

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 fulfillment 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 this Constitution, the term "agriculture" includes fisheries, marine products, forestry and primary forestry products.
- (2) It shall promote and, where appropriate, shall recommend national and international action with respect to:
 - (a) scientific, technological, social and economic research relating to 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 with respect to agricultural commodity arrangements.
- (3) It shall also be the function of the FAO:
 - (a) to furnish such technical assistance as governments may request;
 - (b) to organize, in co-operation with the governments concerned, such missions as may be needed to assist them to fulfill the obligations arising from their acceptance of the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture and of this Constitution.

Implementation of the Programmes

The methods employed by the FAO must be those which are most effective in assisting governments in performing their own functions and the Organization cannot in any way assume the responsibilities of governments for carrying out those functions. Thus, the FAO's methods are designed to meet these conditions and include the following: