



## General Assembly

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/36/317/Add.2  
12 November 1981

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-sixth session  
Agenda item 29

### CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

#### Report of the Secretary-General

1. In constant and close co-operation with the Organization of African Unity, more than 40 per cent of the resources and technical competence of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) are channelled to the African region for development initiatives and activities and for assuming responsibility in the technical execution of 842 projects at a value of \$440 million. Even higher priority is given to the African continent in FAO's programme of work and budget for 1982-1983 so as to ensure to the maximum possible extent the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action whose relevant parts were based on the FAO Africa Food Plan which was elaborated in collaboration with OAU and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

2. All of FAO's special economic assistance programmes in the African region are undertaken on the basis of regular and close cooperation with OAU. In this context, FAO's Investment Centre, during 1978-1980 alone, has identified and prepared 71 projects for Africa, involving investments of about \$2,965 million. Africa's share of the 1980 resources of FAO's quick-action Technical Co-operation Programme was 50.3 per cent. The region's share in FAO's trust fund programme during the same period was the equivalent of \$40 million, and Africa's part in this programme should reach 40 per cent. An equally high share is reserved to Africa in FAO's Special Action Programmes: over 75 per cent of the Food Security Assistance Programme, 48 per cent of the Programme for the Prevention of Food Losses, 72 per cent of the Fertilizer Programme, and 65 per cent of the Seed Programme. Other such Programmes are largely, and often exclusively, devoted to Africa, e.g., the programmes for locust control, control of African animal trypanosomiasis, for agricultural credit development, fishing in the exclusive economic zones, follow-up to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

3. Some \$100 million worth of emergency food and agricultural inputs were approved by FAO in 1980 alone for member countries of OAU. In addition, and deeply concerned about the worsening food situation in Africa, the Director-General of FAO convened an urgent donor meeting on 19 September 1980 in Rome which resulted in firm indications for assistance in the form of about 2.2 million tons of grains and \$30 million for the purchase of food, means of transportation and basic farm inputs for the 26 African countries seriously affected by food shortages.

4. FAO issues, on a regular basis and for wide-spread distribution to Governments, reports on the African food emergency, on food crops and shortages, the food situation and outlook and others, as part of its Global Information and Early Warning System, as well as regular locust situation reports. All these reports, in which African countries figure prominently, assist the region to cope with its food problems while enlisting maximum international assistance in this effort.

5. Between 1976 and 1980, the share of FAO staff from OAU member countries rose by some 79 per cent, that of senior (Assistant Director-General and Director) African FAO staff by 47 per cent.

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