Documentation of the Work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Committee Staff

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Agenda

I. Promoting Sustainable Agricultural Practices
II. Growing Green Cities Through Urban Agriculture
III. Implementing Strategies for Agricultural Development in Post-Emergency Response Plans

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

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Summary Report

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

I. Growing Green Cities Through Urban Agriculture
II. Promoting Sustainable Agricultural Practices
III. Implementing Strategies for Agricultural Development in Post-Emergency Response Plans

The session was attended by representatives of 35 Member States, and 1 non-governmental organization also attended the meeting.

On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of II, I, III, beginning discussion on the topic of “Promoting Sustainable Agricultural Practices.” By Tuesday, the Dais received a total of six proposals covering a wide range of sub-topics, including enhancing Farmer-Field Schools, developing app-based information sharing for agri-workers, water management, combatting soil erosion, and reclamation of agricultural land. Delegates worked diligently and cooperatively, and quickly recognized opportunities to consolidate proposals.

On Wednesday, four draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, all of which had amendments. The committee adopted four resolutions following voting procedure, all of which received unanimous support by the body. The resolutions represented a wide range of issues, including Smallholder Training and Education, Water Management and Irrigation for Combatting Soil Erosion, Agricultural Extension, and Establishing the Applicable Sustainable Agricultural Practices Database. Delegates actively pursued consensus in both formal and informal sessions. After a brief discussion on the second topic, Growing Green Cities Through Urban Agriculture, the committee produced one draft resolution, which addressed the second topic building on its work on the first topic, but did not have enough time to find meaningful consensus.
The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Reaffirming the necessity to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially Goal 15 concerning Life on Land, and the recently adopted General Assembly resolution 71/256 of 2016 on, the “New Urban Agenda,”

Encouraging Member States to comply with existing agricultural guidelines set in the educational Farmer Field School (FFS) Guidance documents,

Fully aware that former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stated that climate change is the defining challenge of our age,

Referring to Director José Graziano da Silva’s statement that, “South-South and Triangular Cooperation offers the possibility of an approach that is not the traditional way followed by donors and is more horizontal and based on the concept of solidarity,”

Taking into consideration that a third of the world’s soil has already been degraded,

Reminding Member States that according to the World Water Development Report 2017, over 80% of water is wasted by using outdated irrigation techniques,

Recalling that drought resistant and less water-intensive seeds, such as those that were used in the Drought Tolerant Maize for Africa Seed Scaling Project (DTMASS), increased yields for 2.9 million farmers by 20-30%,

Keeping in mind, that alternative methods of urban farming, such as vertical farming and hydroponic systems, use significantly less water than traditional agricultural practices,

1. Encourages Member States to increase research and partnerships to develop and promote proper agricultural techniques, building upon the World Food Summit Plan of Action from 1996:
   a. Through cooperation between Member States, with alliances that include regional and global cooperation, for example, South-South and Triangular Cooperation;
   b. Through cooperation with higher education by creating new ideas and sharing knowledge, as it will be the best research option for Member States that cannot shoulder significant costs;

2. Further reminds Member States to aid their farmers, stakeholders, and populations, by:
   a. Using the multi-language training package for the modernization and rehabilitation of large scale irrigation systems, including specific irrigation scheduling practices;
   b. Raising awareness about biofilter systems as a waste-water reuse technique;
   c. Promoting practices, such as planting more trees to prevent landslides and the destruction of agriculture land during rainy seasons;

3. Invites Member States to introduce alternative growing methods as a way of reducing water usage, and to ensure aquifer viability by providing cover crops in agricultural regions to stave off desertification, soil erosion, and to conserve water resources;
4. **Encourages** Member States to reduce extensive, wasteful irrigation, by:

   a. Cultivating urban agriculture, which prevents water from being lost in extensive pipes and irrigation ditches like in rural irrigation;

   b. Developing vertical farms which use only 5% of the amount of water that a conventional hectare of farmland uses;

   c. Facilitating grey-water recycling for homeowners, and allowing for reutilization of household water for irrigation purposes;

   d. Adapting irrigation practices to climate change, following the ideas that are to be implemented in the small-scale irrigation project Adapting Irrigation to Climate Change (AICCA);

   e. Enacting policies that reduce usage of clean water in industrial non-agricultural production industries, providing preference for agriculture access to clean water resources over those industries that can utilize alternative non-farming-friendly sources of water;

5. **Further requests** Member States to implement water quality standards for wastewater reuse in their agricultural sector, and suggests:

   a. A standards policy to control water quality and the physical and chemical characteristics of substances to help prevent microbial infection;

   b. Scientific research of the process of desalination of water, rather than depleted underground aquifers;

   c. Reducing carbon dioxide in water sources by using techniques such as growing micro-nutrient algae and seaweed that prevents the acidification of lakes and waterways used in irrigation;

6. **Recommends** Member States to supply moisture sensors to farmers cultivating water-intensive crops, in order to increase yields and the quality of the crop by improved management of soil moisture during critical plant growth stages, detect leaks in the systems that cause overuse of water resources, and decrease washing pollutants and pesticides that run into rivers, thus destroying ecosystems;

7. **Suggests** that Member States consider more efficient agricultural methods to reduce water consumption by employing new and innovative technology, such as:

   a. Vertical indoor farming as a way of reducing the usage of water to a necessary minimum, which leaves food production independent of weather conditions and environmental impacts, which increases food security;

   b. Hydroponic systems, rooftops, and greenhouse gardens, which have all been proven successful, since they use 90% less water than conventional farming;

   c. Green houses, which are a sustainable technological tool that allows for the conservation of water and reduces the erosion of soil, which, if the plants were not covered they would be affected by the evaporation that removes water and nutrients from the soil.
The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

Guided by the purpose and principles enshrined in the first chapter of the Charter of the United Nations (1945), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), such as SDG 2.4, and General Assembly resolution 72/238 of 2017 on “Agricultural development, food security and nutrition,”

Underlining the importance of sustainable agriculture, due to the current statistics regarding population increase and food insecurity announced by the 2009 Food for Cities report, which states that 3.2 billion people in developing Member States will live in urban centers, while most of the food products will come from rural areas by 2025,

Reaffirming the central role small holder farmers have, especially regarding women, in developing sustainable agriculture,

Noting further the immediate need for education and skills training for farmers associated with, and interested in the Farmer Field Schools (FFS) program in developing nations, remote areas, and inter-urban cities, to develop sustainable agricultural practices,

Acknowledging the importance of the 2013 Sustainability Assessment of Food and Agriculture Systems Guideline in achieving a coherent international policy regarding sustainable agriculture, by making the assessment of sustainability and provision of technical support feasible, but further recognizing their complexity as a barrier to the full grasping of their content and meaning for the public,

Concerned by the current gaps in environmental aid, and the challenges of including targeted populations, which is essential for ensuring nutritional security,

Emphasizing the greater need for collective and inclusive conferences that decrease barriers to interaction between smallholder farmers internationally as well as regionally,

Encouraging the continued spread of internet access to allow online training to disseminate the information among a larger scale of people from farming facilitators;

Having considered the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), which involved Member States will be supported in their effort to align their policies and strategies in support of their agricultural sector,

Recognizing the International Fund for Agricultural Development’s (IFAD) contribution to support projects for sustainability in agriculture by financing information and communication technology (ICT) projects in rural areas,

Highlighting the role of existing ICTs, in the form of applications and information technology (IT) programs, for example the Technical Center for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation’s (CTA) App4AG database, which offers a wide variety of applications and further initiatives mainly for mobile devices, which can be utilized, especially by smallholders, for more sustainable decisions in agriculture,

Noticing a lack of circulation and access to the App4AG database for smallholders and ICTs in general,

1. Recommends the assistance of farmers in sharing their knowledge on sustainable agricultural practices to provide collective benefit;
2. **Proposes** the restructuring of the Farmer Field Schools (FFS) program to ensure the implementation of successful sustainable agricultural methods, by:

   a. Creating permanent regional hubs to implement the best practices developed by FSS research programs;
   
   b. Inclusively incorporating target countries into the design of regional blocs to reduce conflict and enhance information flow;
   
   c. Proposing the use of international networks of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), such as Oxfam International and other civil society organizations, to facilitate effective dispersion of best practices;

3. **Suggests** the convening of annual regional session for local representatives hosted by a rotational selection of regional hub locations, to:

   a. Be held in the 46th week of the year, as it is when the least portion of growing seasons begin;
   
   b. Include delegations from each of the regional hubs, which will sponsor a single successful farmer associated with the program;
   
   c. Coordinate the FFS educational review body to ensure a learning and practicing environment;
   
   d. Address the most successful practices that can be scaled to implementation in alternate regions to:

      i. Help reduce inefficiencies and waste in agricultural production using sustainable practices;
      
      ii. Increase profitability for the most vulnerable farmers, especially rural farmers in developing countries;

4. **Recommends** assisting farmers with the Technologies and Practices for Small Agricultural Producers (TECA) free database, that contains a multitude of information resources regarding sustainable agricultural practices;

5. **Further suggests** the development of the Sustainability Assessment of Food and Agriculture Systems Guidelines (SAFA) to be more accessible to the public through the FSS, by synthesizing their content to make these guidelines accessible and comprehensive for farmers, to allow them to apply concrete measures directly related to these goals;

6. **Proposes** the establishment of the project United Nations (UN) Civic and Rural Operations for Portable Sustainability (UN CROPS) in cooperation with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), to provide free and inclusive training courses by experienced personnel to farmers, which:

   a. Allows them to choose the most suitable application for the pre-existing agricultural practices from the Apps4AG database;
   
   b. Educates them on how to use the chosen applications in order to benefit from them;
   
   c. Enables them to perform such training courses in the communities themselves;

7. **Endorses** a further enhancement of FFS by implementing travelling satellite workshops, through:

   a. Sponsorship by Member States and the private sector to obtain and sustain needed resources, including:
      
      i. Necessary technology equipment;
      
      ii. A secure internet connection to guarantee isolated smallholder farmers access to information;
b. Incorporation of UN CROPS into the existing didactic structure of current programs, through offering the UN CROPS with FFS;

c. Creation of an online education program that is intended to connect teachers and researchers and bring incremental independence upon communities of farmers to result in total autonomy;

8. Expresses its hope that the international community remain engaged on the matters of facilitating access to information and training for farmers in rural and urban areas, in order to continue promoting sustainable agriculture.
The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

Keeping in mind that mortality has increased due to contaminated food that causes serious illness,

Welcoming a collaboration with other committees and developed Member States in order to achieve the realization of innovative electronic devices,

Acknowledging that sustainable practices, such as minimizing climate pollution, promoting biodiversity, or maintaining healthy soil must be implemented in order to improve food productions,

Having studied the efficiency of these practices for both water and food security, such as hydroponics, the use of nutrient-rich water to grow plants instead of soil, and bio salinity, the use of salt water to water crops,

Aware that in many areas soil is heavily exploited, many diseases that attack plants are caused by pathogens, and the rotation of the soil helps to absorb certain types of nutrients that have been previously absorbed by other plants,

Having considered the Exercise Border Bridge in Australia as an opportunity for Member States to implement a program to respond to a biosecurity incident, such as pest and disease incursions,

Recalling the Saudi Vision 2030 (2016) which calls for the reduction of water consumption and the use of treated and renewable water sources in new ways such as urban wastewater recycling,

Emphasising the need to improve life on land, the fifteenth goal of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), by healing sterile soils to extend agriculturally exploitable land,

Recognizing that poverty and hunger are inextricably linked to agricultural practices and a profound change of the global food and agriculture system is needed if we want to be able to nourish today’s 815 million hungry, and the additional 2 billion expected by 2050,

Having considered the strong industrialization of food – on a large scale, studies show that the variety of crops increases the quantity and the functional diversity of the microorganisms present in the soil, which improves their productivity,

Emphasizing the need for Agricultural Extension, defined by the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS) as “all the different activities that provide the information and services needed and demanded by farmers and other actors in rural settings to assist them in developing their own technical, organizational, and management skills and practices to improve their livelihoods and well-being,”

Recalling the benefit of exchange from the forum of the Africa-South America Summit (ASA Summit) to benefit countries in family farming,

1. Emphasizes the need for Agricultural Extension and Extension Centers by:

   a. Implementing techniques such as hydroponics and bio salinity to ensure water conservation in the agricultural sector;

   b. Setting up Extension Centers in every country where farmers can learn how sustainable agriculture works and exchange experiences with farmers around the world to increase efficiency;
c. Enhancing agricultural production by educating farmers about innovative techniques to help them achieve self-sufficiency;

d. Repurposing urban water waste to help grow crops and conserve our freshwater sources;

e. Asking willing Member States donate buildings, resources, and funds in their areas;

2. Recommends creating a platform for Member States to provide more information and access to research, assessments, and educational discussions on the benefits, and opportunities of sustainable agricultural practices, by:

a. Proposing the establishment of a monitoring system for the implementation of Extension Centers;

b. Highlighting the importance of the application Extension Centers across the globe;

c. Coordinating the efforts of stakeholders;

3. Further invites Member States to focus on how biotechniques should represent a step towards a greener life and Earth-caring evolution by:

a. Introducing the use of natural and zero-cost pesticide;

b. Healing sterile soils with the use of “good bacteria,” for instance the AM mushrooms, which face many abiotic stresses, as for example drought, poor presence of plants nutrients, the presence of heavy metals, and pathogenic mushrooms in the soil;

4. Recommends a unified guideline and regulations for educators and workers in the agricultural field, in order to provide universal standards, including:

a. Agricultural Management to provide information about all the skills and ethics required in the agricultural domain;

b. Governmental and United Nations (UN) intervention and supervision, as the goal is to inform individuals about their role in serving the agriculture and how they can benefit from them;

c. Providing the provisions of using chemicals but also, inform about the most legal and illegal chemicals that are used globally and the limitations of using them;

d. Protecting livelihoods methods to promote the positive practices and warn about the negative ones;

e. Promoting a pattern for the efficient use of resources in terms of its influence on individuals and countries’ economic growth, environment, and the quality of life;

f. Affording information about ecosystem services, which explain provisioning such as food production, and regulations such as climate regulation, and waste management;

5. Endorses the implementation of simulations across Member States to assess farmers and train them in being prepared to respond to biosecurity incidents within agricultural practices, with the use of legislation, information technology systems, and existing arrangements to respond to the biosecurity incidents;

6. Supports further development of techniques to treat wastewater and set standards for the way crops are watered, to allow the safe use of water resources and reduce the use of water;

7. Encourages Member States to invest in capacity-building, education, and awareness-raising initiatives, through training programs for more sustainable agriculture policies and management systems.
The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations (1945), and especially highlighting article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) on the human right to available, adequate, and accessible food,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 2015, “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development” and the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 on Zero Hunger, that works towards ending hunger and malnutrition, increasing agricultural productivity, ensuring sustainable food production systems, and implementing resilient agricultural practices, as well as SDG 5: achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls,

Recalling the primary functions of this committee to promote and recommend action at the national and international level over all sectors relating to agriculture and nutrition,

Acknowledging that research and statistics compiled by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability provides figures and crucial information about climate, and its implications on agriculture is of high importance for the efficiency and production in agriculture,

Recalling the 2016 Strategy on Climate Change, which underscores the importance of modern technologies,

Supporting the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Program (REDD+),

Acknowledging the report of the 2016 Committee on Agriculture on Achieving Sustainable Rural Development through Agriculture Innovation,

Recognizing General Assembly resolution 72/215 of 2017 on “Agricultural technology for sustainable development,”

Appreciating the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food to the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/37/61) on 25 January 2018,

Deeply alarmed that yields could decrease by 25% by 2050, according to the 2009 report, The Environmental Food Crisis from the United Nations (UN) Environment Programme (UNEP), and that simultaneously, due to population growth, agricultural production must increase by 60%, as reported in the 2015 Soil and Nonrenewable Resources report,

Further concerned that 11% of the current global population is affected by chronic hunger, as mentioned in the 2017 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report,

Concerned that 30% of food produced worldwide is wasted according to the 2017 report Food Wastage Footprint: Impacts on Natural Resources,

Drawing attention to the harmful effects of industrialized agriculture on the environment, such as pesticide toxicity, water pollution, and antibiotic resistance,

Keeping in mind the interlinkages between sustainable practices and their positive impact on food security,

Acknowledging the efforts of universities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector, for their research in sustainable agriculture and new sustainable technologies,
Reminding Member States on the role of science, technology, and innovation as a crucial driver of prosperity and competitiveness in agriculture, as well as a means towards greener agricultural production, and further encourage innovation in sustainable agricultural technologies from civil society, to improve the productivity of farmlands, manage organic waste, and use water better in order to make food production greener in general,

Noting with deep concern the misuse of water resources in agriculture, leading to over consumption, increased soil salinity, and the destruction of ecosystems through the runoff of pollutants and pesticides in rivers and streams,

Highly appreciating modern and emerging technologies in regard to climate-smart agriculture, which can reduce water wastage, protect crops from climate fluctuations, dispense expenses in a reasonable time, solar farm irrigation, drought adaptation, preservation of soil, and soil moisture control with vertical and indoor farming, solar pumps, rice and soybean seeds technologies, zero-till farming techniques, and soil moisture sensors respectively,

Welcoming the Inclusive Equitable Local Development Program, as well as Farmer Field Schools (FFS), which present a great success regarding agricultural development and have the potential to grow into a permanent regional network,

Concerned about widespread soil degradation consequential to unsustainable agricultural practices conducted around the world,

1. Proposes the creation of the Applicable Sustainable Agricultural Practices database (ASAP), that compiles and synthesizes data across platforms, including platforms such as the International Conference on Sustainable Environment and Agriculture (ICSEA), FAOSTAT, and Technologies and Practices for Small Agricultural Producers (TECA), and further include new and emerging technologies by categorizing them on three levels of implementation: business and enterprises, local government and community, and national government;

2. Establishes the theme of the 46th session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) to be ‘Sustainable Agricultural Practices and the ASAP database’ by also referencing, using and explaining the database during the conference, to enhance the focus on emerging sustainable agricultural technologies, forestry erosion, and women in agriculture by:
   a. Bringing together concerned parties such as Member States, ministers of agriculture, high-level politicians, experts, scientists, and researchers on various issues such as food security and agricultural technology;
   b. Establishing the ‘Research Application Implementation Network’ (RAIN) framework, which will comprise of:
      i. An event steering committee;
      ii. The ASAP Database;
      iii. A platform for knowledge exchange dedicated to sustainable agricultural technologies, forestry and erosion, and women in agriculture, that will be directed by the experiences and feedback gained from the session of the CFS;

3. Proposes the responsibilities of the steering committee within the RAIN-framework, which will:
   a. Provide the RAIN-framework for knowledge exchange as a global platform for dialogue between stakeholders;
   b. Establish existing structures on sustainable agriculture to integrate into the RAIN-framework;
   c. Conduct its administrative duties to oversee, organize, and coordinate all activities of the RAIN-framework;
d. Encourage and facilitate partnerships between stakeholders, such as, but not limited to NGOs, civil society, Member States, the private sector, and local producers, that work towards increasing sustainability and productivity in accordance with an ethical advisory board and the SDGs;

4. **Proclaims** the network, focused on sustainable agricultural development in the modern-day era, focuses on emerging technologies as a means to accessible equality between genders and to serve specific issues, such as deforestation and erosion;

5. **Further recommends** Member States work with and develop emerging biotechnologies to promote the longevity of organisms and increase crop yields, given the current changing climate, by:

   a. Utilizing the existing Agricultural Research Information System (AGRIS) for increased information regarding biotechnologies and to promote existing data;

   b. Exploring the emerging technology Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR) in efforts to improve crop resiliency and, therefore, adapt specific organisms to a variety of environments, increase crop yield time, drought and disease resistance;

   c. Further enhancing research on enhancing nonphotochemical quenching (NPQ) proteins to achieve a faster rate of photosynthesis in organisms, which increases crop yield;

6. **Encourages** Member States to pursue technology related to synthetic meat, to ensure the long-term viability of protein and meat consumption, and decrease the strain on terrestrial ecosystems by:

   a. Diminishing the reliance upon industrial livestock production, thus reducing high impact and environmentally damaging input costs;

   b. Decreasing water consumption and waste through the reduction in resources expended in rearing livestock;

   c. Allowing crops previously allocated for livestock to be allocated for human consumption;

   d. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions, which are the direct result of mass large-animal production;

   e. Reducing land usage of large-animals by decreasing the demand for them;

7. **Invites** Member States to further promote climate-smart agriculture through new technologies such as vertical and indoor farming, solar pumps for farm irrigation, rice and soybean seeds technologies, zero-till farming techniques, and soil moisture sensors;

8. **Appeals** to the World Bank for cooperation in form of a research fund or resources, to enhance progress of developing technologies and secure their dissemination, by agreeing on a contract to share patents and the caused research and development expenses, and focusing on the funding of smallholder farms in the local agricultural sector;

9. **Encourages** Member States to implement the use of Internet of Things technologies, such as digital plantation and crop growth calculation and prediction devices, by creating nation-wide projects to make these technologies available to:

   a. Foster a better management of crops’ evolution and conditions of high productivity;

   b. Diminish the amount of food waste due to inefficient transportation and distribution from farm to market;

   c. Increase the quality of products through freshness and optimized growing conditions;
10. **Supports** the implementation of geographic information systems to ensure timely and reliable information on agricultural land, to reduce the risk on the agricultural economy of vulnerable countries depending on this sector;

11. **Further invites** technologically advanced and economically strong nations to reach out and support developing nations in their own pursuit of emerging technology, by:
   a. Spreading accessibility and awareness through the 46th session ‘Sustainable Agricultural Practices and the ASAP database;’
   b. Providing financial support, directly through established and future partnerships, to establish new technological innovations;

12. **Proposes** the extension of the FFS program beyond its existing framework to the ASAP database, as well as implementing direct means to improve its outreach to rural communities;

13. **Recommends** Member States to increase accountability and transparency via the ASAP database of sustainable production measures, benefitting both the producers and consumers by:
   a. Tracing the production trajectory of each product via the use of block-chain technologies;
   b. Establishing an evaluation and review process within the RAIN framework, to report on results from conferences and projects;

14. **Suggests** establishing a Terrace-Growth-Project (TGP), especially in mountain areas challenged by erosion, which could consequently restore soils in strong collaboration with farmers and research experts, which:
   a. Aims at improving the distribution of water and at mitigating the impact of erosion;
   b. Cooperates with the Soils Funds and with other mountainous areas from Association of South East Asian Nations and the African Union, but also any other regions of the world;

15. **Encourages** Member States to research and introduce means, such as National Action Plans, or concrete projects by NGOs to stabilize drying peatlands, in order to:
   a. Decrease greenhouse gas emissions and increase ecosystem stability;
   b. Engage forestry industries with complementary agricultural sectors, to increase and improve food production;
   c. Increase soil fertility and therefore improving yield productivity;

16. **Encourages** Member States to improve inclusivity of land ownership rights, which take into account the need to strengthen the status of women, especially regarding land ownership;

17. **Recommends** Member States to provide inclusive legal frameworks on:
   a. Access to livestock, which enables women to own and breed livestock;
   b. Access to tools and practical knowledge required in the fisheries sector;
   c. Access to labor markets in rural and urban areas, which facilitates women’s participation within the agricultural sector in both areas;
   d. Access to sustainable agricultural technology, including, but not limited to fertilizers, water management systems, such as gray water systems;
e. Access to financial resources for women to strengthen their economic involvement within agriculture;

18. Encourages Member States to create inclusive legal frameworks, regarding the following aspects on financial inclusion:

a. Facilitating access to loans and credit, in order to strengthen women in businesses within the agricultural sector, by:

   i. Creating and endorsing courses and trainings on financial topics including, but not limited to micro loans and credits;
   ii. Strengthening property rights to improve women’s credit worthiness;

b. Facilitating access to financial support, in order to strengthen women’s access to sustainable agricultural practices, by:

   i. Improving infrastructure in rural areas;
   ii. Facilitating and educating especially women in rural areas on legal frameworks for comprehensive understanding and participation;

19. Highly encourages Member States to promote educational training programs on sustainable agriculture, conducted by NGOs, including, but not limited to farmer field schools, especially in rural areas;

20. Encourages research promoted and endorsed within the framework on the gender gap, in order to tackle gender inequality within the agricultural sector.