

expressed as a percentage of the whole budget. Field activities are financed by the United Nations Development Program and other trust funds.

**Scope** The task assigned to the FAO by its member nations, as described in the preamble to its constitution, includes raising levels of nutrition and securing improvements in the efficiency of production and distribution of all food and agricultural products, with particular reference to bettering the condition of rural populations. Since most of the population in developing countries is rural, the developing world looks primarily to the FAO as a most important instrument for the fulfilment of its development objectives.

**Functions** Article I of the FAO's constitution defines the functions of the Organization as follows:

- (1) It shall collect, analyze, interpret and disseminate information relating to nutrition, food and agriculture. In the constitution, the term "agriculture" includes fisheries, marine products, forestry and primary forestry products.
- (2) It shall promote and, where appropriate, recommend national and international action with respect to:
  - (a) scientific, technological, social and economic research on nutrition, food and agriculture;
  - (b) the improvement of education and administration relating to nutrition, food and agriculture, and the spread of public knowledge of nutritional and agricultural science and practice;
  - (c) the conservation of natural resources and the adoption of improved methods of agricultural production;
  - (d) the improvement of the processing, marketing and distribution of food and agricultural products;
  - (e) the adoption of policies for the provision of adequate agricultural credit, national and international;
  - (f) the adoption of international policies respecting agricultural commodity arrangements.
- (3) The FAO shall also:
  - (a) furnish technical assistance asked for by governments;