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Section 1
Production of food
Two of the most important agricultural resources, land and water are crucial for the well being of the Asia-Pacific region, which is home to nearly three-fourths of the world’s agricultural population. However, Asia-Pacific tillers have to depend on about 28 percent of the world’s cropland with the land available per person for cultivation being just one-sixth of the average for the rest of the world.

A growing population is adding to pressure on arable land. To meet its increasing food needs, the region will have to produce more food largely from the existing farmlands because there is very little land available for physical expansion. This can be done only by increasing crop yields and stepping up cropping intensity.

While new farm technologies can bring about dramatic gains in crop yields, much depends on the state of land and water resources. A major problem is land degradation, which is largely caused in the region by water and wind erosion. A joint study by FAO, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) of land degradation in South Asia found that water and wind erosion respectively damage 25 and 18 percent of the sub-region’s total land. Latest estimates show that in China, water erosion affects 34 percent of the total cultivated land and wind erosion a further two percent. In Thailand, approximately 34 percent of the total land area is affected by water erosion.

Deforestation, excessive use of chemical fertilizers, soil erosion and excessive extraction of ground water are major causes of land degradation in the region.

With more than half the world’s 30 largest cities located in the region, rapid industrialization and urbanization are also responsible for swallowing up and affecting arable land.

Asia-Pacific farms account for more than half of the world’s agricultural water use with 60 percent of the world’s water being consumed in the region in the year 2000. The region has some of the wettest and driest spots on earth. The average annual per capita water availability of about 3,800 cubic metres – slightly more than half the global average – varies from about 1,500 cubic metres in the Indian subcontinent to over 9,000 cubic metres in Southeast Asia and nearly 16,000 cubic metres in the island nations.

Moreover, a large part of the region’s water comes from the annual monsoon rains, with almost 80 percent of the water flow in the big rivers of South Asia and China confined to a few months of the year.

Irrigation systems are not only costly, but also inefficient. It is estimated that up to 60 percent of the water diverted or pumped for irrigation is not used for plant production. The region must give priority attention to modernizing water delivery and irrigation systems.

Countries in the region need conservation techniques to cope with land degradation. Integrated watershed management is one of the best ways of developing rainfed areas. This has conservation and development aspects, arresting and reversing land and ecological degradation while producing material benefits to local communities in the form of food, fodder, forest and livestock products.

Appropriate technologies should also be adopted to reduce and prevent soil erosion, which is a serious problem in hilly areas. These include correct tillage practices, land formation techniques and stabilization structures. The Integrated Plant Nutrition System (IPNS) to increase soil fertility can also help in reducing soil erosion.
**Investment in land and water.**
Publication RAP 2002/09 explains the urgent need for arresting and reversing the decline in investment in land and water development in Asia-Pacific countries. Irrigation needs about one-third of the US$30.7 billion additional annual investment required in agriculture in developing countries to ensure food security.

A meeting in October 2001 at the FAO regional office in Bangkok brought together high level government officials from 12 countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, DPR Korea, India, Indonesia, Laos, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam), along with observers representing the Asian Development Bank, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and the Mekong River Commission. It was one of similar regional consultations organized by FAO across the world in preparation for the June 2002 World Food Summit: five years later.

A Bangkok Declaration issued by the consultation, expressed concern over the declining quality and availability of land and water in the region, which together with the serious decline in national and donor support, is a major obstacle to reducing hunger and poverty in Asia and the Pacific. Appealing to national government leaders to show the political will and investment commitment, the declaration urges Asia-Pacific governments to involve both public and private sector, and people’s participation in the sustainable development and use of land and water resources to bring about an ‘evergreen revolution’.

FAO has developed training programmes and materials for modernizing irrigation, water harvesting and water conservation. Training workshops have been conducted on service orientation for irrigation agencies in Thailand, irrigation modernization in Indonesia and Viet Nam, and roving seminars on water harvesting in China, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar and Viet Nam.

FAO organized an international e-mail conference on irrigation management transfer, modalities for cost recovery and pricing of irrigation services. Technical assistance was provided to Cambodia and Thailand on participatory irrigation management covering, among other issues, user contributions to the provision of irrigation services, monitoring and evaluation for policy implementation and development of training material.

FAO collaborated with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) on a pilot project to develop a ‘water vision’ for countries in Southeast Asia (see section 3).
Fertile land and favourable weather conditions make the Asia-Pacific region a major producer of cereals (rice, wheat and maize), legumes, vegetables, fruits and industrial crops like rubber, coconut, pepper and oil palm. The region produces 90 percent of the world’s rice, which is Asia’s most important food crop and the staple diet for three-fifth of the global population. Rice provides more than half the daily dietary energy of over three billion people in the region.

A number of Asian countries are now self-sufficient in rice production with the current annual harvest of 524 million tonnes expected to grow to 700 million tonnes by the year 2025. However, the region is adding 51 million rice eaters to its population annually even as less and less land and water are available for rice farms with more and more Asia-Pacific peasants depending on degraded farmlands.

The key to future food security in Asia lies in boosting farm yields without damaging the natural resource base, reducing the rate of population increase and diversifying the food basket. FAO is helping increase rice output in those Asian countries where paddy yields are lower compared to the region’s efficient rice-farming nations.

The world food and agriculture agency is also encouraging Asian rice farmers to combine their harvests with new crop types, including hitherto neglected species, vegetables, fruits, herbs and spices, medicinal plants and cash crops. Crop and farming system diversification, by including livestock farming as well as others, will not only increase food variety, but would help reduce the environmental, economic and nutritional risks associated with planting only one type of crop.

Expanding rice production has, moreover, reduced profits from paddy farming. FAO advocates farming diversification by rearing livestock, planting higher value horticultural and cash crops and marketing value-added products of all commodities as the best protection against falling farm produce prices. In Asia and the Pacific, higher value crops produce ten to 15 times the net returns per hectare of rice. The region produces over 50 percent of the world’s industrial crops mainly through smallholders. Industrial crops cover about 20 percent of available lands in Asia and the Pacific.

Effective plant quarantine measures keeps farm pests and diseases from spreading. Developing countries in the region have to conform to new international plant quarantine standards being developed under the new world trade rules. While protecting farm harvests from pests and crop diseases, it is important to ensure that the methods used do not cause irreparable damage to the agrarian ecology and human health. The international code of conduct for pesticide management, revised in 2001, requires countries to stop subsidising pesticide use. FAO is promoting integrated pest management (IPM) techniques to eliminate the use of expensive chemical pest killers that are known to be harmful for farms and consumers. It is also encouraging organic farming such as organic coffee, pepper, vegetables and fruits.
A sustainable strategy was formulated to make Asia’s rice-centred farmlands yield more food, incomes and livelihoods for the region. Publication RAP 2002/12 examines the potential of the wide range of rice-based farming systems in the region to meet the food and livelihood security demands that will be made on them in the coming decades. It outlines a menu of inter-disciplinary strategies and interventions to enable the rice-based systems to live up to the challenge and the role that FAO can play in this. “A system that is so large and so pro-poor as the rice system has a major potential to impact – favourably or adversely – on the world’s food security and on its politico-economic stability,” note the authors.

The FAO regional office organized expert consultations and issued publications on crop diversification (RAP 2001/03), tropical fruits such as grapes (RAP2001/07), lychee (RAP 2001/09, RAP 2002/04 and RAP 2002/16), and on under-utilized tropical fruits in Thailand (RAP 2001/26).

The first Asian round table on sustainable and speciality coffee production, processing and marketing was held in Chiang Mai in February 2001 with participation from East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam.

FAO worked with countries in the region for the development of international standards for plant quarantine in keeping with the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreement on the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures. The aim is to prevent the use of unjustifiable phytosanitary measures as barriers to international trade. In this connection, working groups of the Asia-Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) met at the FAO regional office in Bangkok in July 2001 and June 2002, and the 22nd session of APPPC was held in Ho Chi Minh City in September 2001 with delegates representing Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, DPR Korea, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga and Viet Nam (see also RAP publication 2001/24).

Key experts from China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines and Thailand – together with resource persons from CAB International (SEARC) and FAO – examined and recommended ways of improving the current state of plant pest management education in countries in the region and set up an Asia-Pacific working group on plant pest management curriculum development to follow up on these. The proceedings of the consultation are documented in publication RAP 2001/01 Curriculum development for plant pest management in Asia-Pacific.
Millions of rural households in Asia-Pacific countries depend on domesticated animals for food, farm power and income. The region has 30 percent of the world’s livestock species. Though livestock food products are still not a significant part of the diet in developing Asia-Pacific countries, consumption is growing rapidly.

Developing Asian countries now have the world’s highest growth rates of production and consumption of food derived from livestock. Meat production in the region grew from about nine million tonnes in 1961 to more than 90 million tonnes by the end of the 20th century. Small farmers account for the bulk of the region’s livestock production, combining this with cropping and other agricultural activities.

Income from the sale of milk, meat, manure and other basic livestock products has traditionally protected small farmers from the shock of crop failure and provided steady livelihood to peasants who do not have other agricultural resources. Ownership of livestock also helps keep hunger away from the poor person’s door. Possession of livestock, which feed on open grazing lands, allows the rural poor to take advantage of common property resources to earn income.

Livestock also provide a large part of power on Asia-Pacific farms. According to one estimate in 1985, the 30 million draught animals used then on Asia’s small farms did work equivalent to the same number of tractors.

The big growth in the region’s poultry and pig meat industries – the latter accounted for 55 percent of all meat production in 2000 – is promoting a shift from pasture-based production systems to feed cropping. Some countries have to depend on feed imports to meet the livestock industry needs.

Prevention, control and eradication of communicable livestock diseases are central to FAO’s livestock development priorities. Some animal diseases can also be transmitted to humans such as the Nipah virus, which devastated Malaysia’s pig industry and claimed more than 100 human lives in 1998-99. A number of emerging diseases with the potential to infect humans have been identified in the region in the past ten years.

Over the past quarter of a century, developing Asian countries have introduced several exotic livestock species in a bid to increase productivity. However, most such introductions – usually through crossbreeding – have not been successful. The reasons for this range from increased feed consumption, lower reproductive rates and greater disease susceptibility of the new breeds, to indebtedness for local farmers who found themselves unable to repay loans taken to procure the exotic species.

Livestock development in the region is also threatened by the disappearance of indigenous breeds. Every week, the world loses two breeds of domestic animals, according to a joint study by FAO and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). The Asia-Pacific region is home to 99.6 percent of the world’s buffalo breeds, 56.3 percent of pig, 62.7 percent of goat, 46.4 percent of chicken and 85.3 percent of duck breeds. Among the livestock species at risk of extinction is the H’Mong cattle of Viet Nam, which currently number 14 000.

The coming years are a critical period for livestock production in Asia and the Pacific. Poorly planned animal breeding strategies and the loss of indigenous breeds threaten the region’s ability to meet future food and livelihood demands. At the same time, the growing demand for livestock products now offers the opportunity to launch a new food revolution to reduce poverty and hunger among small farming households who form 80 percent of all farmer families in Asia and the Pacific.
FAO supports the Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific (APHCA) – see the Internet web site http://www.aphca.org – and the South Asia Rinderpest Campaign.

The diverse functions of livestock are examined in detail in a publication – RAP 2002/06 Some issues associated with the livestock industries of the Asia-Pacific region – produced jointly with APHCA. The study reveals the remarkable growth in the consumption of livestock products in the region in the past four decades as well as the striking diversity in its nature: pig meat is China’s main livestock product while South Asia’s is milk. However, with the exception of Malaysia and Mongolia, there is still a big gulf between the livestock based protein intake of the high-income countries – Australia, Japan and New Zealand – and the region’s developing nations. Livestock products have traditionally provided more than half the protein intake of Mongolia’s people, while livestock protein consumption almost doubled in Malaysia since the mid-1970s. The publication also examines issues surrounding the growth of Asia’s modern livestock industry.


A consultation, jointly organised by FAO and the International Feed Industry Federation in Bangkok in April 2002, discussed changes in livestock systems; enhanced requirements for protein in the tropics and the potential of ruminants on limited protein intake to utilize available forage; food safety issues related to animal feeds derived from biotechnology crops, including genetically-modified organisms (GMOs); current issues related to the use of animal by-products in feeds; adaptation of European laws and regulations on animal feed use, to conditions in developing countries and countries in transition. Presentations were made by animal production and health experts on developments and issues relating to livestock production, protein supplies and the feed industries of selected countries including Australia, Botswana, China, India, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, Turkey, Viet Nam and countries of the European Union.

FAO organized a number of meetings, training courses and workshops on various aspects of animal production and health. One of these was the Regional Workshop on Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) – better known as the ‘mad cow’ disease – in November 2001. The meeting was attended by over 250 participants from China, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Biogas digestion is a very efficient and cost-effective approach for treatment of abattoir wastes at the small- to medium-scale sector, where communities usually cannot afford mechanical treatment systems and prefer dumping the wastes into the environment. An FAO workshop in February 2001 disseminated this technology to 12 countries (Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam).

A joint endeavour of FAO and a non-governmental organization, Humane Society International, offered guidance to the livestock slaughter industry on ensuring humane treatment of animals. The handbook RAP 2001/04 Guidelines for humane handling, transport and slaughter of livestock includes sections on animal stress and pain and the negative effects these have on meat quality. Highlighting prevalent faulty methods that are objectionable on both ethical and economic grounds, it recommends sizeable improvements in the equipment and facilities used in developing countries for livestock slaughter for meat. At the same time, determined efforts are needed to educate and train livestock slaughter industry personnel to avoid negligence and economic losses.
Fish and rice constitute the traditional diet of most Asian and Pacific people. Per caput fish consumption in the region ranges from the world's highest level in the Maldives to among the lowest in Pakistan and parts of northern India. In the Pacific, subsistence fisheries make an important contribution to often high levels of per caput supplies in many of the developing countries of the small islands. Fish provides nutritious food, employment and income for millions of people. In 1998, capture fishery production from this region accounted for half of the world production, and the production from aquaculture reached 88 percent of the world aquaculture production of fish and shellfish.

The fishery sector thus plays a valuable role for food security in most countries of the region. However, in general, marine fishery resources are fully exploited (e.g. in the Gulf of Thailand, the Bay of Tonkin and the Bay of Bengal) and many heavily fished stocks will need to be rehabilitated. It is unlikely that future demands from an increased population in the region will be met from the seas. Aquaculture, and to a lesser extent inland fishery, may provide considerable opportunities for further development to increase fish production, but the region will probably need to rely more on imports of fishery products for its future supplies.

For many countries in the region, the central issue remains that of management and sustainability of the marine resources. Generally, coastal resources are severely overfished by an overcrowded small-scale fishery sector. There, catch rates, fish size and quality and, in some cases, fishers’ incomes, are declining. Conflicts between small-scale fisheries and trawlers in the coastal zones are frequent and fisheries management is complicated. A partnership between local communities and the central government is evolving to develop a community-based fisheries management system for local resources. The prime concern is the need to increase the supply of fish and the economic benefits from fishing by the introduction and enforcement of better management.

Aquaculture is an increasingly important supplier of food and sustainer of food security in many Asian countries. Here again, considerable benefits may be gained by the better integration of aquaculture into overall rural and agricultural developments. Supply of fish from aquaculture could also be further increased by wider application of technological advances and better fish health management. Diversification and genetic improvement of cultured species needs to be promoted, together with a wider application of semi-intensive production systems.

Governments and FAO are tackling the above issues by promoting appropriate policies and programmes. The implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries remains the primary goal for FAO in Asia-Pacific. The code aims to raise awareness from top officials to local fishers, creating a responsible fishery that stands on principles of protection for living aquatic resources, environment and coastal areas. A responsible fishery also aims to have all people involved develop fishery and aquaculture techniques and conservation, as well as to improve food security and food quality.
The 27th session of the Asia-Pacific Fisheries Commission (APFIC) was held in September 2001 in Manila. Representatives from Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam met with observers from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to discuss the recommendations of three expert groups set up by the 26th APFIC commission. As reported in publication RAP 2001/18, the session also deliberated on changes in APFIC's future role in the light of suggestions given at the 68th Session of the APFIC Executive Committee.

Jointly organized with the Coastal Development Center (CDC) of Kasetsart University, a November 2001 meeting identified constraints and responsibilities in decentralized small-scale fisheries management and developed practical solutions to the social, economic, environmental and legal constraints to local fisheries management. Publication RAP 2002/10 interactive mechanisms for small-scale fisheries management includes country papers which examine national experiences in small-scale fisheries management in Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. Intended to support the process of decentralizing small-scale fisheries management to prevent over-fishing and coastal degradation in many developing countries in the region, the document offers suggestions based on the experience of practitioners from various fields.

Based on information collected by two FAO-commissioned surveys during 2001, the publication RAP 2002/13 Pacific Island fisheries: regional and country information reviews the state of fisheries in the Pacific Islands, both on a regional basis as well as in each of the 14 independent countries (Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu). With exclusive economic zones (EEZs) spread across 30.5 million sq km – 60 times their total land area and 28 percent of the world's EEZ area – Pacific Island states are vitally dependent on fisheries for their economic well being. The publication reviews the small-scale commercial and subsistence fisheries, which are crucial for the national economies, food security and rural livelihoods in the Pacific. A regional overview provides detailed information about fisheries in the sub-region as well as issues of coastal fisheries management. There are detailed country profiles with national fisheries data, an overview of marine and inland fisheries and aquaculture, and utilization of the catch. Development prospects, the institutional arrangements and international issues relevant to the sector are also reviewed.

Commissioned by the FAO regional office in Bangkok, a review of inland capture fisheries in eight Southeast Asian countries shows that statistics about the sector are severely underestimated and fail to give an adequate idea of its real importance. The actual production from inland capture fisheries in these countries is likely to be at least three times as much as that reported for freshwater aquaculture production. Report RAP 2002/11 is based on field trips to Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand and the author's professional experience in Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam. The document provides a regional overview of statistics collection and reporting methods used, the sources of error in the official statistics, other constraints to data collection and recommends strategies for improving these. A second section reviews the current state of inland capture fisheries statistics in the eight countries that were reviewed.

Living aquatic resources play a vital role in providing food security and income for the rural poor in Asia, especially women. Aquaculture development interventions should bear this in mind. Experts from eight countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Laos, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand) met in Bangkok in February 2002 to share experiences and discuss ways of making aquaculture an effective tool for poverty alleviation in the region. The consultation – jointly organized with NACA – responded to the growing awareness within the aquatic resource sector of the need to address poverty more directly. The session noted that poor-friendly aquaculture technologies are largely in place and aquaculture development for poverty alleviation should focus on effective extension of low-cost technologies, appropriate management practices and securing access and control to the poor.
Covering a quarter of the world’s land area, the Asia-Pacific region has about 15 percent of the world’s 3.8 billion hectares of forest. The green cover has to meet the diverse environmental, economic, cultural and social needs of more than half the world’s people living in these countries. Asia’s forests provide food, fodder, fuelwood, timber and livelihood to hundreds of millions of people. The forests also sustain one of the world’s richest storehouses of biodiversity.

The forestry sector provides formal and informal employment for millions of people and continues to act as a food reserve in times of hardship. Forests have an important role in supporting agriculture in the mainly rural Asian nations by protecting watersheds and water quality. Furthermore, forestry is a significant contributor to export earnings in many countries.

In recent decades, many countries in Asia and the Pacific have realized the importance of forests and there is growing awareness of and commitment to forest management and public involvement in forest management decisions. This has resulted in a significant impact on forest conservation, and the problem of destructive logging practices is addressed in several countries.

The use of plantation forests to substitute for wood from natural forests is increasing with Asia-Pacific countries leading the world in forest plantation development. However, deforestation continues because of weak regulation and law enforcement, and continuing incentives for competing land uses. This, along with forest degradation, wasteful use and sharp inequalities in the distribution of forest benefits, remain serious problems that require novel solutions and joint action by all those with an interest in forests. Forest crime and corruption are also serious threats to the region’s forests.

Many countries in the region are now decentralizing forest management into the hands of local communities that are directly in touch with the forests. This fundamental shift from large-scale government forestry to small-scale, community-based forestry management – often called devolution – is increasingly proving to be an effective way to use forests sustainably and conserve biodiversity.

A key concern is the sustainable use of wood and non-wood forest products. FAO gives high priority to the production, trade and marketing of these products to support livelihoods in the rural areas of Asia and the Pacific.
FAO supports the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) – see the Internet web site http://www.apfcweb.org – established in 1949 as a forum for advising and taking action on key forestry issues pertinent to Asia-Pacific. The APFC developed a Code of practice for forest harvesting in Asia-Pacific to reduce negative impacts and enhance sustainability of forest resources. The code guides countries in drafting national harvesting codes. A regional strategy for implementing the code was developed and a complementary regional training strategy in its support was published as RAP 2001/15.

To support countries in their efforts to encourage forest plantation development, FAO coordinated a series of national studies on the impacts of incentives for private sector establishment and management of plantations. A workshop was held in March 2002 in Manila, bringing together forestry experts from Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines and Thailand along with FAO specialists to discuss the national studies. The meeting was supported by the European Commission-FAO Partnership Programme and the United States Department of Agriculture/Forest Service. The results of the studies including a regional overview will be presented to the 19th APFC session, scheduled to take place in Mongolia in August 2002.

Several Asia-Pacific countries have declared their natural forests ‘off limits’ to logging companies by imposing logging bans or other restrictions on timber production. These policies have effectively closed legal timber harvest operations in many areas. FAO has carried out a groundbreaking study on the effectiveness of logging bans as a means of conserving natural forests. The study examines experiences in six countries (China, New Zealand, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam). Publication RAP 2001/08 (and its summary RAP 2001/10), presents the results of a two-year study conducted under the auspices of APFC.

Various timber-producing countries in the Asia-Pacific region have recognized the substantial potential of reduced impact logging (RIL) in advancing sustainable forest management. Their efforts to promote improved timber harvesting are supported by several organizations, including the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), and the USDA Forest Service. In response to these challenges and opportunities, an International conference on the application of reduced impact logging to advance sustainable forest management was held in Kuching, Malaysia attended by more than 250 participants.

Field researchers in the Philippines have developed a practical, low-cost technique known as Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR), for restoring forests on imperata grasslands. ANR is used to restore the forests that once occupied these lands. During 2001, FAO supported forest rehabilitation in the Asia-Pacific region by bringing senior forestry officers from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Laos, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam together for workshops and study tours to observe and discuss ANR in the Philippines, giving special attention to the advantages of low cost, fast results, bio-diversity and environmental stability inherent in the ANR approach.

To advance the understanding and enhance awareness of the potential for community-based fire management, an international conference entitled Communities in flames was organized in July 2001, in Balikpapan, Indonesia. More than 120 individuals from 21 countries participated. The conference was organized by Project FireFight South East Asia, the Regional Community Forestry Training Center (RECOFTC) and FAO. FAO also supported case studies of community-based fire management in China and India.

The first international conference on domesticated elephants was organized in February 2001 by FAO in Bangkok. The meeting reviewed the present situation of domesticated elephants in Asia focussing on the socio-economic and environmental conditions for the care and management of the elephants. Eighty participants from 19 countries attended, mostly from Asia. The participants were elephant owners and managers, veterinarians and animal husbandry experts with hands-on elephant experience, and representatives from governments and non-governmental organizations.
Deregulation, liberalization and globalization of trade in agricultural products under the new WTO regulations have a considerable impact on domestic agricultural producers in the region. Small farmers need support not only to be more productive, but also to make their produce more marketable in order to enhance their incomes.

In the present era of globalization there is a critical need to strengthen the capabilities of small farmers to move from subsistence production to agricultural enterprises. Commercializing small farmers is a very complex process involving the cultural and psychological settings of the farmers themselves as well as the economic and market-oriented performance of the agricultural sector through increased efficiency of the farms and the private and public providers of related support services.

To effectively build the capacity of small resource-poor farmers to adopt market-oriented farm production will generally require some form of group action for the identification of appropriate commercial activities; use business management principles and practices; add value and market agricultural products; and access services such as rural and micro finance.

To accomplish this aim, the FAO regional office promotes market-oriented farm production and support to small farmers. It also works with the private sector to provide agricultural inputs to rural areas, and develop efficient marketing chains for diverse agricultural products to meet both rural and urban needs.

Farmers in the region also need assistance to reduce heavy post-production losses and add value to their produce. FAO is assisting Asia-Pacific countries to develop post-production loss prevention programmes and agro-processing technologies, especially for cereals and horticultural crops. The aim is to enhance rural employment and incomes through development of agro-industries, value-added products and full utilization of raw materials.

FAO helps enhance rural employment and income opportunities both on farm and off farm; promotes a diversified and integrated market-oriented farming system approach for sustainable development; and enhances the managerial capacities of the small holders in support of commercial agriculture through improved agricultural extension strategies.

Rural and micro finance are increasingly important tools of rural and agricultural development in Asia and the Pacific. FAO promotes viable rural banking, savings and agricultural credit schemes as tools to alleviate poverty. However, lack of proper administration, recording and accounting systems to process the huge number of transactions associated with this type of finance, is a common problem.
A study on small farmers’ diversification in Cambodia, Laos, Nepal and Viet Nam is analyzing the macro-level socio-economic elements of smallholder farming in the region and preparing specific case studies giving real examples of and potential for further expansion of viable agricultural diversification in Asia.

The FAO regional office is reviewing the training guide on farm management for agricultural extension. The strategy to implement this activity includes the training of trainers for message identification, farm planning and management.

Government and private sector experts from China, India, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Nepal, Philippines and Thailand attended a mini round table meeting on marketing and food security in Bangkok in November 2001.

The FAO regional office commissioned translations of the summary proceeding of the Feeding Asian Cities seminar held in November 2000 in Bangkok, into Bahasa Indonesian, Bengali and Thai languages.

In follow-up to the 1996 WFS, FAO and the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) organized a workshop on agribusiness development with representatives from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand in November 2001. The meeting considered ways of making better use of agricultural and food engineering knowledge to improve food supply and farmers’ incomes. An exhibition of agricultural and food industry machinery was also held at the venue.

In collaboration with GTZ, the FAO regional office acts as the global development and support centre for the MicroBanking system, currently in use in more than 1,100 offices worldwide. The new Windows-based version, called MBWin, is the system of choice for a wide variety of rural finance and micro finance institutions (e.g. Cambodia, East Timor, Nepal and Thailand). Six training courses were held for participants from Africa, Asia and Europe, and the software upgrade with added functionalities for group-technologies is used by institutions such as the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh.

FAO maintains close collaboration with development partners dealing with rural and micro finance such as the Asia-Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA), the Association of Food and Agricultural Marketing Agencies in Asia and the Pacific (AFMA) and ESCAP.
Section 2
Access to food and rural livelihoods
Food security means that all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to adequate food that is safe and in keeping with social and cultural preferences, to be able to lead an active and healthy life. FAO identifies four conditions of food security – adequate food supply; stability of food supply without seasonal or yearly fluctuations; physical and economic access to food; food quality and safety.

While there is no single formula to ensure food security, production and distribution of food are key elements. Agriculture is the main source of employment and income in Asia and the Pacific and any hunger reduction strategy for the region must focus on bringing about increases in the productivity and incomes of the small and marginal rural producers.

FAO is also concerned about the impact of liberalization and globalization of trade in agricultural products on food security both at national level and for poor and disadvantaged groups at the household level. The FAO regional office assists countries in incorporating a food security component into national development plans and providing food at minimum cost to vulnerable groups.

The regional office is working to improve the efficiency of key national food agencies and their distribution systems as well as national early-warning systems. It extends technical network activities on food security training and builds national capacities to identify pricing and technical deficiencies.

As a follow-up to the 1996 WFS, FAO conducts annual assessments of the food security situation at the regional, sub-regional and national level. The findings are published in the State of food insecurity in the world reports, which measure year-by-year progress in hunger reduction by the countries of the world and provide a useful policy and planning guidance tool to governments.

Under another post-WFS initiative, FAO is assisting countries in the region, as part of a global initiative, to set up national hunger identification systems. The Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping System (FIVIMS) will provide reliable, accurate and consistent information on the extent, nature and causes of food insecurity and vulnerability at sub-national, national, regional and global levels.

Food quality and safety control is equally important for food security. The growing pressure of demand on food production, handling and distribution systems could lead to potentially serious food quality and safety problems. Developing countries in the region must be able to meet internationally accepted food quality and safety standards in order to gain from the liberalization of agricultural trade through strengthening national food safety systems; harmonizing food safety regulations; and participating effectively in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, set up by FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Reliable agricultural statistics are vital for national planning and policy making on agriculture and food security. The regional office monitors developments in the fields of food and agricultural statistics. It assists in conducting agricultural censuses and surveys (e.g. use of appropriate methodologies, training of national personnel and the analysis and dissemination of food and agricultural statistics), and works with other international and technical assistance agencies to facilitate cross-sectoral analyses.

FAO is developing a regional information database in the framework of the World Agricultural Information Centre (WAICENT), which is one of the world’s most comprehensive sources of agricultural information. WAICENT offers FAO’s accumulated knowledge and expertise, enabling decision makers and professionals to obtain and use information essential for achieving sustainable agricultural development and helping to combat hunger.
The past two FAO regional conferences for Asia and the Pacific highlighted the devastation in food and agriculture caused by disasters. The conferences reiterated the WFS commitment to prevent, mitigate and improve the management of disasters in food and agriculture and recommended FAO technical assistance in the tasks. An Asia-Pacific conference on early warning, prevention, preparedness and management of disasters in food and agriculture was held in Chiang Mai in June 2001 directed at laying the foundations of country disaster management programmes targeted at the farmer. It stressed the best farming systems and practices to be recommended to farmers in disaster-prone areas and the essential supporting services which governments must provide. All 38 Asia-Pacific FAO member countries were invited to attend as well as 12 concerned international organizations. The outcome of the conference is reported in publication RAP 2001/14.

Six Asia-Pacific countries were represented at a regional expert consultation, which was organized by the FAO regional office and India’s Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA) in Hyderabad, India in January 2002. The 21 participants shared experiences, information and concerns on a range of issues dealing with livelihood and food security in the drought-prone areas of the region.

Senior policy makers, chief executives and marketing managers of national food agencies and related public sector organizations in China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Thailand met to discuss the impact of agricultural trade liberalization on domestic food markets and food security in Cha-am, Thailand in December 2001. The meeting, organized by the Association of Food and Agricultural Marketing Agencies in Asia and the Pacific (AFMA) with support from the FAO regional office in Bangkok, provided an opportunity for sharing country experiences on best practices in grain market support programmes and procurement. A discussion of country cases provided up-to-date information on the status, constraints and issues linked to grain market stabilization, price support and consumer subsidies.

FAO supports the Asia-Pacific network for food and nutrition. As a first step toward introducing FIVIMS at the national level, the regional office urged member countries to identify a national focal point to sensitize concerned institutions. This was followed by sensitization workshops involving all stakeholders. As a follow up of such workshops, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand expressed interest in preparing project proposals seeking FAO technical assistance.

Nutrition experts from Bangladesh, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vanuatu and Viet Nam met at the FAO regional office in November 2001 to review national initiatives in educating people in healthy food practices. Publication RAP 2001/27 contains the report of the meeting.

The regional office supports the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (APCAS) – see publication RAP 2001/02 Report of the 18th session of APCAS – and publishes annually the Selected indicators of food and agricultural development in the Asia-Pacific region.

Publication RAP 2001/23 is an account of the proceedings of the September 2001 consultation held at the FAO regional office in Bangkok, which was attended by representatives from China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Pakistan, Philippines and Thailand. Following up on the recommendation of the November 2000 session of APCAS, the meeting was convened to assist countries in the region improve their compilation and dissemination of agribusiness statistics.

In cooperation with a Japanese funded regional project, a workshop was conducted on Moving towards an agricultural statistics system for the market economy in Bangkok in January 2001 attended by senior and middle-level officials from Cambodia, China, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar and Viet Nam.
Strong, representative grassroots institutions are essential for improving rural living conditions. Participation in organizations and institutions at local level significantly improves access to productive resources and enables poor rural households to use these to better their lot. Such institutions include elected bodies, farmers or other rural producers’ associations or cooperatives, civil society, and informal networks reflecting common practices, cultural norms or beliefs.

However, local organizations and institutions in many countries are unable to perform well either in their roles of facilitation, information and advocacy, or in negotiations with external organizations and institutions. Decentralization of and people’s participation in local planning needs to be strengthened as well as access to information and extension, credit and marketing services. Information and expertise in best practices on rural development needs to be encouraged, and socio-economic indicators to measure progress in equity need to be refined.

Women make up more than 40 percent of the rural workforce in the Asia-Pacific region and are the main performers of vital agricultural tasks – from conservation of plant seed, sowing and weeding crops, to processing the harvest. Yet, their contribution is often underestimated and overlooked in development plans and strategies, due in part to the lack of gender disaggregated data.

It is more difficult for women to get access to land, credit and other agricultural inputs such as technology, extension, training and services. Inheritance and land tenure laws limit women’s ownership and use of land. In the poorest and most populous countries of the region, the majority of girls are still denied access to basic education, further restricting their ability to take advantage of the limited opportunities they have to improve their circumstances.

The FAO Gender and Development Plan of Action (2002-2007) provides an organizational framework to mainstream gender in FAO activities. Priority areas identified for gender mainstreaming are food and nutrition, natural resource management, agriculture support systems and agriculture and rural development policy and planning.

Due to enormous variations in agro-ecological and socio-economic contexts, Asia-Pacific countries need to tailor agricultural extension programmes and methodological links to the needs of the farmers. Alternative policies, strategies, approaches and systems need to address extension management and extension-research-education linkages. Also, gender considerations need to be introduced in national agricultural education, research, extension and development programmes.

Continuous planning, monitoring and evaluation of extension programmes is needed, as well as the introduction of participatory and cost-effective extension methodologies and gender-sensitive programmes based on participatory rural appraisal.
FAO supports the Network for the Development of Agricultural Cooperatives (NEDAC) and the UN System Network on Rural Development and Food Security.

Representatives from 13 NEDAC organizations (from Bangladesh, China, India, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand) were joined by prominent Asian resource persons and FAO experts in Bangkok in early 2001 to discuss the impact of globalization and liberalization on agriculture and rural development. The round table meeting drew up guidelines for the preparation of strategic action plans for cooperative development in the context of the changed political and socio-economic situation in Asia.

Farm cooperative leaders, experts and government policy makers met in China in September 2001 for a round table on preparing agricultural cooperatives for changing market and human resources needs in the region.

A regional consultation of NGOs and civil society organizations (CSOs) was organized in Bangkok in August 2001 to prepare a civil society perspective on food security for the World Food Summit: five years later held in June 2002.

RAP publication 2001/05 presents issues on gender sensitive local planning and contains country experiences in including women’s concerns in the local planning process in Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam.

There is growing empirical evidence of the key role of rural women in agrobiodiversity conservation for food security in developing countries. An expert consultation on this subject was held at the University of the Philippines Los Banos in September 2001.

Co-organized with the International Potato Centre – Users’ Perspectives With Agricultural Research and Development (CIP-UPWARD) and the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization – Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEAMEO-SEARCA), the meeting reviewed experiences from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Nepal, Philippines and Thailand. Publication RAP 2002/07 calls for increased visibility and understanding among development workers and policy makers of rural women’s distinct knowledge, skills and barriers related to the management of local agrobiodiversity for food security.

FAO and the China Agricultural Broadcasting and Television School organized an expert consultation on strategies for using distant learning for the advancement of rural women. Held in October 2001 in Beijing, the meeting was attended by participants from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Published in the UN’s International Year of Mountains, for which FAO is the lead UN agency, publication RAP 2002/05 Case study on educational opportunities for hill tribes in northern Thailand notes the need for improved participation of and communication with the indigenous people in planning and implementing support activities; local curriculum development and local capacity building; and closer coordination among the multiple government support programmes for the hill tribes, as well as collaboration among government agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Science and technology have played a vital role in keeping agricultural production a step ahead of rapid global population growth in the past four decades. However, the green revolution technologies did not benefit the vast rainfall and other marginal areas with high concentrations of hunger and poverty. The new farming technologies were also not friendly to the environment, often resulting in degradation of land, water and biodiversity. These are some of the pitfalls to be avoided in the future development of agricultural science and technology, publication RAP 2002/02 cautions, while outlining the desirable features of a new technological revolution that is needed to tackle the persisting hunger and poverty in Asia and the Pacific in the new millennium.

Senior professionals from 14 Asian countries, leading international research institutions, agencies and regional non-governmental organizations (NGOs) met at the FAO regional office in July 2002 to review the changing role and demands of agricultural extension in the region. Experts and officials from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam produced a plan of action that included modalities, strategies and lessons suitable for application to regional/national conditions.
Section 3
Support to countries
Using its wealth of expertise and experience, the regional office advises countries on appropriate policies to strengthen their agricultural and rural sectors to make the region food-secure for present and future generations. Sector and sub-sector reviews and analyses of selected policy issues are conducted to assist the countries in formulating policies and programmes for sustainable food security, agricultural and rural development. FAO also meets requests from governments and other partners for field programme development through the identification, formulation and approval of sound projects and programmes. In consultation with government officials, other development partners, non-governmental and civil society organizations, it identifies areas requiring FAO technical assistance.

National policies and strategies need to be fine-tuned to create a favourable economic environment for food security and agricultural and rural development. Agriculture needs adequate consideration in macroeconomic adjustment programmes. In a region where the main agricultural activity is carried out by small and marginal producers who are also the most food-insecure, much of this policy advice has to do with enabling small rural producers to unleash their full productive capacities that can revolutionize farming in the Asia-Pacific region.

Policy support includes assistance in developing national capacities in the field of policy analysis and formulation. The regional office organizes in-service training courses that are often integrated within broad policy assistance programmes. These are meant for mid-level staff working in government and in civil society organizations.

A major priority is to strengthen national capacities in developing member countries to negotiate favourable terms in the World Trade Organization (WTO) talks on the liberalization of agricultural trade. The regional office is working to strengthen the capacity of relevant government ministries, the private sector and academic institutions to deal with agricultural trade policy and legal issues, including Codex Alimentarius, animal and crops health, intellectual property rights, etc.
The regional office organized three sub-regional workshops on WTO and agriculture in Nepal, Philippines and Tonga, during 2001 and 2002. These trained 34 participants from 29 countries and three regional organizations on the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA), Agreements on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

The fifth FAO round table meeting for Pacific Island countries on WTO Agreement Provisions was held in Wellington, New Zealand in April 2002. The meeting was sponsored by FAO, New Zealand and the Trade and Investment Access Facility of the Commonwealth Secretariat (TIAF). It further built sustainable capacity in the Pacific to meet WTO obligations and provided tools to act as equal partners in the continuation of the reform process.

At government requests, the regional office fielded, supervised or otherwise organized, missions to examine agricultural and rural development issues and constraints and carried out consultations and discussions with stakeholders in identifying and recommending policy directions including priorities, strategies and action plans. An example of this type of assistance was the western China development multi-disciplinary mission as well as the fast-track mission on agricultural policy framework in Indonesia. The latter advised Indonesia on the roles of central and local governments, civil society organizations and the private sector in the management of the agriculture sector, the promotion and development of agricultural marketing and processing, and to identify priority areas for institutional strengthening.

FAO assisted Cambodia in the preparation of the agriculture component of the country’s Second Socio-Economic Development Plan.

Activities were initiated to assist Bangladesh in preparing a Plan of Action for implementing the national agricultural policy.

Field activities were carried out for a study on policy and strategy for poverty alleviation and household food security in Nepal.

FAO provided technical assistance to Viet Nam to identify policy and institutional changes necessary to participate in collaborative efforts within ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) to enhance agricultural growth, food security and the competitiveness of the agriculture sector.

In Myanmar, FAO organized a project formulation mission entitled Integration of Myanmar Agriculture in ASEAN.

FAO assisted Laos in preparing an environmental action plan linked to sustainable agriculture and rural development in the country’s lowland irrigated and rainfed farms, highlands and plateaus.

FAO carried out an analysis of the role of economic growth and redistribution policies, including the structure of public expenditure in agriculture in China. It also developed a policy simulation framework for poverty study and organized a policy forum and policy training workshop in the country.

In DPR Korea, FAO organized an informal consultation on updating and finalizing the draft Agricultural Development Strategy – Horizon 2010.

In Mongolia, FAO supported national consultants to revise and update the draft strategy for National Agricultural Development – Horizon 2010.

The regional office assisted the Philippines in conducting an analysis and measurement of the impact of alternative policy options and programme changes in major commodities such as rice, maize, meat and fish.
Field projects are a highly effective way of demonstrating, developing and transferring FAO expertise. During the year 2001, FAO implemented 257 field projects worth US$36 million in 32 countries in Asia and the Pacific, of which 88 were funded from its own resources. Belgium, Italy, Japan, Netherlands and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) are the major supporters of FAO field programmes in the region. Thirty-one of these projects were regional in nature.

The focus of FAO field activities is the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS), which aims to improve food security in low-income food deficit countries (LIFDCs) - countries unable to make up domestic food shortfall with imports. The programme strives to bring about quick increases in food production and productivity and improve people’s access to food. National ownership, people’s participation, technology transfer, gender sensitivity, social equity and economic and environmental sustainability are some key elements of SPFS.

A major event in 2001 was the final handing over of operational responsibilities to FAO country offices in Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. This is in keeping with the organizational priority of fully decentralizing the operations and management of the field programmes. The FAO regional office now supervises only complex regional projects and projects operated in countries where there are no FAO representatives.

During 2001, the flagship Integrated Pest Management Programme (IPM) extended its services to countries growing cotton. The cotton IPM, funded by the European Union, began operation in Bangladesh, China, India, Pakistan, Philippines and Viet Nam. Developed on the rice farms of Southeast Asia to reduce risks from excessive pesticide use promoted by the Green Revolution, the programme has trained more than 2 million rice farmers in Asia between 1990 and 1999, boosting their yields while cutting down the use of chemical pest killers.

The Netherlands-funded Regional Wood Energy Development Programme, begun in 1994, was completed in 2001, establishing itself as one of FAO’s most successful regional forestry projects. The project assisted more than 16 countries directly and numerous others indirectly.

The landmark Bay of Bengal Programme, operating in seven countries – Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand – reached out to millions of small-scale fisherpeople since 1979. It addressed common problem areas in the region (e.g. fishing technology, post-harvest fisheries and coastal fishery resources management) and evolved from a technology to a socio-economic orientation. Managed by FAO in close collaboration with and financial support from the seven countries, external financing in the amount of US$20 million was provided by Denmark, Japan, Sweden and UK. In addition to the main umbrella programme, supplementary projects were financed by UNDP, the Arab Gulf Programme for the UN Development Organization (AGFUND), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and several others.

Two major FAO projects that have recently begun operation, focus on the new emerging technologies such as genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Funded by Japan, the projects will assist countries in formulating national consensus and policies on GMOs and genetic resources.

The world’s youngest nation, East Timor, will also feature prominently in FAO operations in the region. Two projects on rural banking and financing as well as on natural resource use are already being implemented in East Timor by FAO.

FAO is also closely involved in the reconstruction of Afghanistan, with seeds and animal health and production projects funded by UNDP. New projects have been prepared to assist the country in production and distribution of high quality seeds, animal health and the prevention of rinderpest, including a mass vaccination of livestock this summer.

The following pages give examples of the technical work and operational support provided by staff from the FAO regional office to projects in the region.
Support to countries

Support to field projects

The region has 24 of the world’s 86 LIFDCs and Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) is helping boost food production in 14 of these countries - Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Laos, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka. During 2001, Japan provided funds for four large SPFS projects in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Laos and Sri Lanka. Also in 2001, SPFS projects were approved for Cambodia, DPR Korea and Pakistan. The SPFS will continue to be FAO’s main area of focus over the years to come.

Land and water management

- FAO collaborated with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) on a pilot project to develop a ‘water vision’ for countries in Southeast Asia. The outcome of the project is reflected in From vision to action: a synthesis of national water visions in Southeast Asia, a publication from the FAO regional office – RAP 2001/06 – that contains four case studies (Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam), which were carried out as part of the project. It looks at water use in these countries, how they plan to fulfil their water visions, and set out each country’s goals for sound water management to meet the needs of all for this vital natural resource over the next two decades.

- Technical assistance was provided for on-farm water management, balanced fertilizer use and integrated plant nutrition through ongoing SPFS projects in Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Laos, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

- In the Kingdom of Tonga, in September 2001, FAO undertook a review of water resource management and utilization technology plus farm and community water resource management and utilization. A project feasibility study and training needs assessment were also completed.

Plant production and protection

- Publication RAP 2002/15 contains a comprehensive account of integrated pest management (IPM) as a farmer-centred and local need-responsive approach, which was developed on the rice farms of Southeast Asia to tackle the risks arising from the excessive pesticide use promoted by the green revolution. The FAO programme owes its success to the pioneering farmer field school (FFS) approach that was first tried with Indonesian paddy farmers in early 1990 and has since become the model for farmer education in Asia, several parts of Africa and Latin America. The programme took off in Indonesia with the highest political support after the country realized the dangers of excessive pesticide use. Since then, more than 2 million rice farmers in Asia have taken part in over 75 000 farmer field schools between 1990 and 1999, boosting their yields and incomes, cutting down the use of chemical pest killers and improving the ecological health of their fields. Above all, it has given them greater control over their livelihoods and greater confidence to face new challenges.

- Every year, chemical pesticides worth some US$2.5 billion are sold in countries of the Asia-Pacific region. Many of these pesticides – such as DDT, chlordane and heptachlor – which are regularly imported by regional countries, are banned or restricted in the countries of manufacture for health and environmental safety reasons. Due to various factors, such as excess supply and a subsequent ban on some pest killers in the importing countries, an estimated 200 000 tonnes of unused and obsolete chemical pesticides are threatening the environment and health in the region. A collaborative programme on disposal of obsolete pesticides established by FAO in mid 1994 under the financial support of the Government of the Netherlands, underlines the urgency and importance of a concerted international effort to solve the problem. The first Asian regional workshop on inventories of obsolete pesticides was held in October 1997, in Bangkok.
obsolete, unwanted and banned pesticide stocks was held at the FAO regional office in Bangkok from 5 to 8 June. Experts from several Asian nations, including Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, DPR Korea, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam reviewed the magnitude of the problem and identified steps needed to make inventories of obsolete pesticide stocks.

- Crop production project proposals were formulated for several countries such as Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, DPR Korea, Laos and Myanmar.

- A Taro cultivar, with resistance to Taro leaf blight, was propagated. FAO and the South Pacific Commission worked on Fruit Fly management with some success in Nauru and Tahiti in French Polynesia.

Animal production and health

- The FAO regional office supports some 20 ongoing projects in the region dealing with animal health and production. Of these, 11 are national projects in 8 countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, DPR Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines and Sri Lanka).

- Support to emergency prevention and control of main transboundary animal diseases in Pakistan. Rinderpest is a severe, debilitating, frequently fatal, contagious disease of buffaloes, cattle and yaks. It was last detected in Pakistan in September 2000 indicating that a devastating epidemic could occur at any time. In addition to rinderpest, two other major ruminant diseases in the country have an impact on food production and income generation as well as providing constraints to trade. Of these foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is a serious cause of production loss, especially in lactating dairy animals but also in small ruminants. The other disease is peste des petits ruminants (PPR), a highly destructive disease of sheep and goats is also increasing its incidence and impact in Pakistan and surrounding countries. With funding from the European Union (EU), a three-year FAO project started in July 2001. It assists national control systems for rinderpest, FMD and PPR to work efficiently. Although rinderpest is the driving force, the essence of the project is to create an institutional framework for the control and eradication of transboundary animal diseases, well beyond the immediate issue of reaching a stage of verified freedom from rinderpest.

- As part of the UNDP country cooperation framework - targeted on delivering environmentally sustainable development through grass roots organizations – FAO supports a four-year project on community livestock and dairy development in some of the poorest thanas in north-west Bangladesh. Since 1999, the project has provided 7 750 poor people with the knowledge, skills and micro finance for starting income earning and food production activities. The provision of micro-credit packages allows productive, profitable livestock investments and the establishment of village level milk processing and marketing. In the process, an ecologically sustainable crops-livestock-fish farming system is introduced, including over 300 bio-digesters. The project aims to empower resource poor rural women through promoting their earnings from livestock and dairy production and through their participation in self-operated, self-reliant village organizations.

- Under WTO’s Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement, Codex Alimentarius standards are the referee standards for international food trade. China – which has just joined WTO – has yet to perfect its market and information systems so that its animal food products for export meet international standards in terms of product quality and residue levels. To accomplish this, official control laboratories that comply with international scientific standards must be available. An FAO project – funded from its Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) - aims to strengthen laboratory capability in the analysis of toxic chemical residues in meat and other food of animal origin, in order to meet national and international requirements. It provides accurate information on the testing programme required for animal food product exports; identifies what laboratory equipment is required and, most importantly, trains Chinese laboratory staff in modern residue testing methods. This will not only facilitate animal food product exports from China, but will also have a positive impact on domestic food production and consumption.
Support to countries

Support to field projects

**Fisheries**

- As a follow-up to the Bay of Bengal programme and in view of the importance of the fisheries resources for the livelihood of millions of fishers, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is funding the formulation by FAO of a much larger and wider project to cover the entire large marine ecosystem in the bay. Issues focus predominantly on the coastal environment and fisheries with a view to the proper management of the ecosystem and resources.

- FAO also assisted the BOBP participating countries in formulating a plan to establish an intergovernmental body for fisheries management in the bay. Four countries (Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka) have expressed interest and endorsed the Agreement on such establishment. It is expected that this new body will be in operation in 2003.

- Located in the central plains of Cambodia, the Tonle Sap lake is one of the richest inland fisheries waters in the world. Linked to the Mekong river by a 100 km-long channel, the lake is flushed and swollen to more than four times its normal size by the annual monsoon flooding in the Mekong. The lake and the channel yield two-thirds of Cambodia’s annual inland fisheries catch, which accounts for nearly 90 percent of the country’s total fisheries production. The FAO regional office conducted a study to describe the ecology of the lake and assess catches by popular Tonle Sap fishing gear in two communes in a northwestern Siem Reap province. The results – a unique description and analysis of lake fishing in Cambodia – are presented in publication RAP 2001/11 *Tonle Sap fisheries: a case study on floodplain gillnet fisheries in Siem Reap, Cambodia.*

- Nine out of every ten of the world’s 30 million people who make a living directly from fishing live in Asia and about 80 percent of them are small-scale fisherfolk. However, the food and livelihood needs of a growing population are running up against limited fishery resources, which are fast depleting in most coastal regions of Asia. Publication RAP 2001/19 *Small-scale fishery in Southeast Asia: a case study in Southern Thailand* contains the results of a study of small-scale fishery along Thailand’s Andaman Sea coast, which accounts for up to 14 percent of the country’s total fish catch. It uses data from the national marine fishery census together with a field study of socio-economic conditions and fishery practices in six representative coastal villages around the bay of Phan-nga, which spreads across 3 000 sq km, including 1 900 sq km of mangrove. The study – undertaken by a German associate professional officer working at the FAO office in Bangkok – also examines the use and incomes from three types of small-scale fishing gear and uses this information along with the socio-geographic data to assess sustainable small-scale fishery management options.

**Forestry**

- To combat illegal logging and timber smuggling from Cambodia, FAO is assisting that country in starting a forestry crime-monitoring programme. Much of the illegal trade of forest products has stopped as a result. There has been active involvement of watchdog NGOs and a database tracking system has been developed. The government now has stronger capacity to monitor and control illegal forest activities.

- A partnership programme of FAO, the European Union and Asian countries is working to strengthen national capacities to collect, compile and disseminate reliable and up-to-date information on forestry in South Asia and Southeast Asia.

- FAO supported Mongolia in developing a national forest programme and advised the country in strengthening institutions for forest conservation and management.

- Based on information generated by an FAO technical cooperation project to improve benzoin production in Laos,
FAO published a monograph on benzoin (RAP 2001/21) that includes the findings of a survey and field trials in two benzoin producing villages in north Laos as well as the results of studies of different ways of benzoin tapping in Laos, Malaysia, Indonesia. The document is a comprehensive overview of benzoin – a balsamic resin obtained from the ‘yan’ tree (styrax tonkinensis). The publication examines the potential for improving benzoin production in these countries to help thousands of poor rural households, and lists contacts of key organizations, traders, companies and experts on benzoin in Asia-Pacific countries and Europe.

Agricultural support systems

- Assistance was provided to Mongolia on urban food marketing issues through two consultant missions and a project for TCP funding was formulated.
- The FAO-GTZ MicroBanking System continues to be supported and further developed by the Microbanker project which is housed in the premises of the FAO regional office in Bangkok. The RAP rural finance officer acts as project manager.

Food security and nutrition

- Responding to the expressed interest of some countries, the regional office formulated a regional TCP project entitled Capacity building in selected Asian countries on FIVIMS.
- Technical assistance was provided to agricultural census activities in Cook Islands and Tonga, to crop forecasting in Bangladesh, and to livestock statistics in Indonesia.
- In Cambodia, agricultural statistics was strengthened. In Viet Nam, the national Food Security Information System was developed and training given to relevant national staff.

Sustainable rural development

- FAO is collaborating with the Indian National Institute of Rural Development on a training toolkit on local government participatory planning for poverty alleviation.
- Working with the Department of Welfare of the Government of Thailand, the regional office has trained more than 50 farmers with disabilities in northeast Thailand to start and run mushroom enterprises. The farmers were honoured with an FAO certificate of achievement presented by HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand during the October 2001 World Food Day celebration at the regional office in Bangkok.
- FAO assessed the agricultural extension, education, rural youth and communication needs of Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa and Tonga to determine priority areas for future technical cooperation projects with these countries.
- In Cambodia, the FAO Integrated Pest Management (IPM) project promoted the integration of disabled farmers in training programmes by the Ministry of Agriculture aiming at capacity building for integrated pest management.
- An FAO project in China is working with the agricultural broadcasting and television school to strengthen distance education for agricultural and rural development.
Annexes
Managing the FAO regional office for Asia and the Pacific

The main management issues for the period 2001-2002 were the further identification of priority areas for interdisciplinary action in the medium term; decentralization of FAO operational work from the regional to the country offices; fostering external partnerships; and mobilizing support in the region for the World Food Summit: five years later (Rome, June 2002).

The regional office undertook a substantive review of major developments in Asia and the Pacific. Based on FAO's medium-term plan for 2002-2007, the outcome of this work was the formulation of five programme thrusts for FAO activities in the region:

- promote farm-based livelihood programmes, especially for rice, through sustainable intensification and diversification of rice-based systems;
- bring about a livestock revolution for nutritional security and poverty alleviation;
- reduce damage to farming from natural disasters in the world's most natural disaster-prone region;
- assist countries to obtain the best deal from the new world trade rules relating to agriculture, fisheries and forestry; and
- bring about sustainable gains in farm production in the form of an evergreen revolution through a judicious mix of modern science and indigenous knowledge.

These priorities were shared with member countries during the 26th FAO regional conference for Asia and the Pacific in Nepal in May 2002, with external peer review groups, and with development partners such as UN agencies, donors and the NGO community.

The preparations for the regional conference drew heavily on the need to coordinate FAO's normative and technical work in the region. The selection of the agenda items, drafting of the pre-session documents and the presentation of the work of FAO in the region were based on the intricate knowledge and experience gained with agricultural development needs of the countries in the region.

The regional office supported various regional commissions in Asia-Pacific (e.g. plant protection, animal production and health, fisheries, forestry, agricultural statistics) in order to ensure a balanced interaction between normative, technical and operational work. So did the activities in support of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the International Plant Protection Commission, and the promotion of FIVIMS implementation in Asia.

FAO assisted countries in the region with the preparations for the WFS: fyl. It also launched a multi-media public information campaign in support of the WFS: fyl. Six press conferences and media briefing sessions were organized and 64 press releases issued.

In addition, the ASEAN October 2001 meeting of ministers of agriculture adopted a resolution in support of the WFS: fyl. Similar support was received from Pacific ministers of agriculture during their July 2001 meeting in Vanuatu.

Cooperation with NGOs and the private sector were strengthened inter alia through the organization of two NGO/CSO consultations (Bangkok 2001 and Kathmandu 2002). Close consultations with representatives from the international community were maintained, and a donor briefing session on the WFS: fyl was held in June 2002.

A recurrent event at FAO Bangkok is the yearly regional observance of World Food Day. In 2001 the guest of honour was HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand. Y.S. Rao awards were issued to outstanding farmers from four Asia-Pacific countries. The event coincided with the national WFD/TeleFood celebrations in Thailand which were widely covered by media organizations.

A new post was established at the regional office to handle outreach activities of FAO's World Agricultural Information Centre (WAICENT). This work enhances the ability of Asia-Pacific countries to improve the efficiency, quality and relevance of information and knowledge exchange among users involved in agricultural development and food security.
The office also continued to issue policy and advocacy publications. These provide an insight into the interdisciplinary and multi-sectoral nature of FAO's work in policy assistance, technical support and field operations. In addition, the Internet home page of the regional office – officially opened in mid-2000 – has increasingly become an additional valuable tool for public information. Finally, six issues of the quarterly newsletter *Maliwan* were published.

The regional office organized some 40 meetings, ranging in scope from international to regional and sub-regional. Covering all technical fields of FAO's work, the sessions of regional commissions, seminars, round table meetings and conferences discussed mainly policy issues and the implementation of FAO's normative work at regional level, while technical experts and researchers gathered in regional workshops and expert consultations. Representatives from the private sector and non-governmental organizations often attended the meetings, as well as from UN agencies and donors.

The regional office actively promoted communication and information sharing with FAO representatives accredited to countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Country task forces met with visiting FAO representatives from almost all countries in the region.

The further decentralization of FAO's operational activities from the regional to the country level required new arrangements for the field programme. A change management team guided this organizational change. Training was provided to FAO staff in the countries of the region; a committee on field programme development draw up a strategy for the Asia region; ad hoc project formulation task forces reviewed complex projects which require interdisciplinary approaches; a workshop was held on reforms and constraints analysis; a project review course was well attended; and an orientation meeting on the use of the project formulation tool kit was held. As a result, FAO has a sharpened country focus, and a closer and more efficient delivery system in place in and for the developing countries of the region.

Close to 50 professional and 80 general service staff members are carrying out the work of FAO from the regional office in Bangkok. In addition, more than 100 FAO field staff are serviced by the regional office. They include regional programmes - funded from extra-budgetary resources – a few of them located at the FAO premises in Bangkok, as well as some Asia-Pacific regional networks assisted by FAO, and project field staff in the countries.

Recent staff development activities at the FAO regional office covered areas such as language training, supervisory skills, basic accounting and computer software training on the use of corporate systems such as Oracle and Atlas.

Infrastructure development at the regional office included IT improvements (hardware, communication facilities, LAN equipment, installation of video conferencing, ...); access to the FAO premises for the disabled; improved security arrangements and an upgraded fire alarm system.

The next three annexes contain listings of the FAO staff presently in post at the FAO regional office for Asia and the Pacific, the publications issued and the meetings held since 2001.
Annexes

Staff of the FAO regional office in Bangkok
(as at 1 August 2002)

Office of the Assistant Director-General and FAO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific
Assistant Director-General and FAO Regional Representative: (vacant)
Deputy Regional Representative: Dong Qingsong
Secretary: Marilyn Anthali
Secretary: Somchai Udomsrirungruang
Information Officer: Didier de Vleeschauwer
Meetings and Publications Officer: (vacant)
Information Management Specialist: Michael Riggs
Information Assistant: Apinya Petcharatt
Secretary: Kanokporn Chansomritkul

Office of the Inspector General
Internal Auditor: (vacant)

Thai Affairs Section (TAS)
Focal point: Dong Qingsong
Programme Officer: Praphas Weerapat
Secretary: Chotika Yuvahongse-Na Chiangmai

Agriculture department group
Land and water management
Water Resources Development and Conservation Officer: Klaus Siegert
Water Management Officer: Thierry Facon
Land Management Officer: (vacant)
Soil Fertility Officer: (vacant)
Land/Plant Nutrition Management Officer (APO): Hiroshi Hiraoka
Secretary: K. Archavanijut
Plant production and protection
Senior Plant Production and Protection Officer: Minas K. Papademetriou
Plavt Production Officer (Industrial Crops): Keith R. Chapman
Plant Protection Officer: Chong-yao Shen
Technical Officer (Plant Protection): Pijush Kanti Saha
Secretary: Valai Visuthi
Animal production and health
Senior Animal Production and Health Officer: Denis Hoffmann
Animal Production Officer: Hans Wagner
Animal Health Officer (Economics): (vacant)
Technical Assistant (Livestock Development): Vishnu Songkitti
Secretary: Tuanchai Laisakun
Agricultural support systems
Senior Farming Systems Development Officer: David Hitchcock
Senior Agro-Industry and Post Harvest Officer: Alastair Hicks
Marketing and Rural Finance Officer: Ralph C. Houtman
Agricultural Marketing Officer (APO): Pieter Ypma
Secretary: Nongyao Ruenglerthpanya

Fisheries department group
Senior Fishery Officer: Veravat Hongskul
Aquaculture Officer: Simon Funge-Smith
Fishery Statistician (APO): Shunji Sugiyama
Technical Assistant: Pomsuda David
Secretary: Kesara Aotarayakul

Forestry department group
Senior Forestry Officer: Patrick B. Durst
Forest Resources Officer: Masakazu Kashio
NFAP Advisor (Asia-Pacific): Darmo Suparno
Secretary: Duangsamorn Tanachiva
Clerk: Parajit Chuntaketta

Economic and social department group
Senior Food Systems Economist: T.C. Ti
Senior Food and Nutrition Officer: Biplab K. Nandi
Senior Statistician: Frederick Baker
Secretary: Dararat Vibulcharoentkij
Translation Assistant: Truchai Sodsoon
Sustainable development department group

Senior Officer (Extension, Education and Communications): Malcolm Hazelman
Rural Development Officer: Wim Polman
Sociologist and Women in Development Officer: Revathi Balakrishnan
Gender, Participatory/Approaches/Policy Gender and Development Officer (APO): Hana Kobayashi
Secretary: Vilai Thearapati

Policy assistance branch

Chief: Hiroyuki Konuma
Senior Policy Adviser: Donato B. Antiporta
Senior Policy Officer: (vacant)
Policy Officer: Punushottam K. Mudbhary
Policy Officer: Francis B. Mangila
Policy Officer: (vacant)
Policy/Programme Officer: S.L. Kang
Agriculture and Rural Sector Officer (APO): Takeshi Ueda
Secretary: Umpaiwan Pipatanavilai
Secretary: Pitiwan Nitirach
Secretary: Kanjerat Boonyamanop

Field operations branch

Senior Operations Officer: Edward Hotte
Senior Country Project Officer: Doris Von Werner
Country Project Officer: Jacob Sterringa
Country Project Officer: Ronald van Nijnanten
Country Project Officer: Daniele Salvini
Operations Assistant: Viyada Kungwankiatichai,
Operations Clerk: Charern Hanpongchipchart
Operations Clerk: Nawarat Phayungkij
Operations Clerk: Ratana Rienwan
Operations Clerk: Walai Jantawiboon
Operations Clerk: Phatumvat Apaisuwan

Management support unit

Office of the chief
Chief: N.M. Hla
Administrative Assistant: Cristina Sriratana

Programming and planning unit
Programming and Planning Officer: Kei Kimpara
Administrative Assistant: Pravet Awachanakam

Budget and finance unit
Budget and Finance Officer: Anton Bonjje
Accounting Assistant: Nongnuch Tuntawiroon
Budget Clerk: Elisabetta Massara
Budget Clerk: Ammonrat Slavipapom
Budget Assistant: Chutarat Damrongrisakul
Accounting Clerk: Chainarong Palapraserth

Personnel unit
Personnel Officer: Mansour Mansour
Personnel Assistant: Veena Tohsanguanpun
Personnel Assistant: Theresa Rattana Areeyagon
Annexes

Staff of the FAO regional office in Bangkok (as at 1 August 2002)

Personnel Clerk: Bongkoch Prasannakarn
Personnel Clerk: Aruneeprapa Pwansanong
Clerk: Kanyarat Singhaphan
Personnel Clerk: Pawadee Chok-Oon-Kit
Registry unit
Registry Supervisor: Jintana Anunacha
Registry Clerk: Duangpoon Sritulanondh
Registry Clerk: Thamrongsa克 Techatadakul
Mail Clerk: Kanemg Kamuthvanich
Mail Clerk: Pannee Sopannakorn
Fax Operator: Sunee Hormjunya
File/Mail Clerk: Jaruwan Thananimit
Messenger / junior Clerk: Suthep Rakpanyakaew
Support services unit
Administrative Assistant: Wichai Nomkhuntode
Clerk: Prayoon Amaree
Clerk: Sai-kwan Therdkiatsak
Procurement Clerk: Penari Yujang
Craftsman: Prasert Huatsawat
Janitor Craftsman: Thongsook Sanglitdej
Driver-Messenger: Pongsathorn Lumliengphol
Senior Driver: Vichai Pangquree
Driver-Messenger: Kamol Thongfuang
Driver-Messenger: Wijit Sapyaem
Driver: Sangiam Kaewguntham
Watchman: Varn Boonyoung
Watchman: Manoon Thaviphoon
Gardener: Samruey Saengsri
Travel, visa and protocol unit
Travel Assistant: Don Triumphavong
Clerk-Driver: Payoongsak Laobonfrugsuk
Travel Clerk: Sirichai Puangnooch
Travel Clerk: Bunchong Surasithi
Travel Clerk: Phavinee Tithipan
**FAO projects based at the regional office in Bangkok**

- Forestry research support programme for Asia and the Pacific (GCP/RAS/163/NET)
- Integrated pest management for cotton in Asia (GCP/RAS/164/EC)
- Information and analysis for sustainable forest management in South and Southeast Asia (GCP/RAS/173/EC)
- Assistance for the implementation of the model forest approach for sustainable forest management in the Asia-Pacific region (GCP/RAS/177/J PN)
- Strengthening regional data exchange system on food and agricultural statistics in Asia and Pacific countries (GCP/RAS/184/J PN)
- Capacity building in biosafety of GM crops in Asia (GCP/RAS/185/J PN)

**Organization chart of the FAO regional office for Asia and the Pacific**
Annexes
Publications since 2001

RAP 2001/01 Proceedings of Expert consultation on curriculum development for plant pest management in Asia-Pacific

RAP 2001/02 Report of the 18th session of the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics

RAP 2001/03 Crop diversification in the Asia-Pacific region

RAP 2001/04 Guidelines for humane handling, transport and slaughter of livestock

RAP 2001/05 Report on the workshop on Gender sensitive local planning

RAP 2001/06 The FAO – ESCAP pilot project on national water visions. From vision to action: a synthesis of experiences in Southeast Asia

RAP 2001/07 Grape production in the Asia-Pacific region

RAP 2001/08 Forests out of bounds: impact and effectiveness of logging bans in natural forests in Asia-Pacific

RAP 2001/09 Report of the Expert consultation on lychee production in the Asia-Pacific region

RAP 2001/10 Forests out of bounds: impacts and effectiveness of logging bans in natural forests in Asia-Pacific. Executive summary

RAP 2001/11 Tonle Sap fisheries: a case study on gillnet fisheries in Siem Reap, Cambodia

RAP 2001/12 Mushroom cultivation for people with disabilities: a training manual

RAP 2001/13 Expert consultation on distance learning resources for rural women

RAP 2001/14 Report of the FAO Asia-Pacific conference on early warning, prevention, preparedness and management of disasters in food and agriculture

RAP 2001/15 Regional training strategy: supporting the implementation of the code of practice for forest harvesting in Asia-Pacific

RAP 2001/16 Trash or treasure? Logging and mill residues in Asia and the Pacific

RAP 2001/17 Selected indicators of food and agriculture development in Asia-Pacific region, 1990-2000


RAP 2001/19 Small-scale fishery in Southeast Asia: a case study in Southern Thailand

RAP 2001/20 The Bangkok declaration and the strategy for aquaculture development beyond 2000: the aftermath

RAP 2001/21 Monograph on benzoin

RAP 2001/22 2001 World Food Day regional celebration in Bangkok

RAP 2001/23 Report of the expert consultation on agribusiness statistics
RAP 2001/24  Report of the 22nd session of the Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission


RAP 2001/26  Under-utilized tropical fruits of Thailand

RAP 2001/27  Report of the regional expert consultation of the Asia-Pacific network for food and nutrition on reviewing implementation of national food-based dietary guidelines

RAP 2002/01  Manual on the diagnosis of Nipah virus infection in animals

RAP 2002/02  Science and technology for sustainable food security, nutritional adequacy and poverty alleviation in the Asia-Pacific region

RAP 2002/03  The small farmers in India's agricultural economy and food security

RAP 2002/04  Lychee production in the Asia-Pacific region

RAP 2002/05  Case study on Education opportunities for hill tribes in northern Thailand

RAP 2002/06  Some issues associated with the livestock industries of the Asia-Pacific region

RAP 2002/07  Agrobiodiversity conservation and the role of rural women

RAP 2002/08  Rural and tribal women in agrobiodiversity conservation: an Indian case study

RAP 2002/09  Investment in land and water

RAP 2002/10  Interactive mechanisms for small-scale fisheries management

RAP 2002/11  Inland capture fishery statistics of Southeast Asia: current status and information needs

RAP 2002/12  Rural Asia-Pacific: inter-disciplinary strategies to combat hunger and poverty. The rice-based livelihood-support systems

RAP 2002/13  Pacific island fisheries: regional and country information

RAP 2002/14  Applying reduced impact logging to advance sustainable forest management

RAP 2002/15  From farmer field schools to community IPM: ten years of IPM training in Asia

RAP 2002/16  The lychee crop in Asia and the Pacific
Annexes

Meetings held since 2001

Sub-regional workshop on moving towards an agricultural statistics system for the market economy
Bangkok (Thailand), 15 to 20 January 2001

Round table meeting on globalization and liberalization: challenges and options for agricultural cooperatives in Asia
Bangkok (Thailand), 29 January to 2 February 2001

International workshop on the domesticated Asian elephant
Bangkok and Chiang Mai (Thailand), 5 to 10 February 2001

Regional workshop on biogas technology for treatment of abattoir wastes
Phitsanulok (Thailand), 6 to 7 February 2001

FAO brainstorm workshop Fostering the policy dialogue in support of equitable, safe and clean livestock farming
Bangkok (Thailand), 19 to 22 February 2001

First Asian round table on sustainable organic/speciality coffee production, processing and marketing
Chiang Mai (Thailand), 24 to 26 February 2001

International conference on the application of reduced impact logging to advance sustainable forest management
Kuching (Malaysia), 26 February to 1 March 2001

Technical consultation on the establishment of a data exchange system in Asia and the Pacific
Bangkok (Thailand), 20 to 22 March 2001

Expert consultation on lychee production in the Asia-Pacific region
Bangkok (Thailand), 15 to 17 May 2001

Regional workshop on inventories of obsolete, unwanted and banned pesticide stocks
Bangkok (Thailand), 5 to 8 June 2001

Asia-Pacific conference on early warning, prevention, preparedness and management of disasters in food and agriculture
Chiang Mai (Thailand), 12 to 15 June 2001

Asia-Pacific Plant Protection Commission - working group meeting on the regional phytosanitary standard setting
Bangkok (Thailand), 17 to 19 July 2001

Communities in flames - an international conference on community involvement in fire management
Balikpapan (Indonesia), 25 to 28 July 2001

International Plant Protection Commission - regional technical consultation on draft international standards for phytosanitary measures
Bangkok (Thailand), 21 to 23 August 2001

Expert consultation: rural women's role in local agrobiodiversity conservation
Los Banos (Philippines), 10 to 13 September 2001

Expert consultation on agribusiness statistics
Bangkok (Thailand), 11 to 14 September 2001

Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) - 22nd session
Ho Chi Minh City (Viet Nam), 17 to 21 September 2001

Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) - 27th session
Manila (Philippines), 19 to 21 September 2001

Regional Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific (APHCA) - 25th session (and 60th Executive Committee meeting)
Manila (Philippines), 24 to 26 September 2001

FAO/NEDAC round table meeting on capacity building in agricultural cooperatives to meet market and human resources development requirements
Beijing (China), 23 to 27 September 2001
International conference on advancing community forestry: innovations and experiences
Chiang Mai (Thailand), 25 to 28 September 2001

Regional consultation on investment in land and water
Bangkok (Thailand), 3 to 5 October 2001

Expert consultation: rural women and distant learning - regional strategies
Beijing (China), 23 to 26 October 2001

Mini roundtable on agricultural marketing and food security
Bangkok (Thailand), 1 to 2 November 2001

Regional expert consultation of the Asia-Pacific network for food and nutrition on reviewing the implementation of national food based dietary guidelines
Bangkok (Thailand), 20 to 23 November 2001

Regional consultation on interactive mechanisms for small-scale fisheries management
Bangkok (Thailand), 26 to 29 November 2001

Workshop on agribusiness development through agricultural engineering applications to agricultural products
Bangkok (Thailand), 29 to 30 November 2001

Regional seminar on stabilizing grain markets for food security in trade liberalization mode
Cha-am (Thailand), 3 to 6 December 2001

Regional expert consultation on farming systems and best practices for drought-prone areas in Asia and the Pacific
Hyderabad (India), 21 to 25 January 2002

EC-FAO partnership programme workshop – forest policy and forest policy reviews
Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), 22 to 24 January 2002

Regional consultation on focussing small-scale aquaculture and aquatic resource management on poverty alleviation
Bangkok (Thailand), 12 to 14 February 2002

Impact and effectiveness of incentives for forest plantation development in Asia-Pacific
Manila (Philippines), 19 to 21 March 2002

FAO-APAARI expert consultation on the status of biotechnology in agriculture in Asia
Bangkok (Thailand), 21 to 23 March 2002

Workshop and study tour on assisted natural regeneration of degraded forests in Asia
Manila and Palawan (Philippines), 22 to 26 April 2002

Expert consultation and workshop on protein sources for the animal feed industry
Bangkok (Thailand), 29 April to 3 May 2002

FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific – 26th session
Kathmandu (Nepal), 13 to 17 May 2002

Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) - working group meeting on the regional phytosanitary standards drafting
Bangkok (Thailand), 17 to 19 June 2002

Expert consultation on agricultural extension, research-extension-farmer interface and technology transfer
Bangkok (Thailand), 16 to 19 July 2002
Indexes

Countries

A
Afghanistan: 24
Australia: 5, 7, 9, 11

B
Bangladesh: 3, 5, 9, 11, 13, 17, 19, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29
Belgium: 24
Bhutan: 19, 27
Botswana: 7

C
Cambodia: 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 17, 19, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29
China: 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 17, 19, 23, 24, 26, 27, 29
Cook Islands: 9, 29

D
Democratic People's Republic of Korea: 3, 5, 23, 26, 27
Denmark: 24

E
East Timor: 5, 13, 24

F
Federated State of Micronesia: 9
Fiji: 9, 17, 29
France: 9

I
India: 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 17, 19, 24, 26, 28
Indonesia: 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 17, 19, 23, 24, 26, 27, 29
Italy: 24

J
Japan: 7, 9, 17, 19, 24, 26

K
Kazakhstan: 27
Kiribati: 9
Korea, Republic of: 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 17, 19

L
Laos: 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 17, 19, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29

M
Malaysia: 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 17, 19
Maldives: 8, 24, 26, 27, 28
Marshall Islands: 9
Mongolia: 3, 7, 11, 17, 19, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29
Myanmar: 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 17, 23, 27

N
Nauru: 9, 27
Nepal: 5, 9, 13, 17, 19, 23, 24, 26
Netherlands: 24, 26
New Zealand: 5, 7, 9, 11, 23
Niue: 9

P
Pakistan: 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 17, 19, 24, 26, 27
Palau: 9
Papua New Guinea: 5, 9, 26
Philippines: 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 17, 19, 23, 24, 26, 27

S
Samoa: 9, 29
Solomon Islands: 9, 26
Sri Lanka: 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 17, 19, 24, 26, 27, 28
Sweden: 24

T
Tahiti: 27
Tanzania: 7
Thailand: 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 17, 19, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29
Tonga: 5, 9, 23, 26, 29
Turkey: 7
Tuvalu: 9

U
United Kingdom: 24

V
Vanuatu: 9, 17
Viet Nam: 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 17, 19, 23, 24, 26, 27
ADB  Asian Development Bank: 3
AFMA  Association of Food and Agricultural Marketing Agencies: 13, 17
AGFUND  Arab Gulf Programme for the UN Development Organization: 24
AIT  Asian Institute of Technology: 13
APCAS  Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics: 17
APFC  Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission: 11
APFIC  Asia-Pacific Fisheries Commission: 9
APHCA  Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific: 7
APPPC  Asia-Pacific Plant Protection Commission: 5
APRACA  Asia-Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association: 13
ASEAN  Association of Southeast Asian Nations: 23
CAB  Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux: 5
CDC  Coastal Development Center: 9
China Agricultural Broadcasting and Television School: 19
CIFOR  Center for International Forestry Research: 11
CIP-UPWARD  International Potato Centre - Users’ Perspectives With Agricultural Research and Development: 19
Codex Alimentarius Commission: 16
CRIDA  Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture: 17
ESCAP  Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: 3, 13, 26
European Commission: 11
European Union: 7, 27, 28
GEF  Global Environment Facility: 28
Grameen Bank: 13
GTZ  Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit: 13, 29
Humane Society International: 7
IMO  International Maritime Organization: 24
International Feed Industry Federation: 7
ITTO  International Tropical Timber Organization: 11
IWMI  International Water Management Institute: 3
Mekong River Commission: 3
NACA  Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia: 9
NEDAC  Network for the Development of Agricultural Cooperatives: 19
Project FireFight South East Asia: 11
RECOFTC  Regional Community Forestry Training Center: 11
SEAMEO-SEARCA  Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization - Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture: 19
South Pacific Commission: 27
TIAF  Trade and Investment Access Facility of the Commonwealth Secretariat: 23
UNDP  UN Development Programme: 2, 24, 27
UNEPA  UN Environment Programme: 2, 6
UN System Network on Rural Development and Food Security: 19
USDA  Forest Service: 11
WHO  World Health Organization: 16
WTO  World Trade Organization: 5, 22, 23, 27
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FAO member nations in the Asia region (as at November 2001)

Bangladesh       Japan       Nepal
Bhutan           Kazakhstan   Pakistan
Cambodia         Korea, Republic of
China            Laos         Philippines
Democratic People’s Republic of
India            Malaysia     Sri Lanka
Indonesia        Maldives     Tajikistan
Iran, Islamic Republic of

FAO member nations in the Southwest Pacific region (as at November 2001)

Australia       Nauru        Solomon Islands
Cook Islands     New Zealand  Tonga
Fiji             Niue         United States of America
France           Palau        Vanuatu
Kiribati         Papua New Guinea
Marshall Islands  Samoa

PRODUCED BY: Creative Service Team, Allied Printers
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COVER PHOTOGRAPHS BY:
Somkid Chajtavan

PHOTOGRAPHS:
Supplied by FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

PRINTED BY:
Allied Printers, a division of the Post Publishing Plc, Bangkok, Thailand