy issue must be fully understood in order to confidently meet the challenge presented by development, based on restraint and self-sufficiency in the production and use of energy.

125. Describing their experiences and programmes, the countries emphasized the region's potential for production of liquid fuels based on agricultural crops and the biomass, as well as the high potential supply of fuelwood, charcoal and gas. In some countries geothermal and hydraulic energy from small waterfalls are also promising. This potential and forms of its optimal use vary, depending on the prevailing socio-economic and ecological conditions, both at local and national levels. In line with the ideas inspiring the Nairobi Programme of Action, it was pointed out that the utilization of these resources must be suited to the needs and options of each country, must be technically and economically feasible, socially just, and must preserve the environment. On the other hand it was pointed out that these programmes are not mutually exclusive, but are complementary to those designed to promote and efficiently use conventional energy sources for rural purposes.

126. Several countries emphasized the vital importance of using commercial energy more and more efficiently, while at the same time ensuring that new and renewable sources of energy make the maximum contribution to meet the energy needs of rural areas, obtaining equitable and guaranteed access to energy inputs. In this connection, fuelwood has been and could continue to be a renewable source of energy of the greatest importance, above all for the majority of the rural population and for urban sectors with limited resources. However, through establishment of forest plantations and appropriate forest management, it should be possible to eliminate the serious problems of environmental conservation which have been created by use of fuelwood beyond the forest potential, mainly in arid and semi-arid island and mountain areas. Approximately 30 percent of the agricultural land in Latin America is in the categories of family or sub-family units on which two thirds of the rural population live. New and renewable sources of energy, such as biogas, could enable the population to make better use of local resources to raise their standard of living.

127. The Conference recommended to countries in the region that they include integrated rural energy programmes, in their national energy policies and strategies and intensify their activities for the creation and suitable use of new and renewable sources of energy, particularly encouraging afforestation and reforestation programmes in areas lacking fuel-wood. In this connection, countries should intensify the transfer of experiences and technologies which have proved valid through horizontal cooperation.

128. The Conference requested that FAO, together with ECLA and OLADE (Latin American Energy Organization), support national efforts and cooperation between countries to develop new and renewable sources of energy for rural areas. It also requested that these organizations should obtain financial support for regional, sub-regional and national programmes intended to promote the production and efficient use of those sources, particularly fuel-wood and other forms of biomass, biogas, animal traction, wind energy and others. It was also requested that a Latin American Symposium be held on new and renewable sources of energy for agricultural and rural development, which could be sponsored by FAO and OLADE.

Report on Preparation for the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development

129. This item was discussed on the basis of document LARC/82/7 and on the additional information provided by the Secretariat.

130. The Regional Conference expressed strong support for the Director-General of FAO to convene a World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development, and each delegation pledged its country's full cooperation in preparing holding the Conference.

131. Recognizing the decisive influence of Latin American countries in the formulation of the new regime of the oceans, as embodied in the Convention on the Law of the Sea adopted on 30 April 1982, the Regional Conference agreed that the World Fisheries Conference should play an important role in the practical implementation of this new regime in relation to fisheries. At the same time, it pointed out that the World Fisheries Conference should cover not only marine fisheries, whose expansion was limited, but also inland fisheries and aquaculture. It noted that there was scope for developing these sectors in the region and thereby adding to the production of protein-rich food.

132. The Regional Conference expressed approval of the broad objectives of the World Fisheries Conference as outlined in document LARC/82/7. In this connection, it considered that countries from the region could make valuable contributions to the attainment of these objectives through their participation in preparatory meetings or by submitting papers on their experiences. It mentioned, in particular the ad hoc Working Party on the Fishery Resources of the Patagonian Shelf, the Expert Consultation on the Regulation of Fishing Effort, and the Fourth Session of the Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (to be held in Nicaragua in the Spring of 1983), which could provide an excellent opportunity for countries of the region to review their specific contribution to the World Fisheries Conference.

133. Several suggestions were made regarding items of particular interest to the region which should be considered by the World Fisheries Conference. They included: guidelines on the formulation of national legislation and on control over its application; management principles, regulation of fishing effort and limitation of access to fishery resources; improvement of the socio-economic conditions of small-scale fishermen; planning and development of the industrial processing of fishery resources; improvement of distribution and marketing structures; basic biological and technological research on fish culture systems; promotion of investigations to attain full utilization of hydrological resources, especially small tunas, deep-bottom fish and reject species; the question of the ban on whaling activities; special problems and needs of small island states; and promotion and expansion of sub-regional and regional cooperation in fishery management and development, with particular reference to shared stocks, and in trade in fish and fishery products.

134. The Conference, taking as its point of departure the fact that fish populations found in areas adjacent to the Exclusive Economic Zones on both sides of the 200-mile limit are a biological unit, asserted that irrational exploitation beyond that zone would invalidate all the protective measures which the coastal state can adopt for the same specie inside it. The Conference therefore stressed that international cooperation on this problem is essential.

135. The Conference considered that the role FAO can play will be decisive to achieve such cooperation. In this connection the Organization could promote an action aimed at having boats operating in this Zone inform FAO on the quantity of fishing carried out so that it could prepare statistics enabling it to assess the state of the fish populations. Furthermore it would be useful to encourage - also through FAO - collaboration and exchange of information with other coastal countries which find themselves affected by depredation of the living resources in the area adjacent to the Exclusive Economic Zone.

136. The Regional Conference shared the view of the Director General that the World Fisheries Conference should lead to practical and concrete outcomes. In this connection, it referred particularly to the working out of strategies for fisheries management and development at the national, sub-regional, regional and international level and to formulation of specific training programmes for each country and sector. It was suggested that the Conference should provide an opportunity to prepare a programme for the region, aimed at assessing and managing the living resources of the sea, training technical cadres and promoting cooperative action between the countries of the region. The overriding concern should be to foster the effective self-reliance of the developing coastal states and assisting them in the complex tasks of achieving the rational management and optimum utilization of their fisheries resources.

137. The Delegation of Nicaragua confirmed its offer to act as host to the Fourth Session of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) and said that, in view of the importance of this subject for the countries of the area as demonstrated during the discussion, it hoped that the member countries would send representatives to that event.

Food and Nutrition Implications of Intensive Urbanization in Latin America

138. In presenting this item, the Secretariat pointed out that the welfare of the rural sector and urban food supplies are two aspects of intensive urbanization to which FAO is giving careful attention. It recalled that some Latin American countries had adopted various strategies to tackle the food and nutrition problems resulting from accelerated urbanization. It was necessary to carefully examine urban-rural relations in the food and agricultural sector and the sector itself in the global context, as well as the evolution of urban food markets and their economic and social implications for agricultural production sectors, which ultimately means an analysis of the development of peasant agriculture in terms of the urban food market outlook.

139. The Conference expressed its satisfaction at the inclusion of this item in the agenda of the Seventeenth Regional Conference. Several delegations said they considered that document LARC/82/8 which was the basis of discussion, contained a serious and objective analysis of a little known problem but one of increasing importance.

140. Some delegations stressed the changes which had taken place in their countries to meet critical situations and improve the population's food and nutrition condition. They described the mechanisms and technical and economic measures adopted both in regard to production of foods and its marketing and distribution; and, at the same time, the activities aimed at improving food standards and overcoming specific nutritional deficiencies.

141. One delegation mentioned that, as a direct consequence of a harmonious and diversified development process throughout the national territory, rural migration was now going to small cities where basic social services were being provided at levels equal to those in more populous cities.

142. Various delegations mentioned their food and nutrition programmes and noted some of their achievements which have been quantified through appropriate indicators.

143. The Conference emphasized the need to tackle the urban food problem by seeking basic solutions, including a systematic increase in production of foods and their mobilization and better distribution. It stated that hand in hand with these measures a broad programme of consumer information and education should be undertaken aimed at guiding demand along realistic lines and improving diet habits.

144. The Conference said that solutions to the urban food problem and, in particular, improvement in the composition of the diet and the level of consumption in marginal districts must necessarily include strengthening of health services and the creation of higher paying jobs.

145. The Conference pointed out that the urban food problem will undoubtedly be aggravated in the future, and therefore should be studied in detail, taking advantage of exchange of experiences. It therefore supported the intention of the Director-General of FAO to convene an Expert Consultation to formulate conceptual and operational reference framework so that governments could strengthen activities already undertaken or initiate effective programmes.

146. The Delegation of Colombia, besides commenting very favourably on this initiative, said that its country would be pleased to host the above-mentioned Consultation.

Regional Cooperation in Plant Quarantine and Protection

147. In presenting this item, the Secretariat stressed the political and social importance of plant health and the dynamics of the spread of pests and diseases. It emphasized the need to strengthen quarantine activities, to promote rational use of pesticides and integrated control of pests and diseases, and to develop horizontally resistant crop varieties. It described various FAO activities, and its ability to take action in emergency situations and informed the delegates of proposals for action in the next biennium.

148. The Conference expressed appreciation of FAO's work and supported the proposals for regional activities in the next biennium.

149. The member countries of the Caribbean Plant Protection Commission (CPPC) welcomed the Director-General's decision to appoint a Regional Officer who would act as Technical Secretary to CPPC, and they offered wider participation and greater support for the Commission's activities.

150. The Conference stressed the necessity and importance of, cooperation and coordination of the activities of the regional and sub-regional plant health organizations so as to make better use of resources and avoid duplication of efforts. It pointed out the possibilities and advantages of horizontal cooperation between countries under the network system being promoted by FAO in the regional context, and the importance of the Technical Cooperation Programme to meet urgent needs and plant health emergencies. The representatives of some countries of South America requested an expansion of FAO collaboration in control of plant pests and diseases.

151. The need to promote integrated pest control was emphasized, and also to make more rational use of pesticides to avoid environmental imbalance and contamination and the development of pest resistance to chemical pesticides. The importance of the development of tolerant varieties within the new concept of long-lasting resistance was reasserted, as well as the support that should be given to the eradication of certain pests and diseases.

152. An expansion and strengthening of plant quarantine in most countries was recommended to prevent entry of new pests. Crop diversification and the introduction and exchange of genetic material call for the creation of post-entry stations strategically located in the region. Inspection, detection and diagnosis methods should be refined through the establishment of standards, with the backing of updated laws and regulations. In this connection, import requirements should be harmonized so as to prevent the imposition of specious restrictions on regional exchange of agricultural products.

153. It was stressed that training of personnel in plant quarantine and protection is a pressing need and should be provided at all levels through both local and sub-regional courses of varying duration. Producers, especially small farmers and peasants, should also join in the training process through extension, dissemination and transfer of appropriate pest prevention and control technologies. To this end, research should be aimed at development of efficient and easily implemented integrated control methods.

154. Crop loss assessment is essential in order to define and establish in each country plant health policies which will give permanence and coherence to national institutions and programmes. It was proposed that strong emphasis be placed on the need to provide more assistance in the field of prevention of post-harvest losses.

155. For reasons of bio-ecological uniformity, and also because of the intensive trade in plant products and sub-products and tourist traffic, several delegations from that area stressed the desirability of extending the scope of the Committee on Plant Protection and Protection for the Caribbean's (CPPC) activities to all countries wholly or partly located in the Caribbean Basin; they could join CPPC by a simple notification addressed to the Director-General, as set out in the Commission's statutes.

Development and Operation of Regional Programmes and Projects

156. In presenting this item, the Secretariat stressed the importance of the FAO/UNDP working party which identified a regional project of 12 cohesive and inter-related projects, while noting that it was not inalterable but should be continuously revised and brought up to date in the light of new realities and needs. Concern was also expressed concerning the growing reduction of participation by Latin America and the rural sector of the region in the resources allocated by UNDP.

157. Various delegations returned to this point in their statements. However, they expressed satisfaction with the data provided by the UNDP Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Latin America in his statement in the general debate, informing the participants that efforts were being made to raise the percentage of the regional programme executed by FAO from 3 percent in 1983 mentioned in document LARC/82/10 to about 10 percent. He also reported interest in the possibility mentioned in that document, of identifying two or three projects for 1984 besides the three recommended by the UNDP Administrator's Advisory Working Group, which met in May 1982 in New York.

158. The need was noted to increase financial resources through shared funds of the countries and trust funds, both unilateral or from donor countries, stressing the increasingly active participation by countries in the region in the line of technical cooperation activities between developing countries (TCDC).

159. The Technical Cooperation Programmes (TCP) were reviewed in the introduction to this item and in the statements of several delegations, as eloquent examples of flexible programmes which have had a marked impact, at times with small resources. The Conference expressed its satisfaction with the satisfactory operation of TCP projects.

160. The Conference also expressed its appreciation for the work accomplished in Latin America by the regional aquaculture and market information projects.

161. It was noted that there was a need to give priority among regional projects to those addressed to small farmers and traditional farming sectors, without confining them only to the modern rural sector of the region. Among the priorities to be considered by the regional programmes, a regional soil conservation project, which had been unanimously requested at the Sixteenth Regional Conference, was mentioned.

162. The Conference also requested that, in regional programmes and projects, greater importance should be given to Caribbean countries and to increased cooperation with CARICOM.

163. It was stressed that there was a need to work out a consistent and inter-related regional programme based on the suggestions contained in document LARC/82/10, particularly in paragraphs 13, 14 and 15.

164. The Conference adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION 5/82

The Seventeenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

1. Recalling with satisfaction the establishment of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) in 1976 and its subsequent development in accordance with the criteria of the Regional Conference, the Council, and the Conference, as expressed in successive Programmes of Work and Budget;

2. Recalling also in this connection the special importance attributed by governments of Member States in the Latin American region to the usefulness of TCP in helping to promote investment in the development of food and agriculture in the region, and the regional and inter-regional projects, as the case may be, in support of TCDC;
3. Being convinced that, during the 1976-81 period, TCP has proved to be an exceptionally valuable tool of the Regular Programme to provide governments of Member States in the region with the short-term and small scale assistance they request which, although of modest proportions, is well suited to their policies, strategies and programmes, and meets their various needs;
4. Appreciating the promptness with which the Organization meets requests, and the effective and efficient execution of the TCP projects adopted, particularly the use of experts and national institutions in the regions;
5. Commending the steps taken by the Director-General in this regard to extend the authority for approving TCP projects to FAO Representatives in member countries in the region;
6. Noting that these projects have included emergency measures, among them control of plant and animal diseases (particularly African Swine Fever) and other exotic diseases, and also assistance in other areas such as river basin management and forestry development; agro-industrial development; promotion of new technologies (including assistance to the Andean Centre for Rural Technology and to the Coordinating Centre for Food Science and Technology); sectoral analysis and programme formulation missions; agrarian reform and rural development as a follow-up to WCARRD; aid to fill the gaps in other technical assistance programmes; promotion of investment; and obtaining large-scale assistance from sources other than FAO;
7. Concerned by the growing constraints which the present world economic circumstances impose on the development of the Member Countries in the region, due to the effects of inflation, recession, high interest rates, unfavourable terms of trade and increasing protectionism, as well as by the difficulties, particularly serious for some countries in the region, which have been experienced in obtaining adequate financing and technical assistance;
8. Emphasizing the opinion of the large majority of the Member Nations, expressed in the FAO Conference held in Rome in December 1981, to the effect that there is a wide disproportion between the need for the TCP type of activities and the available resources.

Resolves:

1. To reassert that TCP is an essential operational tool of FAO to provide appropriate and rapid assistance in the field and, at national level, to governments of Member Nations in dealing with unforeseen situations and urgent short-term and small-scale problems which hinder the use of national and external resources for development, and also for obtaining capital and technical assistance from different sources and financing agencies;
2. To consider, therefore, that, taking account of the different stages of development of the various member countries in the Latin American region and the respective consequences of the present conditions of the world economy and the policies of certain developed market economies (described previously), TCP is a particularly valuable instrument;
3. To judge that, given the character, form and scale of TCP assistance, it constitutes a positive complement, stimulus and aid in obtaining sources of extra-budgetary aid and technical assistance from other institutions, and organizations, and agencies thereby contributing to maximum utilization of all resources intended for development;

4. To note from national experiences that as a result of the measures adopted by the Director-General, together with the Administrator of UNDP and other organizations, at the institutional and country level TCP is endeavouring to adequately meet the need to stimulate and increase the efficiency of its operations;
 5. To assert that a great need is being already felt for more measures financed by TCP in the Latin American region in support of activities being conducted by the Member States themselves; that this need is more likely to increase than to decrease; and that, as far as possible, it should be met without detriment to the needs of other regions;
 6. To urge all Member States, therefore, to support continuing improvement and development of TCP, bearing in mind, in particular, the possibility of taking steps to increase its flexibility, and the desirability of maintaining and, if possible, increasing the availability of TCP funds within the total resources of the Regular Programme;
 7. To invite the Director-General to take these objectives into account when formulating his proposals for the Programme of Work and Budget for the 1984-85 biennium.
165. One delegation reserved its position with regard to this resolution.

Consideration and Adoption of the Conclusions of the Technical Committee

166. The Conference was preceded by a meeting of the Technical Committee held in Managua from 30 August to 2 September.
167. The Chairman of the Technical Committee Mr Jorge Yoria, presenting the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee to the Plenary of the Conference noted the full support the participants had given to the documents prepared for the discussion of the two topics examined by the Committee.
168. He mentioned, first of all, the topic "Experiences and Problems in the Development of the Agricultural Frontier, with special reference to Forestry Resources". He pointed out that the Committee had confirmed that development philosophy must have man as its protagonist and fundamental objective; otherwise rational utilization of national resources can never be achieved. In the programmes for horizontal expansion of the agricultural frontier, he added, forestry resources must have a much more active role than they have played so far in order to contribute effectively to the social development of the rural sector through their productive function and protective role.
169. The Conference unanimously approved this part of the Report of the Technical Committee and adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION 6/82

The Seventeenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That the rational use of natural resources, especially forest resources, are an essential requisite for the development of the countries of the region;
2. That in spite of the efforts being made by the countries to achieve an appropriate use of natural resources, equitable distribution of land, and better living conditions, especially for the inhabitants of rural areas, it is observed in many countries that:

the horizontal expansion of the agricultural frontier ^{1/} conducted in an uncontrolled manner in most of the countries, with irrational use of forests and other natural resources, has caused a series of damage to the environment and economic losses of considerable magnitude;

^{1/} The term "agricultural" is used in its wide sense including crops, livestock production, forestry and inland fisheries.

that the impoverishment of a large peasant mass is being progressively intensified as the result of ecological degradation of the areas where they are settled and which are devoted to a barely subsistence production;

that in most of the countries the existing socio-economic conditions, especially those connected with land tenure and the agrarian reform process, do not promote improvement of the living conditions of the inhabitants of the region nor do they guarantee the rational use of its natural resources;

3. That the countries of the region must mobilize their resources in order to attain food self-sufficiency and to guarantee rational productive use of the natural resources they possess. However, the necessary financial support must be available if these resources are to be mobilized effectively;
4. That in general the region possesses human and physical resources to confront the challenge of speedily raising the level of the social and economic well-being of its inhabitants;
5. That horizontal cooperation constitutes a tool of fundamental importance for the agricultural development of the countries of the region;
6. That all the sectors directly or indirectly connected with the rational use of natural resources must consciously and responsibly undertake specific and resolute actions to provide solutions to the acute problems confronting them in this sector.

Resolves:

1. To urge governments to confirm a development philosophy in which man must be the protagonist and fundamental objective, and consequently to update policies and strategies concerning the agricultural sector in its widest meaning, placing special emphasis on measures which can facilitate access to land and other production resources;
2. To recommend to governments that, according to their specific conditions, they formulate policies which can promote full and appropriate use of resources in the areas already included in the production process, thereby reducing the pressure to incorporate new lands, especially those covered by forests;
3. To urge the governments in the region, the multilateral organizations, and especially FAO, as well as the non-governmental organizations, to expand the resources available for technical and financial assistance, with emphasis on horizontal cooperation between the countries in the region. The system of technical cooperation networks between countries being promoted and coordinated by FAO for exchange of experiences and transfer of technologies should be improved so as to accelerate the elimination of existing obstacles and problems of better management of agricultural, forestry and fishery production;
4. To recommend to governments and to FAO that, through the technical cooperation networks system, basic data on natural resources be updated as an essential task for programming their sound management through organization of a system to which the member countries of the region can contribute and from which they can benefit;
5. To recommend to FAO that it continue to promote joint programmes for research and strengthening of research institutions so that they may be able to propose agro-silvo-pastoral production schemes suited to the different ecological areas, taking the local socio-economic conditions of each country into account;
6. To urge governments to promote research which can facilitate full exploitation of the forest, diversifying and improving the composition and quality of the products derived from it through the establishment of industries suited to development, and also widening of information concerning the possible uses of wood through studies of its physical, mechanical and technological properties;

7. To urge governments to strengthen and update agricultural training and extension in order to make available to farmers, especially those with slender means, technologies that can harmonize increased production with conservation of natural resources;
8. To recommend to the countries the application of the basic principles set forth in the World Soil Map and the Basic Principles and Programme of Action as adopted in the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, both in vertical and horizontal expansion of the agricultural frontier;
9. To recommend to governments that they strengthen national institutions with responsibility for guiding or executing agricultural development so that they can contribute better to organizing and programming horizontal and vertical expansion of the agricultural frontier; that in so doing forest resources should be considered particularly, both in their productive and protective roles and from the standpoint of their contribution to the social development of the rural sector; and also that the numerous problems resulting from the growing shortage of fuelwood receive adequate attention;
10. To request FAO to promote regional programmes for cooperation with forestry institutions to carry out inventories of the forest patrimony, and for watershed management;
11. To urge governments to undertake and intensify efforts aimed at guaranteeing food security together with improvement of the socio-economic conditions of the poorest rural populations.

170. The Chairman then spoke on the second topic discussed by the Committee "Animal Production, Health Protection, Processing and Marketing of Products of Animal Origin". Livestock activity, he said, should be resolutely supported by governments because it is not only of primary importance as a source of food and a producer of foreign exchange, but also because of the special circumstance that most of the countries of the region have favourable conditions for its development. Because of this, high priority should be assigned to the promotion and execution of national, sub-regional and regional programmes connected with research on zootechnical and health factors affecting animal production in the region. It is important to have cooperation between the countries of the area, he said, to facilitate intra-regional trade of products of animal origin and promote the exchange of experiences and technical and scientific information.

171. The Conference agreed that the text of the Report of the Technical Committee should be included as Appendix D of this Report.

172. The Conference adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION 7/82

The Seventeenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That most countries of the region have favourable conditions for the development of highly productive livestock;
2. That livestock is of primary importance as a source of food for the population and of exportable products;
3. That livestock activities in countries in the region need to be resolutely supported by governments as a basic activity to improve the diet of the population;
4. That in the rural areas of most of the countries, the population's scarce purchasing power prevents their widespread access to products of animal origin in their diet;

5. That in some countries the population knows very little about balanced use of foods to obtain an appropriate diet, and this leads to harmful eating habits;
6. That in most countries there are obstacles preventing the primary producer from competing with his products on the markets through flexible marketing channels, so that he falls back on intermediary systems which raise the price of the products;
7. That some countries, having transferred their livestock area to marginal regions, require assistance for management and improvement in the use of ecosystems which constitute the natural pastures. And that, at the same time, other countries, having exhausted their natural forage resources or needing to intensify their production, must try to add artificial pastures and other food resources;
8. That the stable development of the livestock herd requires appropriate health conditions, including an effective monitoring system capable of preventing the introduction and dissemination of exotic diseases;
9. That the quantity and quality of diagnostic laboratories needs to be improved, as has been pointed out in studies conducted by various international organizations;
10. That information is a decisive factor in the introduction and dissemination of intensive production systems and the improvement of marketing;
11. That there is a need to increase training and extension programmes aimed at transfer of technology which can intensify livestock production systems;
12. That there are surpluses of food products of animal origin in some countries while, at the same time, deficits exist in other countries of the region, and that trade between the two groups is obstructed by sanitary restrictions.

Resolves:

1. To recommend to the governments of the region:
 - i) That they classify livestock production as renewable natural wealth with a social function, requiring incentives and support for its development;
 - ii) That they promote the socio-economic development of rural populations to raise their purchasing power for foods of animal origin;
 - iii) That education programmes which can guide the food habits of the population be established to enable diversification of consumption of foods of animal origin;
 - iv) That organization of producers be promoted in order to establish cooperatives and other associative forms making it possible to market, preserve and process foods of animal origin to obtain better prices which can stimulate the producer, eliminating intermediary systems;
 - v) That they assign the necessary priority to the creation of a technical and material base which can make possible accelerated development of livestock production;
 - vi) That they harmonize their quarantine legislations in order to prevent the introduction of exotic diseases, with assistance from FAO.
2. To request the Director-General of FAO:
 - i) To take steps so that high priority may be granted to the promotion and implementation of national, regional and sub-regional research programmes for development of the nutritional base of animal production based on natural and cultivated pastures, and other local sources which could be used, such as agricultural by-products. Consequently, that this priority be concretely expressed in the part concerning livestock in the next FAO Programme of Work and Budget; and also that efforts be undertaken so that the UNDP and other sources of assistance may share this priority;

- ii) To continue the training programme on exotic diseases and emergency response systems;
- iii) To make possible coordination of the technical and health aspects between the countries of the region to facilitate intra-regional trade through dissemination of scientific data on contaminant agents and pathogens which can constitute non-tariff restrictions and hinder the covering of regional deficits by the countries of the area;
- iv) To promote the establishment of a network for cooperation between the diagnostic laboratories to obtain better operation of the veterinary services of the countries, utilizing the resources which exist for this purpose;
- v) To create a coordination mechanism for effective exchange of information which can make available the results of research in the animal health and production field to the member countries;
- vi) To have FAO assist the countries to establish national programmes for monitoring contaminants of bacterial origin, micotoxins, and residues in milk and milk products;
- vii) To convene a Consultation of Experts to examine measures designed to improve training methods in the livestock production field, considering the possibility of strengthening the already existing regional training centres.

Representation of the Region on the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

173. In presenting this item, the Secretariat described the composition of the Consultative Group, of its Secretariat and of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), mentioning the frequency with which these bodies should meet. In the past, he said, this has involved problems for the representatives of some developing regions who were not always able to attend the meetings of the Group or participate as observers in those of TAC.

174. The speaker then referred to the proposal of the Director-General to extend the term of representatives of the region to a minimum of four years with the possibility of a two-year extension for one of them in order to allow some overlap between the terms of new and outgoing representatives.

175. The region's representatives from Cuba and Colombia on CGIAR said that the region had been represented at all the sessions of the Consultative Group and had participated actively in the work of the different centres making up the CGIAR. Besides stressing the strengthening of research on subjects which can be of benefit to the developing countries, they emphasized the need to strengthen the mechanisms for introduction of new and more productive agricultural crop varieties; application of new technologies; training of specialists; and stimulating cooperation between research centres. There has been significant progress in all these aspects, although it is not sufficient because of the short time afforded by two years of participation in the Group.

176. It was pointed out that more participation would require a financing effort which the developing countries could not undertake, because of this, at the last meeting of the Consultative Group in Paris a consensus was reached to have the Group cover part of the costs which may be necessary for those representatives to perform their tasks. In this connection it was mentioned that it would be desirable to cover their travelling expenses as well. The representative announced that he would shortly forward a more complete report to the member countries through the Regional Office.

177. The Conference recommended that the representatives of the region on CGIAR bear in mind and advocate that agricultural research should intensify its concern with degraded areas where the poor peasants of the region are settled.

178. The Conference recommended that special period reports be produced, whenever this may be considered useful, in addition to those submitted to the Regional Conference every two years.

179. The Conference agreed to extend the term of Cuba and Colombia as countries representing the Latin American Region on the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

CONCLUDING ITEMS

Other Business

180. In accordance with the decision taken at the time of adoption of the Agenda of the Regional Conference, it was agreed to include in the item "Other business" a verbal statement concerning FAO's preparations for the celebration of World Food Day in 1982. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee to the Director-General for the organization of this event gave detailed information on the way the Director-General had been implementing the Agreement of the FAO Conference creating this day, to be celebrated on October 16 each year. The Secretariat reported in detail on the plans for 1982 being implemented both at the national and regional level and in Rome Headquarters. The responsibility assumed by each government in connection with national organization of this day was reviewed, as well as the type of support which FAO is giving each member government to hold the celebration of this important event.

181. The Conference recommended that the duration of Regional Conference and their Technical Committees be shortened, pointing out that this would lead to savings for both the countries and the Organization, and would also make it possible for more Ministers of Agriculture to attend.

Date and Place of the Eighteenth Regional Conference for Latin America

182. The Conference welcomed the offers to host the Eighteenth Regional Conference made by the delegations of Ecuador, Argentina and Colombia.

183. The Director-General expressed his thanks for the generous invitations, pointing out that on previous occasions these countries had already hosted Regional Conferences; he therefore felt confident that conditions in all of them were optimal for the purpose.

184. He added that, as on previous occasions, he was allowed flexibility in selecting the place, which would be done in close consultation with the offering countries. As regards the date, he indicated that it would have to be fixed bearing in mind the dates of other equally important meetings to be held in 1984.

Adoption of the Report

185. The Chairman submitted for consideration by the Conference the draft report presented by the Rapporteur. After examining it paragraph by paragraph and introducing the modifications that are incorporated in this final version, the Conference unanimously adopted the Report.

Closure of the Conference

186. The Director-General addressed the Conference, highlighting the most important points of the discussions.

187. In his statement he said that he hoped a more determined effort to make the UNCTAD Integrated Programme for Basic Commodities fully operational and adequately funded, which would help to reduce fluctuations in prices. He also noted that there is considerable scope for increasing agricultural trade among developing countries since at present, only about 10 percent of world food and agricultural trade consists of the trade exchange between developing countries.

188. He added that the scope exists because demand for agricultural products can be exploited profitably to double the share of the developing countries during 1980-2000, and because there is a sufficient degree of complementarity of types of products, quantity and essential need of supply.

189. He pointed out that to realize this potential, developing countries must actively seek out trade opportunities and develop the infrastructure needed for it much more: means of transport, financing, market information, and appropriate tariff structures.

190. Speaking on the issue of food security, he said that he had informed the Committee at its last meeting in March 1982 that the time had come to review its work completely. This, he said, would make it possible not only to know the progress achieved but also to identify the obstacles obstructing its work.

191. Concerning regional and sub-regional cooperation he underlined the approach he had set forth in his statement at the beginning of the Conference, saying that it would promote south-south cooperation now that north-south cooperation had virtually failed. Consequently he added, the policy followed by FAO and its Regional Office on this issue would be continued and strengthened.

192. Continuing his remarks he said that special attention would be given to the Caribbean, granting further aid in the plant health protection field by outposting a technical officer in the area. He added that he intended to extend support to include fishery matters in particular. He repeated that the countries of the sub-region could be sure that efforts would be made to incorporate them in the cooperation networks existing in the region for transfer of technology and training.

193. The Regional Representative in his closing statement expressed thanks for the support of the countries to FAO, its Director-General, and particularly to the Regional Office and its programme of work, and affirmed again that more efforts would be made to achieve closer contact with their governments and institutions.

194. He noted the backing given by the Regional Conference to the forthcoming World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development, the Consultation of Experts on Food and Nutrition Repercussions, and especially to the Technical Cooperation Programme. He welcomed the valuable guidelines received from the delegations for these events and for the Organization's programme of work in general.

195. He stressed the interest shown in the technical cooperation network system being promoted by the Regional Office to stimulate the exchange of experiences between the countries in the Region which, he said, has a considerable multiplying effect. He appealed for diffusion of the system and promotion of the incorporation of new national institutions in it.

196. He concluded expressing thanks to the authorities and the people of Nicaragua for the outstanding hospitality and reception extended for the holding of the Conference, all of which he said had enabled it to fulfil its purposes nobly.

197. The Conference welcomed with pleasure the message from the Minister of Agriculture of Peru in which he expressed his concern and hope that the efforts made would make it possible to find solutions that would contribute to ease the crisis which is seriously affecting the countries of the Third World.

198. The representative of Mexico spoke on behalf of the delegations emphasizing the critical time in which the meeting was being held. He mentioned the efficient conduct of the meeting by the Chairman, and the support provided by the Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur as well as the staff of the Conference Centre and the Secretariat for its success.

199. In concluding the proceedings, the Conference unanimously adopted the following Resolutions:

RESOLUTION 8/82

Managua Declaration

Noting that this meeting has the historic country of Nicaragua as its setting, and that it is being held in the bicentenary year of the birth of the liberator, Simon Bolivar;

Convinced that no tribute could be more welcome to his memory and to that of the other heroes who made us free, than this evidence of unity in the struggle to reach food self-sufficiency, so that in this field our countries may become the community of free republics of which they dreamt;

Persuaded that, without a reasonable degree of food security, the political independence they bequeathed to us would be endangered;

Aware that this exceptional forum is taking place at a time when the world in general and our region in particular is facing a situation of serious tensions which threaten stability and peace; and further, that the dramatic situation of the world economy is creating alarming prospects, which make it urgent to find courses of action that can lead to universal recovery;

Persuaded that such lofty and patriotic purposes can only be achieved in a climate of solidarity and peace, favoured by a combination of all efforts;

Reaffirms, without underestimating bilateral cooperation, that the exercise of solidarity and mutual cooperation and the support of international organizations in giving cohesion and coherence to these efforts is essential;

Conscious that regional integration is achieved more promptly through Latin American and Caribbean unity, and that the latter requires far-reaching changes and transformations, with the transcending of excessive nationalism and the willingness to share sovereign decisions;

Bearing in mind that in this complex process the cause of agriculture and food provides the right motivation to mobilize the political will required by the integrating process, as a means of arriving at a state of affairs where man can be the subject and object of development;

Requests the countries to take all possible steps to achieve the necessary climate of fraternal solidarity that can make possible an identity of purpose and unity of action within a common strategy to win the desired food security for the people of the region and the world;

Recommends that within the different sub-regions agriculture and food programmes of common interest be identified within the plans of the organizations; and that such programmes receive the support of the countries with new ideas and bold innovations to facilitate the path of cooperation and coordination of all endeavours, made necessary by the fact that the amount of aid is tending to drop alarmingly;

Suggests to the Director-General of FAO that he use his decisive influence to ensure that this integrating action by the countries continues to receive the support of the Organization; and, further, that he encourage, by all the means in his power, the closest possible cooperation with all Latin American organizations operating in the sub-regions, whether of the United Nations System or of the region itself.

RESOLUTION 9/82

The Seventeenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Concerned by the natural disasters which during the same year have affected the agricultural production of Nicaragua: first, the May floods which drastically damaged food crop production, and now the drought which the country has been suffering during the past four months and which is creating a disaster situation for livestock grazing as well as cereal production;

Anxious at the consequences of both these disasters, not only for the country's economy but also for the food supply of the population, especially of mothers and children;

Aware of the grave economic difficulties Nicaragua is facing due to the decline of trade in the agricultural sector;

Considering that the international organizations, especially the World Food Programme, are particularly responsible for assistance to countries in case of food shortages due to natural disasters-

Resolves:

1. To recommend to the World Food Programme and to FAO that a mission be sent with all speed to Nicaragua to evaluate the emergency food situation caused by the floods and the drought which have affected the country during 1982;
2. To recommend that the World Food Programme grant emergency food assistance in order to help to save hundreds of thousands of persons from hunger and malnutrition;
3. To request the Director-General to inform the next Conference of FAO of the action taken on this matter.

200. Lastly the Chairman of the Conference took the floor. Before closing the meeting he noted that, although it took place in a context of unrest, with signs of economic crisis and the threat of a conflagration, it had been an expression of identity and coinciding of interests which confirmed the hope for Latin American unity.

201. He emphasized that, although the discussions had been highly productive and the recommendations and resolutions forceful, the task was not finished and would have to be continued and intensified in other fora.

202. He expressed gratitude for the heartfelt and complete solidarity of the delegations in face of the natural disaster recently suffered by his country, and the support given to the request for emergency food aid addressed to FAO and the WFP.

203. He concluded expressing appreciation for the work done by the supporting staff and the Secretariat all of which, he said, contributed to the success of the Conference.

APPENDIX A

PROGRAMME OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

(30 August - 3 September 1982)

I. Introductory Items

1. Opening of the Technical Committee
2. Election of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairmen of the Technical Committee
3. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

II. Selected Issues of Agricultural and Rural Development

1. Experience and problems in development of the agricultural frontier, with particular reference to forest resources
2. Animal production, health protection, processing and marketing of products of animal origin

III. Adoption of the Report of the Technical Committee

AGENDA OF THE PLENARY SESSIONS

(6 - 10 September 1982)

I. Introductory Items

Opening of the Conference

Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur

Appointment of members of the Drafting Committee

Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

II. Statement by the Director-General of FAO

III. Other Statements

Statement by the Executive Director of WFP

General debate on the situation and prospects of food and agriculture in Latin America

IV. FAO Programme in the Region

Statement by the Regional Representative for Latin America

Report on FAO's activities in the Region, including the measures adopted in connection with the resolutions and main recommendations submitted at the preceding Regional Conference

FAO Programme of Work in the Region: 1982-1983

V. Selected Issues of Agricultural and Rural Development

Report on the activities for follow-up to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development

Agricultural Trade and Regional Cooperation in Latin America

New and Renewable Sources of Energy for Agricultural and Rural Development

Report on the Preparation of World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development

Food and Nutrition Implications of Intensive Urbanization in Latin America

Regional Cooperation in Plant Quarantine and Protection

Development and Operation of Regional Programmes and Projects

Consideration and Adoption of the Technical Committee Report

Representation of the Region on the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, CGIAR

VI. Concluding Items

Other Business

Date and Place of the Eighteenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America

Adoption of the Report

Closure of the Conference

LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

MESA DE LA CONFERENCIA
OFFICERS OF THE CONFERENCE
BUREAU DE LA CONFERENCE

Presidente Chairman Président	Jaime Wheelock Román (Nicaragua)
Vicepresidentes Vice-Chairmen Vice-Présidents	Víctor Hugo Santirso (Argentina) George A. Smith (Bahamas) Francisco Merino Rábago (México) Rosendo Maridueña German (Ecuador)
Relator Rapporteur	Gonzalo Bula Hoyos (Colombia)
Comité de Redacción Drafting Committee Comité de Rédaction	Barbados México Brasil Nicaragua Cuba Panamá Haití Uruguay

MESA DEL COMITE TECNICO
OFFICERS OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
BUREAU DU COMITE TECHNIQUE

Presidente Chairman Président	Jorge YORIA RUBIO (Colombia)
Vicepresidente Vice-Chairman Vice-Président	Raúl SOLORZANO SOTO (Costa Rica)

ESTADOS MIEMBROS ATENDIDOS POR LA OFICINA REGIONAL
MEMBER NATIONS SERVICED BY THE REGIONAL OFFICE
PAYS MEMBRES DESSERVIS PAR LE BUREAU REGIONAL

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Suplente Marcelino CHUBURU LASTRA Embajador en Nicaragua	Managua
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Suplente Jorge M. BRUN Director Nacional Investigaciones Especiales INTA	Buenos Aires
Suplente Renato Carlos SERSALE DI CERISANO Segundo Secretario de la Representación Permanente de Argentina ante la FAO	Roma

Suplente Hugo Alberto JUAN Director a cargo del Servicio Agrario Internacional	Buenos Aires
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FORETS ET DES PLANTATIONS

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LIST OF DOCUMENTS

LARC/82/1	Provisional Agenda
LARC/82/1(a)	Provisional Annotated Agenda
LARC/82/2	Report on the FAO activities in the Region
LARC/82/3	FAO Programme of Work in the Region: 1982/83
LARC/82/4	Follow-up to WCARRD: a Progress Report
LARC/82/5	Agricultural Trade and Regional Cooperation in Latin America
LARC/82/6	New and Renewable Sources of Energy for Agriculture and Rural Development
LARC/82/7	Report on the Preparation of the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development
LARC/82/8	Food and Nutrition Implications of Intensive Urbanization in Latin America
LARC/82/9	Regional Cooperation in Plant Quarantine and Protection
LARC/82/10	Development and Operation of Regional Programmes and Projects
LARC/82/11	Representation of the Region on the CGIAR

LARC/82/INF Series

LARC/82/INF/1	Information Note
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LARC/82/INF/4-Rev.2	Provisional List of Participants
LARC/82/INF/5	Report of the Technical Committee

LARC/82/CONF Series

LARC/82/CONF/1	Statement by the Director-General of FAO
LARC/82/CONF/2	Statement by the FAO Regional Representative for Latin America

LARC/82/TC Series

LARC/82/TC/1	Provisional Agenda: Technical Committee
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LARC/82/TC Series (cont.d)

LARC/82/TC/3	Experience and Problems in Development of the Agricultural Frontier with particular reference to Forest Resources
LARC/82/TC/4	Animal Production, Health Protection, Processing and Marketing of Livestock and Products of Animal Origin
LARC/82/TC/INF/1-Rev.	Provisional List of Participants - Technical Committee
LARC/82/TC/CONF/1	Introductory Speech by the Assistant Director-General, and FAO Regional Representative for Latin America
LARC/82/TC/CONF/2	Introductory Remarks of the Assistant Director-General, FAO Forestry Department

APPENDIX D

REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

(Managua, Nicaragua, 30 August - 10 September 1982)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Technical Committee which preceded the Seventeenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America held meetings in the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Centre in Managua, Nicaragua, from 30 August to 2 September 1982, at the kind invitation of the Government of Nicaragua.

2. The Technical Committee considered two subjects of particular relevance to the Latin American region: "Experience and problems in development of the agricultural frontier, with particular reference to forest resources", and "Animal production, health protection, processing and marketing of livestock and products of animal origin".

Participants

3. Delegates from the following countries attended the sessions of the Technical Committee: Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela. Spain and the Holy See were represented as observers. Representatives of the Inter-American Development Bank, the Inter-American Institute for Agricultural Cooperation, the International Regional Organization of Plant Protection and Animal Health, the United Nations, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Labour Organization, and the World Federation of Trade Unions, were also present as observers.

Opening

4. Mr Mario E. Jalil, FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Latin America, welcomed the participating delegations on behalf of the Director-General and expressed his thanks to the Government and people of Nicaragua for the generous hospitality and welcome extended to this FAO meeting.

5. In his opening speech he made a few remarks on the subjects to be studied by the Committee. Referring to the question of the development of the agricultural frontier, he noted the substantial increases in productivity which could be obtained in areas of tropical and sub-tropical forests through their inclusion in the production process, bearing in mind the rational utilization of the resources.

6. He also drew attention to the need to analyse the inter-relation between the subject under discussion and the Declaration of Principles and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, which emphasizes the precedence of man and his social surroundings over more general approaches of rural development.

7. Concerning the subject of animal production, he said that increasing population pressure demanded more effective utilization of lands for pasture, and also of other feed resources for livestock, and the need to develop new concepts for planning food systems. He added that it was necessary to achieve greater control over animal diseases, particularly exotic diseases such as African Swine Fever, toward which the region is already developing a collective awareness which could lead to better prevention and control of these diseases.

Election of officers

8. The Regional Representative then invited the delegates to elect officers for the Technical Committee. Mr Jorge Yoria of Colombia, and Mr Raúl Solórzano of Costa Rica were unanimously elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively.

9. The Technical Committee adopted the agenda of the meeting, which is shown in Appendix A.

II. SELECTED ISSUES OF AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Experience and problems in development of the agricultural frontier, with particular reference to forest resources

10. The Technical Committee of the Conference, in considering Agenda item II.1, presented by Mr Marco A. Flores Rodas, Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department, noted that according to forecasts in the FAO study "Agriculture: Toward 2000", the population of Latin America would increase by 70% before the end of the century.
11. This fact makes it necessary to increase production of food and other agricultural products, developing the agricultural frontier both vertically and horizontally.
12. The horizontal development of the agricultural frontier, with an annual deforestation in the region of about 6 million hectares of tropical forests, as has been the widespread practice, involves waste of natural resources, continuation of the marginalization of many rural populations, inadequate contribution to overall development, and a threat to environmental stability.
13. To correct these shortcomings in some countries it is necessary, first of all, that the rural population should participate with dignity and social justice in decision-making and implementation of development activities that benefit them directly, respecting their cultural identity and making the best use of their great store of traditional knowledge of nature. The Committee believed that in many cases this involves the adoption of institutional reforms that can facilitate orderly and equitable access of local communities to land, and that technical, organizational and financial assistance should be effectively channelled to those communities, at the same time stimulating their self-sufficiency and their own associative forms.
14. The process of change in the form and/or intensity of land use must assure: first, full participation of forests and forest lands in socio-economic development in the context of a wider definition of the rural sector, and secondly rationalization of forest clearance when such clearance is necessary, introducing ecologically suitable uses channelled to goals of a fair, balanced and lasting development.
15. In order to attain these targets in the framework of rational development of natural resources, the Committee approved in general the proposals for action contained in document LARG/82/TC/3.
16. During the discussion, the Committee was informed by the different delegations of the progress and positive and negative experiences of their respective countries in the expansion of the agricultural frontier.
17. The Committee, reaffirming that development philosophy must have man as its protagonist and fundamental objective, stressed the need:
 - a) To update policies and strategies concerning the rural sector in its widest sense. In this connection, the Committee was informed of inadequate and outdated legislations which promote the elimination of the forest as the condition for the advance of the agricultural frontier. Consequently the Committee stressed the need to update legislation in this field.
 - b) To consider the negative role played by the subsidies granted by the industrialized countries to their agricultural products, which affect prices and operate to undermine the chances for success of projects for expansion of the agricultural frontiers in the countries of the region.
 - c) To strengthen the national forestry, agriculture, and rural planning institutions having direct responsibility for development, offering them technical assistance suited to their specific needs.
 - d) To strengthen sub-regional schemes for economic integration, and for FAO to increase its collaboration with those mechanisms in order to make full use of the infrastructure they possess.

e) To intensify coordination of efforts and plans of action between international organizations, so as to make better use of available resources.

f) To strengthen bio-socio-economic data bases through adaptation of research and training, establishing greater horizontal cooperation between the countries of the region, especially those having similar ecological and socio-economic conditions.

g) To disseminate the experiences and data acquired by national institutions in rural development projects in order to share these advances through horizontal cooperation activities. In this respect the important contribution being made by the Technical Cooperation Networks System promoted by FAO in Latin America has been outstanding.

h) To widen forestry production items so as to include all components of the flora and fauna.

i) To also widen forest exploitation items, using a larger number of species and reducing waste in the extraction and industrialization processes.

j) To include in problems of expansion of the agricultural frontier the rehabilitation of lands such as low floodlands, plains, savannas and arid and semi-arid areas.

k) To strengthen and adapt agro-silvo-pastoral extension to make available to farmers, especially those having scarce resources, technologies which would enable them to increase production in a manner compatible with resources conservation.

l) To expand and improve watershed management projects, especially in island countries, so as to ensure an adequate and permanent water supply while at the same time improving the living conditions of mountain populations.

Animal Production, Health Protection, Processing and Marketing of Livestock and Products of Animal Origin

18. Dr Franz Peritz, Regional Animal Production and Health Officer, introduced the item, highlighting the most important aspects of document LARC/82/TC/4.

19. Most of the delegations gave full descriptions of the livestock situation in their respective countries, following the order of the subjects in the above-mentioned document. This information was collected by FAO because of its high value.

20. In general, it was agreed that Latin America offers optimal conditions for livestock development because of the availability of suitable land, as well as agricultural products and by-products that could be used to feed livestock.

21. The region has several clearly defined agro-ecological areas, each of which determines its own animal production system. However, some characteristics of the production systems are more or less common to all areas, although there are exceptions, particularly in certain regions within the various countries. In regard to beef livestock, the negative aspects of these characteristics can be summed up as follows:

- a) Mainly unsatisfactory levels of productivity, in terms of low birth rates, high mortality, and prolonged fattening, all of which result in low extraction rates fluctuating between 10 and 20 percent.
- b) Inappropriate utilization of existing pastures and lack of suitable technologies for preservation of supplementary forage for the dry or cold seasons.
- c) Overgrazing, which affects the recuperation of grasslands and undermines soil quality.
- d) Seasonal variation in the availability of forage which constitutes a serious problem in both temperate and tropical zones.

- e) High incidence of infectious and parasite diseases, and frequent failures in introduction of high genetic potential dairy cattle due, among other factors, to lack of appropriate attention to their health condition. The lack of adaptation of high genetic potential dairy cattle to the tropical environment was also mentioned.

22. Concerning small species, it was agreed that they are important as an efficient and economic means of increasing the availability of animal protein for the population and raising the incomes of rural producers, especially smaller producers. As far as single-stomach animal production systems are concerned, there are usually high technology commercial enterprises closely linked to markets - particularly in the case of poultry and pigs - together with many small extensive production and subsistence units where productivity levels are low. Nevertheless, the important role played by small species like goats, sheep, pigs, etc. in the small farmer's economy was stressed.

23. The situation is being aggravated by:

- a) Lack of adequate extension services.
- b) Inefficiency of the internal marketing system.
- c) Existence of numerous small slaughterhouses, without adequate economic and hygienic operating conditions.
- d) Shortage of financial resources, animal health service personnel and support staff, especially for the diagnostic laboratories and for control, monitoring and quarantine operations.
- e) Lack of adequate export opportunities for livestock products due to the application of protectionist policies by the developed countries, mainly through the subsidies they apply to their own surplus production.

24. The delegations gave special attention to the possibilities offered by horizontal collaboration as an effective instrument to increase Latin American livestock production and productivity. Various highly efficient technologies and production and institutional organization systems have been developed in several countries of the region and their dissemination should be encouraged. It was recognized that FAO can play a very effective role in this regard, as it has been doing through technical cooperation networks in other agricultural sectors.

25. Several delegations from the Caribbean countries requested that FAO help them with special assistance programmes which would take into account their specific characteristics, especially the need to raise the productivity of their pasture lands and flocks. Particular importance was attributed to assistance in the dissemination and adoption of modern techniques which can facilitate a rapid increase in the number of pure-bred animals, such as artificial insemination and embryo transplants.

26. It was pointed out that technical assistance is needed for management and improvement of the use of natural pastures of countries which have transferred their livestock herds to marginal areas. Assistance was also required for those countries working on the improvement of cultivated pasture lands and other sources of livestock feed.

27. Several delegations mentioned the fact that although their countries are self-sufficient in regard to pigs and poultry, their production has depended on import of feed and therefore could be subject to external supply problems beyond their control. Consideration should therefore be given to the utilization of surplus products as raw materials in the manufacture of food concentrates.

28. The importance of international technical assistance, was recognized and it was requested that it be increased, especially by FAO. This, it was emphasized, should be in accordance with the real needs of the countries and not a mere transfer of technology developed for different situations of resource quality and population characteristics. It was suggested that countries should be consulted on the suitability of the experts to be provided to them.

29. Support was given to FAO's suggestion on the desirability of establishing training centres linked to research institutes, universities and agro-industrial business firms.

30. It was recognized that the cooperative system and other associative forms constitute an effective mechanism to disseminate appropriate technology, as well as to facilitate credit, supply of inputs and marketing.

31. Encouragement should be given to preventive medicine programmes and measures designed to protect the countries of the region from exotic diseases, and support should be provided to countries engaged in campaigns to eradicate those diseases.

32. It was emphasized that development requires research and extension to increase production. This depends on the availability of highly qualified technicians as well as an efficient institutional structure.

33. It is also necessary to review plans for training and specialization of technicians and professionals working in these activities, especially in the fields of animal production and health.

34. Special attention was given to measures adopted by countries which were victims of African Swine Fever. The seriousness of these outbreaks in some of the countries had forced them to adopt drastic measures at high economic and financial cost. The struggle against this scourge is continuing in the region. As a result, some countries have markedly improved their services and methods for detection, prevention and control of exotic diseases. They have also improved their ability to handle the biological materials used in disease prevention and control.

III. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

35. The Chairman submitted the Draft Report prepared by the Secretariat to the Committee for its consideration. After examining the Report paragraph by paragraph and introducing the changes which are contained in this final version, the Committee adopted the Report.

36. The Chairman thanked the participants for the dedication that characterized their work to fulfil the objectives of the Committee and asked them, after they had returned to their countries, to make efforts to apply the approved recommendations. He also expressed thanks and appreciation on behalf of the participants to the Government and people of Nicaragua for their hospitality.

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