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INFORMATION NOTES

FAO/WFP MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON COOPERATION IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR FOOD SECURITY (SPFS)

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PREAMBLE

1. Whereas the Rome Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by the World Food Summit, held in Rome in November 1996, called for concerted efforts at all levels to raise food production and increase access to food in over 80 Low-Income Food Deficit Countries (LIFDCs), many of which are in Africa, with the objective of reducing by half the present level of malnourished people in the World by the year 2015;
2. Whereas the World Food Programme, provides a framework for international collaboration on the supply of food assistance to food-deficit countries and its use to promote economic and social development, particularly as regards the poorest and most food insecure households;
3. Whereas, following consultations at the inter-secretariat level, it is recognised that it is in the interest of FAO and WFP to strengthen their collaboration, in particular within the national frameworks of WFP's Country Programmes and FAO's Special Programme for Food Security.
4. Now, therefore, the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Director of WFP have agreed as follows:

AREAS OF COOPERATION

5. FAO and WFP agree that existing co-operative activities should be expanded further, particularly in order to promote rural development and food security in Africa, in the context of the Special Programme for Food Security. Co-operative activities to be so expanded should focus on:
 - Low-cost small-water control;
 - Improved natural resource and land management;
 - Soil fertility enhancement and crop intensification; and
 - Crop diversification.
6. FAO and WFP recognise that the above areas are of strong mutual interest when considering future pipeline programmes and projects in support of agricultural and rural development, and for addressing vital issues of household food security, particularly in chronically food deficit areas where WFP projects provide transitory food security and where longer lasting solutions will still be required. In implementing joint activities within the SPFS, both WFP and FAO will take particular care to enhance the special role of food aid in supporting particularly food insecure households and to target food insecure areas avoiding potential disruptions to trade and markets.

MODALITIES OF CO-OPERATION

7. FAO has already initiated activities in support of the Special Programme for Food Security in 38 countries (22 out of which are in Africa) and has committed US\$ 22 000 000 for expansion of such activities, eventually to include all LIFDCs. WFP will seek to reinforce existing collaboration in a number of countries on the use of its inputs, mostly



through WFP-development projects, for the support of FAO development and rehabilitation projects. Subject to requests from, and agreement by, the countries participating in the envisaged activities and to the extent permitted by its rules and policy decisions, WFP may choose, where possible, to expand such collaboration to include also ongoing or proposed emergency projects as well as Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations (PRRO) in such countries.

8. The activities referred to in Paragraph 3 above should aim at developing or strengthening the food security elements of current or proposed WFP activities and thus contribute to promoting food security and poverty alleviation in the concerned countries. Particular consideration will be given to utilising on-going or planned food-for-work projects, to support the Special Programme for Food Security, in particular as regards the water and soil control/rehabilitation components of that programme which requires substantial manpower. FAO will make available appropriate support to reinforce the technical, training and management components of such food-for-work activities of WFP.
9. In order to achieve the objectives of this Memorandum of Understanding, appropriate arrangements will be made to secure greater collaboration between FAO and WFP staff at country, sub-regional and regional levels, as well as between the Headquarters of FAO and WFP.
10. FAO and WFP will hold annual review meetings to monitor and evaluate activities under this Memorandum of Understanding.
11. In order to ensure that the combined efforts of FAO and WFP are integrated into wider interagency co-ordination mechanisms all actions and information related to the Special Programme for Food Security will be shared in the context of each country's United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) process.

ENTRY INTO FORCE

12. This Memorandum of Understanding will enter into force upon signature by the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Director of WFP, or their authorised representatives, and will be in force for an indefinite period of time.
13. This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended at any time by mutual agreement of FAO and WFP.
14. FAO or WFP may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by notice in writing to the other not less than six months in advance of the effective date of termination.

(signed)

The Director-General of the Food
and Agriculture Organization of the
United Nations

Date 18/3/99

(signed)

The Executive Director of the
World Food Programme

