



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Development

First session  
24-26 November 2009  
Bangkok

**IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMISSION RESOLUTION 65/4 ON THE  
STRENGTHENING OF THE CENTRE FOR ALLEVIATION OF  
POVERTY THROUGH SECONDARY CROPS DEVELOPMENT  
IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

(Item 7 of the provisional agenda)

*Note by the secretariat*

**SUMMARY**

Over the past 25 years, the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific (CAPSA) has developed an extensive network of agricultural research institutes and individual researchers and, through its research and policy analysis on secondary crops, demonstrated its unique niche for addressing poverty. However, at its fifth session in March 2009, the Governing Council of CAPSA recognized that, during the past few years, the Centre had deviated from its mandate, focus and vision. This has been at a time when small farmers throughout the Asian and Pacific region have faced increasing threats, not only from commodity market and price volatility but also from the impact of climate change. With the adoption of Commission resolution 65/4, CAPSA is in a position to be revitalized to meet these threats and to demonstrate to members and associate members that it is relevant in this dynamic environment.

CAPSA will focus its research and policy efforts on poverty alleviation through secondary crops development, although this will not preclude the Centre from undertaking research on food security, hunger and malnutrition while at the same time synergizing its efforts with those of the other regional institutes of ESCAP.

CAPSA will become a member-driven regional centre of excellence, building a sense of ownership among members to ensure that its work is relevant to the needs and priorities of countries in the region. This can be accomplished by strengthening the Centre's networking capacity, promoting and coordinating research, and disseminating the findings of its research to as broad an audience as possible.

Although a number of steps have been taken to strengthen CAPSA, work remains to be done for the Centre to regain its stature as a regional hub for policy dialogue, as an effective regional knowledge centre for South-South cooperation in policy and action research, and as a leader in disseminating good practices with the goal of improving the livelihoods of the rural poor.

The Committee may wish to review the plan of implementation for the above-mentioned resolution, and provide the Secretariat with guidance on the content of the draft implementation plans, as well as with suggestions on the modalities for the implementation of the activities contained therein.

## CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Introduction.....	2
I. THE ROLE OF THE CENTRE AND ITS MANDATE.....	2
II. KEY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CENTRE'S GOVERNING COUNCIL AT ITS FIFTH SESSION IN MARCH 2009.....	5
III. KEY ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRE SINCE THE SIXTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION.....	6
IV. PLANNED ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRE.....	7
A. Technical interventions.....	7
B. Funding approaches.....	10
C. Increasing visibility.....	11
V. PROPOSED ROADMAP.....	11

### Introduction

1. For many years, the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific (CAPSA) has developed an extensive network of agricultural research institutes and individual researchers and, through its research and policy analysis of secondary crops development, demonstrated its unique niche for addressing poverty. Recently, however, the Governing Council of CAPSA noted that the work of the Centre had deviated from its mandate, focus and vision at a time when small farmers throughout the Asian and Pacific region faced increasing threats, not only from commodity market and price volatility but also from the impact of climate change. In order to address these challenges, the Commission, at its sixty-fifth session, adopted resolution 65/4 on the strengthening of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific.

2. The present document discusses the Centre's current mandate and future role, the activities implemented in support of the resolution since the fifth session of the Governing Council of CAPSA in March 2009 (and the sixty-fifth session of the Commission), and a proposed roadmap for the strengthening the Centre.

#### I. THE ROLE OF THE CENTRE AND ITS MANDATE<sup>1</sup>

3. As stated in its 2004 statute, the objective of CAPSA is to:

“...promote a more supportive policy environment in member countries to enhance the living conditions of rural poor populations in disadvantaged areas, particularly those who rely on secondary crops agriculture for their livelihood, and to promote research and development related to agriculture to alleviate poverty in the Asian and Pacific region.”<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Parts of this section are taken from the note by the secretariat on the Centre (E/ESCAP/65/25), section III and annex IV.

<sup>2</sup> Commission resolution 60/5, annex.

4. This objective is being achieved through (a) the coordination of socioeconomic and policy research, (b) networking and partnering with international organizations and key stakeholders, (c) the research and analysis of trends and opportunities in improving the economic status of rural populations and (d) the production, packaging and dissemination of information and successful practices on poverty reduction, capacity development and advisory services.

5. Currently, CAPSA has two core programmes:

- (a) Research and development;
- (b) Information services and databases.

6. In 2009, under its research and development programme, CAPSA has been implementing the following three initiatives:

- (a) Development of Methodology for Analysing Sustainability of Biomass Resource Use in Tropical Asia (BIOMASS);
- (b) Adding Value to Fresh and Processed Produce through Product Certification (CERT);
- (c) Forecasting Food Security under El Niño in Asia and the Pacific (expected completion in 2010).

7. In addition, CAPSA contributed in-kind technical assistance to three projects implemented by other research institutes:

- (a) Impact Analyses of Economic Integration on Agriculture and Policy Proposals toward Poverty Alleviation in Rural East Asia (ECOIN), implemented by the Indonesian Center for Agricultural, Socio-Economic and Policy Studies (ICASEPS) and the Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS);
- (b) Rural Transformation and Farmer Response in Irrigated Lowland Villages in Java: Two-time Point Panel Data Analysis (RUTRANS), implemented by ICASEPS and JIRCAS;
- (c) Analysing a Community Empowerment Model: the Linkage of Food Security and Poverty Alleviation Programmes (COMMEM), implemented by the Indonesian Agency for Food Security.

8. Through its information services and database programme, CAPSA has two key initiatives:

- (a) Two newsletters (*CAPSA Flash* and *Palawija News*);
- (b) CAPSA website ([www.uncapsa.org](http://www.uncapsa.org)).

9. The need for an organization such as CAPSA in the region is well recognized. A niche area for CAPSA is rural poverty reduction through the economic and social development of disadvantaged areas where the cultivation of secondary crops dominates.

10. CAPSA serves as a regional hub for policy dialogue and as an effective knowledge centre for South-South cooperation in policy and action research for the development and promotion of policies and programmes and the documentation and dissemination of good practices that enhance food security and sustainable agriculture, with the aim of improving the livelihood of the rural poor. With an

expanded focus on secondary crops resulting from the increasing threats posed by climate change and its contribution to food insecurity and unsustainable agriculture, the Centre's role is even more critical.

11. Over more than 25 years in existence, the Centre has developed an extensive network of agricultural research institutes and individual researchers on agriculture and rural development in the region. Through the Commission's convening power, CAPSA has access to high-level policymakers, and the Commission can serve as a platform for policy debate on sustainable agriculture and food security and the development of disadvantaged areas where the cultivation of secondary crops is dominant.

12. However, it has been recognized by ESCAP members and associate members, as well as by Governing Council members, that, during the last few years, CAPSA may have deviated from its mandate, focus and vision. During the recent session of the Governing Council, several weaknesses in the structure, approach and focus of CAPSA were identified, namely:

(a) Past research findings were rarely translated into concrete policy recommendations for the countries concerned;

(b) Voluntary annual contributions from members and associate members have declined, as have donor-funded contributions for specific technical cooperation projects;

(c) The absence of a Director of CAPSA;

(d) An Indonesian bias, which is exhibited by the Centre's focus on local institutes and local government agencies in developing productive partnerships. This has generated an attitude among other members that CAPSA is no longer relevant or paying attention to their needs;

(e) An inability to mobilize financial resources from a more diversified funding base.

13. During the fifth session of the Governing Council, delegations felt that the areas of the work of CAPSA—poverty alleviation, secondary crops and sustainable agriculture—were all extremely important today to the countries of the region. Poverty, as measured by the international poverty line of \$1 (or now \$1.25) a day, has been declining across the Asian and Pacific region over the past two decades. Nevertheless, hundreds of millions of people are still living in conditions of absolute poverty, with nearly 600 million people in the region suffering from food insecurity.

14. Secondary crops are crops that people grow because they have no possibilities to grow other, more profitable or preferred crops due to soil and climate conditions. Secondary crops are used as food by the rural and urban poor, as animal feed and more recently for the production of biofuel.

15. During the session of the Governing Council, it was reiterated that CAPSA should focus on poverty alleviation through secondary crops development, but it was noted that this did not preclude research on food security, hunger and malnutrition, as secondary crops could improve food security. It was emphasized that CAPSA must avoid overlaps with the mandates of other institutions.

16. CAPSA will reassess its current core staff needs (administrative and technical) in terms of numbers and competencies and take the appropriate steps to make the Centre a sustainable entity.

## II. KEY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CENTRE'S GOVERNING COUNCIL AT ITS FIFTH SESSION IN MARCH 2009<sup>3</sup>

17. The genesis of the present document begins with the key recommendations of the CAPSA Governing Council at its fifth session, held in Bangkok on 4 March 2009, and discussed at the sixty-fifth session of the Commission the following month.

18. The following is a summary of the main Governing Council recommendations to which CAPSA will adhere in order to strengthen the Centre:

(a) In paragraph 1 of its resolution 65/4, the Commission endorsed the recommendation of the Governing Council, within the existing statute of the Centre, to turn the Centre into a coordinating research institute and a regional member-driven centre of excellence that focuses on poverty alleviation through secondary crops development with special attention to addressing food security, hunger and malnutrition;

(b) In paragraph 4 of its resolution 65/4, the Commission adopted the recommendation of the Governing Council to allow for a larger Council than the current eight members plus the host country in order to enhance the sense of ownership of the Centre by the member States;

(c) In paragraph 2 (a) of its resolution 65/4, the Commission decided that the new position and focus of the Centre should take into account the inclusion of the heads of national agricultural research centres of member countries in the membership of the Technical Committee;

(d) In paragraph 3 of its resolution 65/4, the Commission endorsed the conclusions of the Governing Council at its fifth session that the Centre's primary focus is on networking with national agricultural research centres in the region and beyond, promoting and coordinating research, highlighting and disseminating their research findings, and converting the results of primary research into relevant policy options for the region;

(e) The Council welcomed the commitment of the Executive Secretary of ESCAP to, among other things, the redeployment of additional resources to CAPSA and stressed the importance of an early appointment of the Head of CAPSA;

(f) In paragraph 6 of its resolution 65/4, the Commission urged the members of the Commission to increase their voluntary contributions to the Centre, and to contribute professional staff working in the areas of poverty alleviation through secondary crops development;

(g) The Council urged the Centre to be more visible in sessions of the Commission and relevant Committees of ESCAP, to play a larger role in policy dialogues at the regional and global levels within its mandated areas, to partner with relevant United Nations agencies and regional organizations in Asia and the Pacific, and to collaborate with research institutes in developed countries;

(h) In paragraph 2 (b) of its resolution 65/4, the Commission decided that the new position and focus of the Centre should take into account the fact that the research carried out by the Centre should be focused on sustainable secondary crop farming systems and agribusiness development in the context of inclusive agricultural and rural development for food security and poverty alleviation;

---

<sup>3</sup> Parts of this section are drawn from the note by the secretariat on the Centre (E/ESCAP/65/25), section I.

(i) The Council stressed that the work of CAPSA should not overlap with that of other institutes. It welcomed the idea of creating synergies with other regional institutions of ESCAP, particularly the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (UNAPCAEM) and the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT), to promote South-South cooperation, including the exchange of science, technology and innovation in their respective mandated areas.

19. While action has been taken since April 2009 to address some of these recommendations, it is important first to review the mandate of CAPSA and the critical role the Centre has played and will continue to play in addressing food security, poverty alleviation and sustainable agriculture in the Asian and Pacific region.

### **III. KEY ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRE SINCE THE SIXTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION**

20. Over the last five months, a number of steps have been taken in response to Commission resolution 65/4 and as part of defining a roadmap for the near and longer term future of CAPSA. These steps include the following:

(a) Governing Council membership has been expanded to 10, which is comprised of the host country and 9 other members. This new structure, in place from 2009 to 2012, is the first step at instilling a broader sense of ownership of the Centre by member States; it should also help to increase the visibility of CAPSA in the region. As of 4 March 2009, the members of the Council are:

- (i) Indonesia (host country);
- (ii) Malaysia (Governing Council Chair);
- (iii) Bangladesh;
- (iv) Cambodia;
- (v) France;
- (vi) India;
- (vii) Iran (Islamic Republic of);
- (viii) Pakistan;
- (ix) Republic of Korea;
- (x) Thailand;

(b) The Director of CAPSA has been selected, and he officially began his appointment on 28 August 2009;

(c) CAPSA initiated an update of its brochure as a marketing tool for distribution to partner institutions, donors, international agencies and others;

(d) CAPSA has held preliminary discussions to expand its collaboration with the following key stakeholders:

- (i) The Indonesian Center for Food Crops Research and Development (ICFORD), to explore synergies between the two organizations, and future funding possibilities since contributions from the Government of Indonesia to the Centre pass through ICFORD;

(ii) International Rice Research Institute in Bogor, to discuss the Institute's role and possible ways to collaborate in the areas of rice seed certification;

(iii) ICASEPS, to discuss its strategic role within the Ministry of Agriculture of Indonesia, and possible avenues for strengthening the Programme Leaders of Research and Development initiative;

(e) CAPSA was represented at the Expert Group Meeting on Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security, organized by the Governments of Indonesia and Thailand and held in Bogor, Indonesia, on 5 and 6 August 2009. During the meeting, the Director of CAPSA was introduced to the Ministers of Agriculture of Indonesia and Thailand, the Ambassadors of Indonesia and Thailand, senior representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, and key representatives from civil society, the donor community and Indonesian research institutes;

(f) CAPSA was represented at the launch of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Agro-industrial Innovation Expo, held by the Ministry of Agriculture of Indonesia, which provided the Centre with an opportunity to become more visible to a wide audience, as invitees included senior officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and many of its research institutes, and representatives from the private sector and the donor community;

(g) Initial contacts were made with researchers in Indonesia, Malaysia and Viet Nam to ensure the successful implementation and completion of the Centre's current project entitled "Forecasting food security under El Niño in Asia and the Pacific", a \$50,000 project funded by the Government of Japan. The project's goal is to evaluate the impact of climate change and the El Niño phenomenon on agricultural production and food security in Asia and the Pacific;

(h) The idea of opening a CAPSA liaison office in Jakarta was explored to bring the Centre closer to key Jakarta-based stakeholders, such as the Ministry of Agriculture, United Nations agencies, other bilateral and multilateral donors, and the private sector (through, for example, the American and British chambers of commerce);

(i) CAPSA provided input for the mission to China of the Executive Secretary of ESCAP from 23 to 28 August 2009. Key points included: capitalizing on the burgeoning roles of China and Indonesia in the region and engaging each country's existing research and government institutions that have the potential to strengthen food security throughout the Asian and the Pacific region; promoting the position of ESCAP in tackling the region's growing food insecurity crisis, with two of its five regional institutions (UNAPCAEM and CAPSA) mandated to address food security, poverty alleviation and sustainable agriculture; and synergize the sections of the 2010-2011 programmes of work of UNAPCAEM and CAPSA (A/63/6 (Prog. 15)) that specifically address food security issues, thereby avoiding an overlap of roles and responsibilities.

#### **IV. PLANNED ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRE<sup>4</sup>**

21. Below are the planned activities for the period 2010-2011, with sections on technical interventions, funding and increasing visibility.

##### **A. Technical interventions**

22. For CAPSA to effectively design and implement its research agenda, it must demonstrate that output and outcomes will be of greater relevance to countries in the

---

<sup>4</sup> Parts of this section are drawn from the note by the secretariat on the Centre (E/ESCAP/65/25), section III and annex IV.

region. To serve as a credible regional knowledge centre for policy and action research on the alleviation of rural poverty, hunger and sustainable agriculture, the Centre must engage members and associate members through a technical research needs assessment.

23. However, CAPSA must not be seen as driving the research agenda. Rather it should use a member-driven approach geared towards identifying priority needs regarding research and projects and, by doing so, will not only generate a greater sense of ownership among members but also increase the Centre's visibility in the region.

24. The following is a list of actions that CAPSA will implement over the next two fiscal years:

(a) CAPSA will convene a meeting of the Technical Committee, composed of directors of national research institutes on agriculture, rural development and/or rural poverty reduction, to assess the priority needs of the member States in these areas. Consideration will be given to expanding Technical Committee membership so as to focus on a broader range of topical issues. Additional funding requirements for an expanded Technical Committee may be met by countries' funding their respective sitting member or through the Centre's budget; these and other options should be explored;

(b) For the project on forecasting food security under El Niño in Asia and the Pacific, CAPSA will work with three researchers (one each from Indonesia, Malaysia and Viet Nam) to ensure that the first draft of each researcher's report will be completed by December 2009. A workshop will follow in March 2010 to share the project results (the proposed venue is Viet Nam), and the three national reports will then be combined into one report;

(c) CAPSA will consider broadening its portfolio of potential research topics to include the impact of climate change on secondary crops; the role of secondary crops in biofuel production; the development of secondary crops in hilly, drought-stricken or saline areas; and the marketing of secondary crops. This will be done in close consultation with member States so that the relevant needs are identified and addressed;

(d) CAPSA, in close collaboration with the Technical Committee, will formulate project proposals for policy research on issues of agriculture, rural development and/or rural poverty reduction as prioritized by the Governing Council and the Technical Committee, for funding from international donor agencies;

(e) CAPSA will ensure that its work does not overlap with that of other institutes, and will explore synergies with other regional institutions of ESCAP, particularly UNAPCAEM and APCTT, to promote South-South cooperation, including the exchange of science, technology and innovation in their respective mandated areas;

(f) The Centre will explore an enhanced collaboration with ICASEPS senior staff, ensuring the continued support of that centre and stronger cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture of Indonesia. This will include continuing the recruitment of researchers from ICASEPS to work as programme leaders of research and development at CAPSA and as de facto liaison personnel with the Ministry of Agriculture and other ministries of the Government of Indonesia. The Centre will also explore the possibility of receiving an associate expert through the United Nations Department of Social and Economic Affairs in New York and staff from Volunteering for International Development from Australia;

(g) CAPSA and UNAPCAEM will synergize the sections of their 2010-2011 programmes of work that specifically address food security issues, with the goal of reducing poverty and enhancing food security, thereby avoiding an overlap of roles and responsibilities. They will identify and focus on what each institution does best in a way that generates collaborative and complementary research initiatives, leading to policies that can be tested and adopted in China and Indonesia and then replicated in other countries throughout the region. For example, the role of UNAPCAEM is to enhance environmentally sustainable agricultural and food production by applying green and modern agro-technology for the improved livelihood of producers and consumers of agricultural/food products. At the same time, CAPSA, vis-à-vis UNAPCAEM, will emphasize its own role and focus on building the capacity of countries in the region to reduce food insecurity and hunger, and promote sustainable agriculture in the context of climate change. CAPSA will underscore the different and complementary roles of the two centres;

(h) The Centre will undertake a needs assessment of the critical strategic factors influencing poverty and inhibiting food security in the Asian and Pacific region, and of how collaborations between UNAPCAEM and CAPSA and other regional institutions could best address these factors;

(i) Through the exchanges of regional centre researchers, CAPSA will tap the expertise of the ESCAP regional centres—UNAPCAEM, the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology Development and APCTT—whose combined expertise complements that of CAPSA. This powerhouse of expertise and networking ability should be used to enhance the coordinated research function of the Centre;

(j) CAPSA will network with other regional centres and international organizations, promote and coordinate applied action research, highlight key research findings and policy recommendations and disseminate these findings and recommendations utilizing relevant electronic and other media outlets throughout the region;

(k) The Centre will develop the visiting research programme, including the programme with JIRCAS in Japan and the Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) in France for two PhD students (one each from CIRAD and JIRCAS) to commence work at CAPSA;

(l) As part of the process to strengthen CAPSA, ESCAP may consider adding two professional posts at CAPSA to assist the Director, ensuring the continuity of the work at CAPSA;

(m) CAPSA will undertake an assessment of its current administrative and technical needs. For existing staff, current job descriptions will be reviewed and job responsibilities will be made clear;

(n) CAPSA will capitalize on the recent Governing Council recommendation to provide the Centre with broader research freedom. Millennium Development Goal 1—eradicate extreme poverty and hunger—remains the primary focus of CAPSA, with secondary crops development a research priority. The Centre should, however, expand its field of work to include activities ranging from sustainable agriculture to food security, environmental issues and their impact on agriculture, biofuels and energy issues, and the international trade of agricultural commodities;

(o) CAPSA will initiate actions on the ground (such as training activities, workshops and seminars) and invite experts from partner institutes and ministries to participate in seminars and workshops to share CAPSA research results. This will give the Centre greater visibility and attract more funding;

(p) CAPSA will organize an international conference on poverty alleviation through secondary crops development in order to enhance the visibility and understanding of the importance of the work of the Centre, endorse the Centre's niche area and build a network of institutions active in that area. Representatives from the Governments of Indonesia and the Islamic Republic of Iran have offered to host such a conference.

## **B. Funding approaches**

25. As the host country, Indonesia currently provides the majority of the Centre's funding. However, without a broader geographic vision, it will be a challenging task to have other ESCAP member countries and Governing Council members to make additional voluntary contributions.

26. It is only normal that donors would like to see returns on their investments, either directly through projects being implemented in their respective countries or through research results in one country possibly being applied in other countries.

27. CAPSA is in a difficult financial situation with institutional expenditures exceeding the income from voluntary contributions. In addition, project income has declined and is confined to just three projects, only one of which continues into 2010.

28. Obtaining funding is driven by relevance. To convince members and associate members to fulfil their voluntary contribution commitments, or even to increase their contributions, CAPSA needs to demonstrate that its programmes and projects are relevant to the identified needs and priorities of those contributing. The Centre must reach out to members and associate members to network and engage with their research centres and academic institutions in (a) identifying needs, (b) promoting, prioritizing and coordinating research, and (c) putting in place mechanisms to both disseminate research findings and convert primary research results into relevant policy options and actionable programmes for members in the region.

29. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP is committed to redeploying additional resources to the Centre, in addition to the appointment of the Director of CAPSA.

30. CAPSA will soon send out reminder letters to members and associate members regarding their funding commitments for 2009. Those who did not make commitments for 2009 will be asked to contribute an amount no less than their previous year's contribution.

31. CAPSA will also initiate a programme to diversify the Centre's funding base. As mentioned above, the first step will be to approach member and associate members to fulfil their voluntary annual contribution commitments. In addition, CAPSA will seek funding for traditional ad hoc projects from bilateral and multilateral donors and the private sector. These will include, but will not be limited to, the Asian Development Bank, the Australian Agency for International Development, the Canadian International Development Agency, CIRAD, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, JIRCAS, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the United Nations Development Programme, the United States Agency for International Development, the World Bank and others. To be successful

though, CAPSA will need to enhance its marketing ability with products that convince contributors that their funds will be used for initiatives of relevance to them.

### C. Increasing visibility

32. CAPSA will increase its visibility by implementing the following steps:

(a) Strengthen the CAPSA-ICFORD working relationship by holding further discussions on increased collaboration and cooperation between the two organizations and explore enhanced synergies;

(b) Enhance efforts to open discussions between CAPSA and ICASEPS and other research institutes and centres in Bogor and Jakarta;

(c) Hold discussions with ESCAP headquarters and the Ministry of Agriculture of Indonesia regarding the possibility of opening a CAPSA liaison office in Jakarta;

(d) Follow up on the initial meeting with the Director General of the Indonesian Agency for Agricultural Research and Development;

(e) Initiate discussions with key representatives from the Ministry of Environment of Indonesia;

(f) Become more visible in sessions of the Commission and relevant Committees of ESCAP, play a larger role in policy dialogues at the regional and global levels within its mandated areas, partner with the relevant United Nations agencies and regional organizations in Asia and the Pacific, and collaborate with research institutes in developed countries. The partnership with United Nations agencies could, for instance, be achieved through the Asian and Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism.

### V. PROPOSED ROADMAP

33. This section outlines the roadmap for CAPSA and is based on the Centre's strategic plan (E/ESCAP/65/25, annex IV). The roadmap will be guided by (a) the detailed policy research agenda, which is based on the needs assessment carried out by the Technical Committee, (b) the *Proceedings of the Regional Meeting: Towards a Joint Regional Agenda for the Alleviation of Poverty through Agriculture and Secondary Crop Development*,<sup>5</sup> formulated in Bangkok in November 2007, (c) the conclusions of the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2008: Sustaining Growth and Sharing Prosperity*<sup>6</sup> and (d) the Outcome Document<sup>7</sup> of the High-level Regional Policy Dialogue on "The Food-Fuel Crisis and Climate Change: Reshaping the Development Agenda".

34. As CAPSA reaches out to ESCAP member States and associate member States over the next two to three years, it is expected that these actions will be replaced by new, more innovative actions based on the priorities and needs identified by CAPSA members.

35. Highlights of the proposed roadmap, which are taken from the strategic plan of CAPSA (see E/ESCAP/65/25, annex IV, paras. 33-39), are provided below.

---

<sup>5</sup> Bottema and others, eds., *Proceedings of the Regional Meeting: Towards a Joint Regional Agenda for the Alleviation of Poverty through Agriculture and Secondary Crop Development*, CAPSA Monograph No. 50, Bangkok, 21 and 22 November 2007 (Bogor, Indonesia, ESCAP-CAPSA, 2008).

<sup>6</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.II.F.7.

<sup>7</sup> E/ESCAP/65/15/Add.1.

*Assessing needs and priorities*

36. CAPSA will identify the needs of the member States with regard to policies on food security, sustainable agriculture and secondary crops on a regular basis through the sessions of its Governing Council and through regional and subregional meetings of concerned policymakers, research institutes and the private sector, in order to ensure its continued relevance.

*Networking*

37. CAPSA will expand, strengthen and formalize its network of national and regional research institutes and donor agencies with a view to implementing a regional research and development agenda on food security, sustainable agriculture and secondary crops, and promote the sharing of good practices through South-South cooperation.

*Developing norms and good practices for food security and sustainable agriculture*

38. Through its network and in collaboration with its partner institutes, CAPSA will promote, initiate and coordinate research, and collect, analyse and document research findings and good practices on food security, sustainable agriculture and secondary crops in the region. In doing so, it will adopt a programmatic approach.

*Disseminating policy options*

39. CAPSA will disseminate its policy recommendations through websites and present them at the regional and subregional meetings of the policymakers concerned for review and discussion (rather than expecting that the publication of reports will be enough to build capacity in the countries concerned).

*Developing capacities*

40. Using its policy findings and recommendations, CAPSA will develop the capacity of policymakers and administrators in the region to formulate and implement policies and programmes for food security and sustainable agriculture in disadvantaged areas where people grow, process and trade secondary crops.

*Demonstrating impact*

41. At the request of member States, CAPSA will assist countries in the design and implementation of demonstration projects aimed at improving the livelihood of the rural poor in disadvantaged areas who rely on secondary crops.

*Monitoring and evaluating*

42. CAPSA will monitor the implementation of its policy recommendations and promote the evaluation of its activities, including the impact of its work, through regular needs assessments.

43. The Committee may wish to review the plan of implementation for the above-mentioned resolution, and provide the secretariat with guidance on the content of the draft implementation plans, as well as with suggestions on the modalities for the implementation of the activities contained therein.