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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

**Twenty-second session of the Commission/
thirteenth meeting of the Conference
of Ministers**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
23 - 27 April 1987**

Item 5 of the provisional agenda**

**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ASPECTS
OF THE LAGOS PLAN OF ACTION**

Executive Summary

* E/ECA/TPCW.8/1.
** E/ECA/CM.13/1.

E/ECA/CM.13/6/Summary

1. The food and agricultural aspects of the Lagos Plan of Action covered a broad range of targets for implementation by member countries over the period 1980-1985. These encompassed the attainment of food self-sufficiency; the reduction of food losses by 50 per cent towards the end of 1985; the building-up of emergency food reserves equivalent to 10 per cent of production at national and regional levels; a 10 per cent growth in forest regeneration and forest reserves by the same year; and an annual increase in fish production of 1 million tons also by the same year. To this end, the Plan stressed the significance of agricultural supporting services such as research, extension, training and marketing and called for their continued improvement.

2. An objective analysis and evaluation of the countries' activities in the food and agriculture sector during the period suggest that a few of them made efforts to improve the sector's performance in certain aspects in conformity with some of the Lagos Plan of Action's goals while others did not do so. Examples of those aspects of the Lagos Plan of Action in the sector reflected in the countries' activities were food and agricultural development planning and policies; food and agricultural production including livestock and fish; farming technologies and practices; conservation and development of forestry resources; trade in food and agricultural commodities; and agricultural support services, mainly research, extension, marketing and manpower development.

3. Despite these activities and the apparent volition of the countries to implement the Lagos Plan of Action's objectives in the sector, the specific targets referred to above were not fully realized. There were several impediments to the effective implementation of the Plan's objectives, but the most important were: (a) inadequate resources; (b) poor infrastructure; (c) scarcity of skilled manpower; (d) absence of suitable policies; (e) inappropriate agricultural practices; (f) increased emphasis on national interests; (g) mismanagement of natural resources particularly forestry; (h) growing demographic pressure; (i) inexistence of clearly defined Lagos Plan of Action-related targets and of mechanisms for monitoring the Plan's implementation; (j) hostile external economic climate; (k) unfavourable aid environment; and (l) pre-occupation with emergencies.

4. In a bid to enhance member countries' capacity to formulate future-oriented strategies for improving the sector's performance within the framework of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (APPER), 1986-1990, the report recommends that: (a) the countries re-examine their efforts to implement the Lagos Plan of Action's objectives for the purpose of identifying areas of weaknesses and for drawing useful lessons; (b) these weaknesses, once identified, be remedied with a focus on the critical aspects of the sector as outlined in the Lagos Plan of Action and affirmed later in APPER; (c) the countries ensure that, in implementing APPER, specific annual targets are defined at national level; and (d) suitable mechanisms be formulated for regularly monitoring the implementation of the Programme's stated objectives.