



Annex 1.

The FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) inputs

High-level Political forum 2019

“Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”

Goal 4. Quality education; **Goal 8.** Decent work and economic growth; **Goal 10.** Reduced inequalities; **Goal 13.** Climate action; **Goal 16.** Peace, justice and strong institutions; **Goal 17.** Partnerships for the Goals.

The FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) is one of the Organization’s Governing Bodies providing overall policy and regulatory guidance on issues relating to agriculture, livestock, food safety, nutrition, rural development and natural resource management. The Committee also provides advice and recommendations to the FAO Conference on global agricultural policy and regulatory matters, and to the FAO Council on matters relating to the organization’s priorities, programmes and budgets.

The Committee is responsible for:

- Reviewing major agricultural and nutritional problems and proposing concerted action by FAO’s Member Nations;
- Advising the FAO Council and the Director General on activities relating to agriculture, livestock, food, nutrition and natural resource management, with particular emphasis on all the social, technical, economic, institutional and structural aspects relating to agricultural and rural development in general;
- Reviewing specific matters relating to agriculture, food and nutrition referred to the Committee.

I. Progress and challenges

FAO has strengthened its work to promote approaches that engage agriculture sectors and their stakeholders in the 2030 Agenda. The work done advances implementation of the five principles for Sustainable Food and Agriculture (SFA), and applies interventions that simultaneously address real on-the-ground issues, the multiple constraints and potential trade-offs across the entire food system. At national level, this support included assisting the public sector in setting the enabling environment and promoting collaboration across sectors. At the global level, it involved strengthening strategic partnerships through platforms such as the Sustainable Food Systems Programme of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP).

FAO has helped build the capacity of national decision-makers through workshops at regional and national levels to raise awareness on the potential of SFA, and mobilize action in countries across relevant ministries. Applying the five principles for SFA, FAO



has produced guidelines that are informed by country experience to support the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda. FAO has incorporated 40 SDG targets in its results matrix to measure the impact and consistency of its work on the SDGs. It has developed practical guidelines for decision-makers to mainstream the agriculture sectors in the 2030 Agenda. As a custodian agency for 21 SDG indicators, FAO is developing and piloting the use of SDG indicators to establish baselines and track progress on several key targets, including productive and sustainable agriculture. FAO has been instrumental in advocating and supporting efforts underlining the crucial role agriculture has in tackling both climate change and hunger, and on the interlinkages between agricultural production and biodiversity.

Other important developments in the areas of FAO's mandate include the proclamation in April 2016 of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025) as a follow-up to the 2014 Second International Conference on Nutrition; the Decade of Family Farming (2019-2028); the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030; the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants).

Accelerating SFA will require actions in terms of policy, investments, skills, innovations, and the development of tools and methods to identify priorities, interlinkages, synergies as well as mapping and addressing trade-offs. Alliances and coalitions across sectors are needed to strengthen impact, with already emerging innovative approaches most appropriate to accelerate and increase results. Further efforts are needed to raise awareness among key stakeholders to ensure that SFA is reflected in policy, with appropriate allocation of resources and investments supporting national planning on SDGs. At international level, there is a need to develop further knowledge and broaden consensus about sustainable agriculture. Central to this work is the need to acknowledge that trade-offs exist and need to be managed, and that solutions are mostly context-specific.

Going forward, FAO will support countries to build an enabling policy environment to accelerate SDG implementation and achievement, promote partnerships, investments and innovative solutions on the ground, aimed primarily at smallholders and the rural poor but extending to all actors in society.

II. **Successful experiences and lessons learned on HLPF theme**

Based on the five principles of Sustainable Food and Agriculture, FAO, working with partners, has helped developed and facilitate a set of concrete tools and guidelines for countries to prioritize SFA in an integrated way. The most recent of these initiatives include the following:

- [The Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors](#), which took place in May 2018 in Rome. The establishment of the [Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform](#) at FAO is expected to facilitate the adoption of



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practices that will support the conservation and sustainable use and management of biodiversity across all agricultural sectors in an integrated manner.

- The [2nd International Symposium on Agroecology](#), which took place in Rome in April 2018, supported by an [agroecology knowledge platform](#). It reported on the growing set of public policies that support agroecology and promote integrated approaches to agriculture.
- The **Joint initiative “Research and Investment on Agriculture and Rural Development for Achieving SDGs 1 and 2”**, initiated in 2016. FAO, IFAD, the World Bank's Center for Development Data and the Independent Science and Partnership Council of the CGIAR are collaborating to achieve a common understanding of priorities and actions to support the achievement of SDG 1 and SDG 2.
- The [Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture \(WASAG\)](#), launched at the UNFCCC COP 23 in 2016. It is currently gathering 55 member organizations partnering to develop and implement solutions to the growing issue of water scarcity in agriculture.
- FAO presented at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP24) (2-15 December 2018, Katowice, Poland) four [Climate-Smart Agriculture e-learning modules on water, soils, crops and livestock](#). These knowledge products will help countries to strengthen capacities in managing natural resources.