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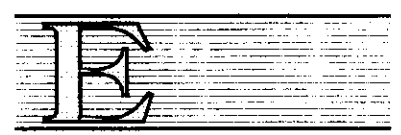
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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

**REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE ADVISORY BOARD**  
**ON POPULATION, AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**  
**20-21 September 1999**

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## **I. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION**

1. The first Meeting of the Advisory Board on Population, Agriculture and Environment was held in the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 20-21 September 1999. The Meeting was formally opened by Ms. P. K. Makinwa Adebuseye, Director of the Food Security and Sustainable Development Division of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

2. The Meeting was attended by the members of the Advisory Board composed of experts in the fields of population, agriculture and environment, as well as the staff of the Food Security and Sustainable Development Division (FSSDD). The members of the Board were selected from among the experts who attended the High Level Expert Group Meeting held from 30 November to 2 December 1998 in the UNCC, Addis Ababa. The list of participants is provided in Annex 1

## **II. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS**

### **A. Opening of the Meeting**

3. The Meeting opened at 09.30a.m. on 20 September 1999. In her opening statement, Ms. Makinwa-Adebuseye welcomed the members of the Advisory Board on behalf of Dr. K.Y. Amoako, the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, and thanked them for honouring the Commission's invitation. She hoped that in addition to a fruitful meeting, they would have a pleasant stay in Addis Ababa.

4. She then recalled the key role that advisers play in the work of the Commission as they embody experts' knowledge that is needed to enunciate interventions that would make desirable impact in the ECA member countries.

5. She informed the meeting that the High Level Expert Group Meeting had called on the ECA to focus on two areas: policy analysis support and dissemination of relevant information on nexus issues. In this regard, she said, ECA needs to undertake a critical analysis of the key inter-linkages and collect and collate specific and relevant information and data on Africa. She also said that to effectively play its analytical role, ECA needs to build capacity, partnerships, and networks, and develop appropriate tools for making policy choices.

6. She then informed the Board members that the Division's Population, Environment, Development and Agriculture (PEDA) Model was accepted by the Expert Group Meeting as a good starting tool for better understanding the inter-relationship among population, agriculture, and the environment. She said that the Model is capable of adequately demonstrating the impact of different policy options in relation to the goal of ensuring food security through alleviating poverty in the region.

7. The Advisory Board Meeting was thus expected to build on the work of the High Level Expert Group Meeting in order to guide the Commission to help its member States address problems posed by rapid population growth, environmental degradation and low agricultural production.

8. Ms. Makinwa-Adebusoye then called on the meeting to focus its work on three sets of issues. First, it should assess the progress made since last year's expert group meeting. Second, it should comment and react on the PEDDA Model and discuss strategies for its dissemination. In order to ensure ownership of PEDDA Model, she invited the Board members to give their views on how to raise extra-budgetary resources needed to finance 6 to 8 African scholars who will work with the consultant at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Austria. Third, bearing in mind the objectives of the Division, the Meeting should review and comment on FSSDD's work programme for the biennium 2000-2001 and identify priority areas and possible modalities for implementation.

9. In conclusion, she said that the Expert Group Meeting was very fruitful and she is confident that the First Meeting of the Advisory Board will be equally fruitful and that the task outlined above would be tackled with as much energy and foresight as was the case during the Expert Group Meeting.

## **B. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

### **(i) Election of Officers**

10. After introducing themselves, the participants reconfirmed the officers elected during the High Level Expert Group Meeting at their respective posts:

Chairperson: Professor George Benneh

Rapporteur: Professor Ruth Oriango.

However, in the absence of Professor George Benneh, Professor Francis S. Idachaba was designated Acting Chairperson.

### **(ii) Adoption of the Agenda**

11. The Meeting adopted the Agenda shown below:

(a) Opening of the Meeting

(b) Organizational Matters

(i) Election of Chairman and Rapporteur

(ii) Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

(c) Substantive Sessions.

Session 1: Progress Report covering the period December 1998-August 1999 and discussion of FSSDD's Issues Paper.

(i) Session 2: FSSDD's Work Programme for the Biennium 2000-2001

(ii) Session 3: FSSDD's Work Programme for the Biennium 2000-2001: Review of the list of FSSDD's major outputs for 2000-2001

(iii) Session 4: Update of the PEDDA Model

(d) Closing of the Meeting:

**Session 5:** (a) Presentation and discussion of the draft report;  
(b) Adoption of the report;  
(c) Closure of the meeting.

### **C. Substantive Sessions**

#### **Session 1: Progress Report covering the period December 1998 to August 1999**

12. In presenting this report a representative of the ECA secretariat recalled the objectives of the subprogramme which were the same objectives presented to the High Level Meeting held from 30 November to 2 December 1998. According to the secretariat, the activities of the subprogramme had focused on two main areas as recommended by the High Level Expert Group Meeting. These areas are (i) policy analysis support and (ii) advocacy and dissemination of relevant information on the nexus issues. The activities carryout in both areas were presented along with their objectives, and perceived impact on their respective target groups.

13. The Advisory Board commended FSSDD on the amount of work done within just one year since the High Level Expert Group Meeting made its recommendations on how the Division should go about implementing the nexus issues. In the discussion that followed, the Board raised a few issues.

14. It wanted to know if there had been any feedback from the member States which could enable the Division gauge the effectiveness of its policy analysis in terms of helping them reform their policies.

15. It also wanted to be informed of the Division's experiences its implementing the work programme and the constraints which it had encountered; the type of peer review system in place for reviewing its outputs and the role expected of the Advisory Board in this peer review process; how the Advisory Board on Science and Technology established also by the Division links up with the Advisory Board on Population, Agriculture and Environment; and the extent to which the Division has forged linkages with various national systems in addition to the regional and subregional institutions.

16. In response to these questions the Secretariat explained how it has gone about addressing the nexus issues including its advocacy work. It had developed the PEDDA model as a tool to raise awareness of the interlinkages among population agriculture and environment and the repercussions in each of these areas when changes occur in any of the others. Then it had embarked on a training programme to build capacity in the use of the

model. In-house training was organized for FSSDD staff and the staff from the Subregional Development Centres (SRDCs). Three training Workshops on the Model were also organized including a "train the trainers" workshop which brought staff from the subregional demographic training institutions. The secretariat informed the Board that the next phase the next development of the model would be to customize it for different countries.

17. The secretariat also informed the Board that the Model was presented to the meeting of the Committee on Sustainable Development (CSD) which brought together representatives from 37 countries. It was well received and a number of countries have requested that the model be customized for their countries. Still on the activities of FSSDD, the Board was informed that FSSDD also provided several advisory services requested by ECA member countries.

18. Concerning the effectiveness of the division's policy analysis work in helping member States reform their policies, the secretariat informed the Board that the feedback from the countries in this regards has been favourable. It also explained that there is another Division (the Economic and Social Policy Division) which deals entirely with the analysis of macroeconomic issues and that FSSDD collaborates closely with this Division. Regarding the linkage between the two Advisory Boards, the Meeting was informed that the Advisory Board on Science and Technology was created to advise on the policies bearing on science and technology and how they relate to Food Security and Sustainable Development.

19. Following these explanations, the Board then reviewed the documents prepared during 1998/1999 and made the following recommendations:

#### **Report of Activities**

- (i) FSSDD should send copies of outputs to members of the Board well in advance, electronically or in hard copy, so that they would have enough time to read them before coming to the meeting. Arrangements should also be made to apprise the Board Members of the activities of the Division by sending them copies of the publications of the Division.
- (ii) As a way of assisting the Division in peer reviewing its documents, the Division could send these documents for comments before finalization. The Division could share information with Board Members by using electronic media.
- (iii) Information on the work and achievements accomplished by FSSDD needed to be better packaged, to more adequately reflect the amount of work done and the extent of outputs. FSSDD should also report on the constraints it encountered in the process of implementing its work programme.
- (iv) The Division should develop a monitoring mechanism for getting feedback from its clientele in a systematic manner.

- (v) The Division should examine the macro-economic context of national policies in member States and their consistency with the sectoral policies, since the success of the implementation of the nexus interrelationships depends on the macro-economic framework in the countries.
- (vi) The Division should forge linkages not only with regional institutions but also with subregional and national institutions and organizations, as part of the dissemination of its programme outputs.

**FSSDD's Issues Paper**

20. Commending the Division on a job well done, the Board recommended that:

- (i) Some other issues such as the impact of HIV/AIDS and other diseases such malaria that have negative impacts on agriculture be incorporated in the paper. This would require placing the paper in its proper macro-economic context.
- (ii) The process of nexus analysis should be extended to the subregional level to provide opportunities for Ministers from inter-related areas of the nexus, including Finance, to interact on these issues.
- (iii) There was a need to bring out the objective of the paper much earlier in the write-up. There was also a need to link-up the issues in the paper in terms of their relationship to the nexus.
- (iv) There was a need to seek further contributions, from Board Members and others in order to refine this paper.
- (v) The paper should adopt the World Food Summit definition of food security.
- (vi) The need to increase crop yields through agricultural intensification as well as the need for an engine of growth in rural areas for the survival of farmers should be stressed in the paper.
- (vii) Errors of facts should be removed from the document.
- (viii) The paper should take cognizance of the fact that pollution and industrial and other wastes can have adverse effects on the environment and the food chain.
- (ix) The need for consistent and logical flow of ideas, such as a theme passing through the paper in order to avoid the fragmentation in the paper.
- (x) The advisory board members should send further comments by electronic mail to the Division by 31 October 1999, given that time was running out.

**Policy Brief on Food Security and Sustainable Development**

21. The board felt that this was a well-written, well-structured and internally consistent paper ready for publication. It then recommended that:

- (i) The paper should be strong on prices of tradable commodities and non-tradable goods and services. As the food security problem in a country may not be a biophysical problem only, the paper should discuss in greater detail the issues contained in the document given the importance of these issues to food security in the Sahel.
- (ii) The graph on page 2 should be more closely examined in order to understand the underlying variables used in preparing the graph.
- (iii) The food security situation in the Sahel should be discussed in the context of the macro-economic framework of countries of the whole region, including the coastal countries. Interregional trade in agriculture among these countries is critical for their survival. It should thus address the macro-economic issues as they affect the food chain from production through processing, consumption and trade.
- (iv) A long-term strategy for containing the effects of drought on food security needs to be addressed. The building of long-term, large- or medium - scale irrigation schemes may not be the only or most cost-effective response to drought.
- (v) The development of peri-urban agriculture (using agricultural intensification for non-tradable high-value agricultural products) which can play an important role in food security in the region should be addressed in the policy brief.
- (vi) A paragraph be added on education particularly for women, given the fact that it has key implications for the attainment of food security and key survival aspects.
- (vii) The data on table 1 should be checked to find out whether they are raw tonnages or calorie equivalents.
- (viii) The paper needs both a summary and conclusion sections.
- (ix) Finally the members of the Board, requested Prof. Falusi, Dr. Delgado, and Dr. Arthur Goetz-Escuredo, to send some relevant documentation which the Division can use to improve the paper, should do so as soon as possible.



### **Briefing Paper Series on Environment and Water Resources**

22. The AB felt that this paper suffers from a very serious problem of fragmentation of topics with each succeeding article completely unrelated to the preceding one. It then recommended that:

- (i) The paper should address this fragmentation problem urgently in order to make the articles more related to one another. The order of the articles should also correspond to the table of contents.
- (ii) There is need for an introduction which can unify the themes in the paper.
- (iii) The issue of water for industrial, agricultural and domestic use is important and should receive attention.
- (iv) Environmental accounting is a new niche, which the Division should follow up on and popularize at the national level.

### **Approaches to the Management of the Nexus: Best Practices**

23. Noting that the document is well written and commending the "Best Practices" identified and published in it, the AB recommended the following:

- (i) There was a need for ECA to set criteria for identifying best practices. These should be those that highlight the interlinkages among the three nexus areas.
- (ii) The title of the document should be changed to read "Approaches to the management of the interrelationships among population, agriculture, and environment: Best practices".
- (iii) The concluding part of the document should be expanded and should be a synthesis of what was discussed in the earlier parts of the document. It should emphasize the linkages among the nexus issues.
- (iv) There should be no section on "lessons learned" at the end of each case study. Instead, there should be a synthesis of the lessons learned as a conclusion

### **Session 2 and 3: FSSDD Work Programme for the Biennium 2000-2001**

24. The Advisory Board considered document ECA/FSSDD/AGRI/AB/99/3, entitled "FSSDD Work Programme for the Biennium 2000-2001" Presented by the secretariat. This document contained the activities to be carried out during the biennium 2000-2001.

25. In presenting the work programme, the Secretariat reported that the activities of FSSDD would continue to be guided by the recommendation of the Advisory Board. In this regard, the work of the Division will focus mainly on policy analysis and advocacy.

26. The Division will, therefore, continue the advocacy initiatives on the PEDAs Model by launching training programmes in the five Sub-regional Development Centres (SRDCs). It will also carry out activities to integrate the PEDAs Model in to the curriculum of national and sub-regional training institutions. The secretariat also reported that the World Bank had shown interest in the PEDAs and would like to integrate it into its training programs.

27. The Secretariat then requested that the Board provides guidelines on what the contents of its meetings planned for the Biennium should be; the specific activities to be carried out and the modalities for implementing them as well as the possible sources of funding. The Board was requested for advice specifically on how to enhance the participation of relevant institutions and qualified persons at the meetings how FSSDD can organize the High Level Stakeholders Meeting scheduled from 1 to 3 February 2000 and how the ECA through FSSDD can contribute to the preparation of the next session of the CSD which will take place in New York from 25 April to 5 May 2000. To facilitate the discussion on this, two Aide-Memoires on the respective meetings were presented to the Board for comments. These were documents (ECA/FSSDD/Agri/AB/99/4) and (ECA/FSSDD/AGRI/AB/99/5).

28. During the discussions which followed, the Board wanted to know the extent to which it could make changes in the work programme for the 2000-2001 Biennium which is a statutory document. In response, it was explained that the work programme allowed enough room for the Board to advise on specific activities that could be undertaken within the work programme.

29. The Board noted that the list of activities in the biennium 2000-2001 was very long. The implementation of these activities would require a lot of efforts getting dates organized, literature reviewed, reports written, etc. The Board then reviewed a number of outputs scheduled for implementation during the Biennium including the Aide Memoire for the High Level Stakeholders Meeting and ECA's preparations for the CSD Meeting. The following recommendations were made on these topics by the Board:

- (i) Research in Africa (FARA) that have networking programmes in natural resources management as a means of raising the level of participation of relevant institutions and qualified experts at its meetings;
- (ii) That ECA uses the PEDAs Model to create similar awareness at the grassroots level it has done at the regional level. To this end, FSSDD should establish linkages with NGOs working in Africa in the areas of population, environment, development and agricultural matters and disseminate the PEDAs model so that its grassroots constituency can also appreciate these inter-linkages;
- (iii) Concerning the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action (WFS), the ECA should carry out its monitoring activity in order to give it a regional focus. Moreover, by introducing nexus indicators to the assessment of its implementation, ECA would add value to the process;
- (iv) That ECA requests the ADB, OAU and the African Group in Rome<sup>1</sup> to allocate the necessary resources so that the Inter-Agency Group set up by the OAU

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<sup>1</sup> Representatives of FAO African member states to FAO, Rome, Italy.

Council of Ministers would become operational. The assessment of the Plan of Action would give it an African ownership;

- (v) That the membership of the Board be expanded marginally. In selecting the new members, the Division should consider geographic, gender and linguistic criteria;
- (vi) That the ECA incorporates nutrition indicators in its advocacy work given the importance of nutrition to people's productive lives;
- (vii) That the title of item 1c(iii) in the document (ECA/FSSDD/AGRI/99/3) be changed to "Application of locally adapted and indigenous food technology development for science and technology";
- (viii) Noting the practice in other organizations such as the World Bank, the Board recommended the need for the names of authors of ECA's documents (e.g. as footnote) to appear on the documents. This practice would increase accountability and provide incentive to staff and hence improve the quality of the Commission's documents;
- (ix) That documents should, where appropriate, include, boxes and graphs that highlight best practices as a means of improving the format of the Commission's documents.

**Aide-Memoir on High Level Stakeholders Meeting, Addis Ababa,  
1-3 February 2000**

30. Regarding the organization of the High Level Stakeholders Meeting as contained in the Aide Memore, the Advisory Board recommended that:

31. The issues involved in sustainable development should be well treated at this meeting. Members of the AB should send more names of potential participants to this meeting to the Division on their return home. As a way of building capacity within the review process, participants to be invited should be people who understand the issues to be discussed at the meeting. Similarly, experts should be invited as resource persons in their personal capacity and representatives of national systems should also be involved in the process.

32. The nexus issues and the PEDDA Modal should be brought into the process so as to throw more light on the theme of sustainable development and thus add value to ECA's contribution to the preparation of Earthsummit + 10.

**ECA's preparation for the Meeting of the CSD, New York, 25 April - 5 May 2000**

33. The Board felt that, given the involvement of the NGO committee in the work of the CSD, ECA could tap on its experience in the preparations for the CSD. In this connection Dr. Arthur Getz-Escudero was requested to send information to the Division on the NGO Committee while Dr. Kwadwo Tutu would send the paper he had prepared on sustainable development.

#### 34. Session 4: Update on the PEDDA Model

35. The Population-Environment-Development-Agriculture (PEDDA) model was presented by the secretariat to the Advisory Board. According to the secretariat, the PEDDA model had been developed by the FSSDD/ECA with the assistance of two consultants from IIASA (International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis). The model is a computer-based simulation model that demonstrates the long-term impacts of alternative development policies on food security at the country level. It explains the vicious circle occurring in Sub-Saharan Africa, by which high population growth of the rural food insecure population contributes to degrade the marginal lands and decrease agricultural production, which in turn increases the number of the food insecure population.

36. The model enables the simultaneous projection of the food insecure population into eight sub-groups initially disaggregated by sex, their literacy status, place of residence and food security status. The population module constitutes the main part of the model, using demographic indicators such as total fertility rates, life expectancy at birth, rural-urban migration rates etc. The user of the model is then able to see how far the food security status of each subgroup changes over time, given specific scenarios on population, agriculture, environment and other socio-economic development policies. It was mentioned during the presentation that initializing the model for individual countries would involve the collection of data on population distribution and other relevant variables for the starting year and putting them in the database of the model.

37. The prototype of the PEDDA Model for Burkina Faso was also demonstrated by the secretariat. This prototype uses actual data for Burkina Faso for 1996. A simulation was carried out based on the scenario of increased technological inputs. By setting projected values of some agricultural input parameters, the secretariat showed that increased technological inputs significantly decreased the proportion of the food insecure people. Even though this is not a typical example of projection, it was brought to the attention of the Board that the PEDDA would play an advocacy role for the national policy-makers by raising their awareness of the interlinkages existing between population, agriculture and environment.

38. During the discussion that followed the presentation, the Advisory Board members made comments and suggestions on the model. Questions were asked as to the kinds of data that would be needed for initialization the model and the number of countries for which the model is to be initialized. According to secretariat, about \$3000 would be needed for the initialization of the model for each country. It was the view of the secretariat that in order to do this, interested member countries should request funds from UN organizations such as UNEP and UNFPA. ECA was not able to put any more funds for this purpose.

39. As discussions proceeded, the attention of the Board was drawn by a member of the Board to another model which is based on nutrition. The Board was informed that this model is in the process of being standardized and the model for Kenya appeared simpler than the PEDDA model. The Board was further informed that it would be shown at a meeting on agriculture for the countries of the Great Horn of Africa that would be held in Addis Ababa, from 2 to 15 November. The two models (Nutrition model and PEDDA model) could be complementary.

40. The Board suggested that a simplified version of the PEDDA Model could be put on Internet so that people can play with some of the easier variables. This would generate demand by countries for the initialization of the model for their countries.

41. The Board felt that the PEDDA model is very useful for demonstrating demographic and agricultural interlinkages. However, the interlinkages between the demographic variables and food security are not clear nor well addressed. ECA should, therefore, be cautious not to advocate the Model as a planning tool.

42. The Board therefore recommended that more work should be done to incorporate more variables into the model. To this end, it proposed that members draw up a list of suggestions for improving the use of the model. For instance, the scenarios should be simple enough to facilitate understanding by policy makers. In conclusion, the Board felt that the PEDDA model had much potential especially after it is customized.

43. Other major recommendations made by the Board are:

- (i) There is a need to separate the technical aspects of the Model from the utility of the Model for advisory purposes;
- (ii) The model should be customized as planned, a process to which the Advisory Board looks forward to as well as to receiving the booklets being prepared on the Model;
- (iii) That the model starts out with a few propositions and the related scenarios. After the model is well understood, it can then add more propositions and try out more scenarios. This would facilitate its understanding by policy makers;
- (iv) The model should go beyond the biophysical to the economic issues of food security. That is, it needs to be aware of the economic variables that affect food security and this should at least be acknowledged in the report on the model.

#### **D. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

42. In his remarks before the closure of the meeting, the Acting Chairman expressed, on behalf of the Board, his gratitude to the Chief of the Division on her initiatives to provide a focus to the work of the FSSDD and to formulate and implement the idea of advisory board to help move it forward. He commended the amount of work accomplished by the Division and stated that chairing the meeting had been "learn-and-give" experience that had promoted useful dialogue during the meeting.

43. He expressed his satisfaction over, and congratulated all, for the work accomplished. Noting that there is still a lot to be done, he suggested that an interactive dialogue through electronic means between the Division and Board Members should continue.

44. Finally, on his own behalf, the Acting Chairman expressed his gratitude to the participants for their tolerance, patience and cooperation. He also expressed his gratitude to the Director and all professionals and supporting staff of the Division for the efficient service provided. He wished a safe return to all participants and looked forward to the next opportunity to meet them again in ECA.

45. The Director of FSSDD, on behalf of the Executive Secretary, Dr. K.Y. Amoako, and on behalf of the Division, thanked most sincerely the participants for their hard work.

46. She then expressed her gratitude to the Chairman, the Rapporteur and every participant, by names, for the excellent contributions which each had provided. She hoped that they will all come back again. She also thanked all colleagues in the Division for their work and support, in particular Mr. Don Oben for spearheading all the efforts and the Administrative Assistant for her tireless support.

47. The Director then declared the meeting closed at 19:45 hours.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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## Annex II

## LIST OF DOCUMENTS

1. ECA/FSSDD/AGRI/AB/99/1 - Provisional Agenda
2. ECA/FSSDD/AGRI/AB/99/1/Add.1 - Provisional Annotated Agenda
3. ECA/FSSDD/AGRI/AB/99/Inf.1.Rev.1 - Provisional Programme of Work
4. ECA/FSSDD/AGR/AB/9/Inf.2 - Provisional List of Participants
5. ECA/FSSDD/AGRI/AB/99/Inf.4 - Food Security and Sustainable Development Division:  
Report on Activities during the Period December 1998-  
August 1999
6. ECA/FSSDD/AGR/AB/99/2 - Issues Paper on Food Security, Population, Agriculture and  
Environment
7. ECA/FSSDD/AGRI/AB/99/3 - FSSDD Work Programme for the Biennium 2000-2001
8. ECA/FSSDD/AGRI/99/4 - Aide- Memoire : High Level Stakeholders Meeting on  
Sustainable Development  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 1-3 February 2000
9. ECA/FSSD/AGRI/AB/99/5 - ECA's Preparation for the Next Session of the  
Commission on Sustainable Development –  
New York, 25 April – 5 May 2000.
10. ECA/FSSDD/99/01 - Study on Soil Erosion and Destruction of Land Resources:  
Issues and Trends in Africa
11. ECA/FSSDD/99/02 - Approaches to the Management of the Nexus: Best  
Practices
12. ECA/FSSDD/99/03 - Policy Brief on Food Security and Sustainable