



**Conseil Économique
et Social**

Distr.
GÉNÉRALE

E/CN.19/2002/2/Add.13
17 avril 2002

FRANÇAIS
Original: ANGLAIS

Instance permanente sur les questions autochtones
Première session
New York, 13-24 mai 2002
Point 6 de l'ordre du jour provisoire

**EXAMEN DES ACTIVITÉS DU SYSTÈME DES NATIONS UNIES CONCERNANT
LES QUESTIONS AUTOCHTONES: DÉBAT INTERACTIF**

Renseignements communiqués par les organismes des Nations Unies

**APERÇU DES ACTIVITÉS RELATIVES AUX QUESTIONS AUTOCHTONES
EN COURS AU SEIN DE L'ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES
POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE (FAO)**

Les fonctions de la FAO?

1. L'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (FAO) a été créée en 1945 dans le but d'améliorer l'état nutritionnel, le niveau de vie, la productivité agricole et le sort des populations rurales en général. Aujourd'hui, la FAO est l'une des plus grandes institutions spécialisées du système des Nations Unies, chef de file dans les domaines de l'agriculture, des forêts, des pêches et du développement rural. Organisation intergouvernementale, la FAO regroupe 183 États membres, auxquels s'ajoute une organisation membre, la Communauté européenne. Depuis sa création, la FAO lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté en œuvrant en faveur du développement agricole, de l'amélioration nutritionnelle et de la sécurité alimentaire – à savoir l'accès de tous, à tout moment, à la nourriture nécessaire à une vie active et saine.
2. La FAO est dirigée par la Conférence des nations membres, qui se réunit tous les deux ans pour passer en revue le travail effectué par l'Organisation et pour approuver un Programme de travail et budget pour l'exercice biennal suivant. La Conférence élit un Conseil de 49 nations membres qui joue le rôle d'organe intérimaire. Les membres sont élus pour trois ans, en rotation.

La Conférence élit également un directeur général à la tête de l'Organisation. Le Directeur général actuel, M. Jacques Diouf, du Sénégal, a commencé un premier mandat de six ans en janvier 1994 et a été réélu pour un second mandat de six ans en janvier 2000. La FAO se compose de huit départements: Administration et finance, Affaires générales et information, Agriculture, Coopération technique, Développement durable, Forêts, Pêches et Politiques économiques et sociales. La FAO emploie environ 3 500 personnes – 1 500 membres du cadre organique et 2 000 membres des services généraux – réparties dans cinq bureaux régionaux, cinq bureaux sous-régionaux, cinq bureaux de liaison et plus de 78 bureaux nationaux, ainsi que dans son siège de Rome.

3. Les travaux de l'Organisation se répartissent en deux grandes catégories: le Programme ordinaire et le Programme de terrain.

4. Le Programme ordinaire couvre les activités internes, y compris le soutien au travail sur le terrain, les conseils aux gouvernements en matière de politique et de planification et toute une gamme de projets de développement. Il est financé par les pays membres, qui contribuent en fonction des niveaux fixés par la Conférence. Pour l'exercice biennal 2002-2003, la Conférence a approuvé un budget de 651,7 millions de dollars des États-Unis.

5. Le Programme de terrain met en œuvre les stratégies de développement de la FAO, fournissant l'aide principalement par le biais de projets généralement entrepris en coopération avec les gouvernements nationaux et d'autres organismes. En 1999, environ 77 % des finances du Programme de terrain provenaient de fonds en fidéicommis et 9 % du Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement. La FAO contribue à hauteur de 13 % environ dans le cadre de son Programme de coopération technique et de 1 % dans le cadre de son Programme spécial pour la sécurité alimentaire, tous deux financés par le budget du Programme régulier.

6. Depuis 1994, la FAO procède à la restructuration la plus importante depuis sa fondation: elle décentralise ses services, rationalise ses procédures et réduit ses coûts. Elle a ainsi pu réaliser des économies d'environ 50 millions de dollars par an. Parmi ses principales réformes, citons:

L'importance croissante accordée à la sécurité alimentaire;

La décentralisation en direction des bureaux régionaux et sous-régionaux;

L'augmentation croissante du nombre d'experts venus de pays en développement et de pays en transition;

L'élargissement des liens avec le secteur privé et les organisations non gouvernementales;

L'accès électronique amélioré aux documents et bases de données statistiques de la FAO.

7. En 1999, la Conférence a approuvé le «Cadre stratégique 2000-2015» pour guider les travaux de la FAO jusqu'en 2015. Il est le résultat de vastes consultations avec les nations membres et les autres parties prenantes et fera autorité pour les futurs programmes de l'Organisation, qui seront progressivement affinés dans le cadre d'un processus continu de planification à moyen terme couvrant six années.

L'action de la FAO

Aide au développement

8. La FAO apporte une aide concrète aux pays en développement et aux pays en transition par de multiples projets d'assistance technique. Elle encourage une approche intégrée qui inclut des considérations écologiques, sociales et économiques dans la formulation des projets de développement.

Information

9. La FAO recueille, analyse, interprète et diffuse des informations sur la nutrition, l'alimentation, l'agriculture, les forêts et les pêches. Elle centralise l'information et fournit aux agriculteurs, aux scientifiques, aux responsables gouvernementaux, aux commerçants et aux organisations non gouvernementales les renseignements dont ils ont besoin pour prendre des décisions rationnelles en matière de planification, d'investissement, de commercialisation, de recherche ou de formation.

Conseils aux gouvernements

10. Grâce à ses réseaux d'information élaborés et aux compétences et à l'expérience de ses spécialistes, la FAO est en mesure de donner des avis indépendants sur les politiques et la planification agricoles et sur les structures administratives et juridiques nécessaires au développement. L'Organisation donne également des avis sur la manière d'axer les stratégies nationales sur le développement rural, la sécurité alimentaire et la lutte contre la pauvreté.

Instance neutre

11. La FAO offre une tribune neutre où toutes les nations peuvent se réunir et discuter et collaborer au sujet des principaux aspects de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. Elle approuve les normes internationales et contribue à élaborer des conventions et des accords internationaux. Elle accueille également de grandes conférences, des réunions techniques et des consultations d'experts.

12. À la suite de la mise en place de l'Instance permanente sur les questions autochtones, la FAO a désigné le Service des régimes fonciers (Chef du service: Paul Munro-Faure) pour servir de centre de liaison pour ces questions.

Aperçu des activités de la FAO liées aux questions autochtones

13. La FAO collabore avec les populations autochtones et leurs organisations dans le cadre de bon nombre des activités inscrites au Programme ordinaire. Les questions autochtones font partie intégrante du travail de nombreux départements, notamment ceux qui œuvrent dans le domaine de la sécurité alimentaire des ménages et de la nutrition, des pêches, des forêts, des terres, des eaux, de la production végétale et de la protection des plantes, du bétail, des systèmes de soutien à l'agriculture et des conseils juridiques, ainsi que ceux qui travaillent dans le domaine de la participation, des institutions rurales et des régimes fonciers.

14. Les programmes et activités concernant les populations autochtones (y compris les communautés traditionnelles) sont notamment les suivants:

Gestion des terres autochtones;

Biodiversité, y compris les programmes mondiaux sur les ressources génétiques végétales et animales destinées à l'alimentation et à l'agriculture;

Stages de pratique agricole;

Droits des agriculteurs;

Nutrition et sécurité alimentaire des ménages;

Description et cartographie de l'insécurité alimentaire et de la vulnérabilité;

Gestion durable des forêts;

Droit du développement;

Régimes fonciers;

Institutions rurales et participation;

Genre, population et savoir autochtones;

Recherche, vulgarisation et formation.

On trouvera des renseignements plus détaillés sur ces activités à l'annexe du présent document*.

15. Le Programme de terrain de la FAO traite aussi de questions autochtones. Le Département de la coopération technique est chargé des activités opérationnelles de la FAO, y compris l'assistance aux politiques, l'aide à l'investissement et la gestion globale des activités liées à la formulation et à la mise en œuvre des programmes et des projets nationaux, sous-régionaux et régionaux, y compris en cas de réaction à des catastrophes naturelles ou humaines.

16. La Division de l'assistance aux politiques est au centre des activités de la FAO visant à conseiller et aider les pays membres dans le domaine des politiques, des programmes et des stratégies de développement destinés à créer un environnement économique favorable à la sécurité alimentaire et au développement agricole et rural. La Division fournit aussi aux pays une assistance en matière de développement des capacités nationales dans les domaines de la formulation et de l'analyse de politiques par le biais de programmes de formation.

17. La Division du Centre d'investissement a pour mission d'aider les pays membres de la FAO à atteindre leurs objectifs en ce qui concerne les investissements consentis en faveur d'un développement agricole et rural renforcé et durable grâce à des accords de coopération conclus

* L'annexe du présent rapport n'est disponible qu'en anglais.

avec 20 organismes internationaux qui accordent financement et subventions pour les projets et les programmes de développement agricole et rural, ainsi qu'une aide alimentaire. Parmi ces organismes, figurent la Banque mondiale, le Fonds international de développement agricole, l'ensemble des banques régionales et sous-régionales de développement, la Banque européenne pour la reconstruction et le développement, le Fonds d'équipement des Nations Unies et le Programme alimentaire mondial.

18. La Division des opérations de terrain gère et mobilise des ressources destinées aux projets de coopération technique, y compris dans le cadre du Programme spécial pour la sécurité alimentaire, et pour diverses opérations de secours.

19. En collaboration avec les départements techniques de la FAO et les organismes partenaires, le Département de la coopération technique tient compte des populations autochtones à divers niveaux en fonction du contexte dans lequel se déroulent ses opérations. Ainsi, le travail de formulation des projets accomplis par la Division du Centre d'investissement tient compte des politiques de sauvegarde des institutions de financement applicables aux populations autochtones.

Questions autochtones et Sommet mondial de l'alimentation: cinq ans après

20. La FAO va organiser en son siège, à Rome, du 10 au 13 juin 2002, une réunion mondiale dans le but d'examiner les progrès réalisés pour réduire la faim dans le monde. **«Le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation: cinq ans après»** est destiné à suivre les progrès accomplis depuis le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation de 1996 et à examiner les moyens d'accélérer le processus.

21. Le Sommet avait été prévu à l'origine du 5 au 9 novembre 2001 mais a dû être reporté après les attentats du 11 septembre aux États-Unis. «Le but de cette manifestation est de donner un nouvel élan aux efforts du monde entier en faveur des êtres humains victimes de la faim», déclare le Directeur général de la FAO, Jacques Diouf. «Nous devons renforcer la détermination politique et accroître les ressources financières nécessaires pour lutter contre la faim. À maintes reprises, la communauté internationale a déclaré qu'elle était résolue à éliminer la pauvreté. Pour ce faire, il est d'abord indispensable d'éliminer la faim.».

22. Les organisations autochtones participent pleinement aux préparatifs du **«Sommet mondial de l'alimentation: cinq ans après»**. C'est un membre de l'International Non-Governmental Organizations/Civil Society Organizations Planning Committee pour le **«Sommet mondial de l'alimentation: cinq ans après»** qui sert de correspondant pour les organisations autochtones et qui est également responsable des préparatifs du Forum des ONG qui aura lieu parallèlement au Sommet. Grâce au système de quota appliqué pour l'accréditation auprès du Forum, une proportion équitable (9,4 %) des 606 délégués représentera les populations autochtones des diverses régions. Dans le cadre des préparatifs du **«Sommet mondial de l'alimentation: cinq ans après»**, la FAO contribue à l'organisation d'une consultation internationale des populations autochtones sur le droit à l'alimentation, qui se tiendra au Guatemala du 17 au 19 avril 2002.

Les questions autochtones, la FAO et le Sommet mondial du développement durable

23. La FAO joue un rôle de coordonnateur et est chargée de faire rapport auprès de la Commission du développement durable sur les progrès accomplis dans le cadre des activités réalisées sous sa direction en tant que maître d'œuvre de plusieurs chapitres d'Action 21 (notamment le chapitre 10 sur la planification et la mise en valeur intégrées des ressources en terres, le chapitre 11 sur la lutte contre le déboisement, le chapitre 13 sur la mise en valeur durable des montagnes et le chapitre 14 sur l'agriculture et le développement rural durables). Dans ce contexte, la FAO est également chargée de la liaison, notamment avec les ONG et les populations autochtones considérées comme des grands groupes aux fins de la mise en œuvre d'Action 21. La liaison avec ces grands groupes constitue une activité importante dans le cadre des différentes manifestations et réunions organisées au titre des préparatifs du Sommet mondial du développement durable, qui aura lieu à Johannesburg en 2002.

Les questions autochtones, le développement durable dans les montagnes et l'Année internationale de la montagne (2002)

24. Les régions montagneuses constituent l'habitat de nombreuses communautés autochtones et traditionnelles. Les savoirs et l'expérience autochtones constituent souvent un élément primordial des systèmes d'exploitation des terres appliqués dans les régions montagneuses et doivent être pleinement intégrés dans les stratégies et les programmes de développement durable de la montagne. En tant que principale organisation engagée dans l'Année internationale de la montagne (2002), la FAO encourage et aide les pays à mettre en place des commissions nationales chargées d'instituer cette année internationale et d'engager les travaux visant à la mise en place de stratégies nationales en faveur des zones montagneuses. Ces activités incluent la promotion de la participation pleine et entière des groupes autochtones aux travaux de ces commissions nationales et à la définition de stratégies et de programmes qui prennent en compte de manière adéquate leurs connaissances, leur situation et leurs besoins particuliers.

Annex

REGULAR PROGRAMME AREAS OF RELEVANCE TO INDIGENOUS ISSUES

Lead department	Activity	Brief description
Agriculture	Indigenous land husbandry	In its work in the areas of policy and planning and in the management and development of land and water resources, the Land and Water Development Division actively promotes participatory approaches to enhance the active involvement in decision-making by all concerned stakeholders including poor farmers, indigenous groups and local communities. This is exemplified through farmer field school approaches for capacity-building and participatory technology development for improved land and water resources management that are being advocated through the Division's projects and activities in sub-Saharan Africa. The Land and Water Development Division has developed guidelines and a CD-ROM with extensive training material on participatory training and extension in land and water management. The approaches are developed within the framework of the Special Programme for Food Security and address the specific needs of indigenous people by reviewing their livelihood assets and priorities. The Land and Water Development Division has prepared a project concept note for a Global Environment Facility-United Nations Development Fund (GEF/UNDP) project on Globally Important Indigenous Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS). The aim of this project is to identify and mobilize recognition and conservation of globally important agricultural heritage systems and landscapes and their associated agricultural biodiversity and knowledge systems and to enhance the local, national and global benefits derived through their management and conservation. FAO would liaise closely with indigenous groups in this endeavour. FAO contributed to the Report of the World Commission on Dams, which recommends specific principles when dealing with indigenous issues (prior informed consent).

Lead department	Activity	Brief description
	Biodiversity, including global programmes on plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture	In its programme on biodiversity for food and agriculture which contributes to the implementation of the work programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity on agricultural biodiversity, FAO places great importance on the conservation and sustainable use of farmers' plant varieties and landraces and domestic animal breeds and races that have been developed and adapted over generations by local and indigenous communities to suit their socio-economic context and biophysical conditions. FAO is coordinating the preparation of country reports, which will contribute to the First Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources. Emphasis is placed on the maintenance of sustainable and diverse farming systems that not only ensure the maintenance of ecosystem functions such as nutrient cycling and water quality but also ensure risk management from threats such as drought, pest and disease.
	Farmer field schools	The Global Integrated Pest Management Facility hosted by the Plant Protection Service continues to support Andean small-scale farmers, Quichua/Quechua "Indios" in Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia. Furthermore, different ethnic minorities living in Viet Nam and growing, inter alia, rain-fed rice benefit from farmer field school programmes. Indigenous farmer communities often have limited resource bases and mostly produce for subsistence. The Integrated Production and Pest Management Farmers Field Schools (IPPM-FFS) contribute to improved food security and poverty alleviation by empowering farmers to enhance their knowledge in order to optimize the efficiency of their limited resources. IPPM allows farmers to minimize dependence on costly agro-chemicals that have a negative impact on environment and health. Field schools integrate traditional local knowledge and broader ecological principles and improve their environment through prevention of contamination.

Lead department	Activity	Brief description
	Farmers' rights	The plant genetic resources on which world food security depends have been developed for over 10,000 years by farmers and farming communities. These crops, from their centres of origin, have been exchanged all over the world, and farmers have selected and acclimatized them in a wide variety of environments and of specific needs. In the process, through this communal effort, they have built up the portfolio of intra-specific diversity that is contained in traditional farming systems. Countries are interdependent in regard to these resources, which are the raw material for all plant improvement by farmers and their communities, by plant breeders and through biotechnology. In the context of the FAO International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which was the first international agreement for the conservation and sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources, the 1989 FAO Conference, by resolution 5/89, considering that, in the history of mankind, unnumbered generations of farmers had conserved, improved and made available plant genetic resources, endorsed Farmers' Rights, defined as meaning "rights arising from the past, present and future contributions of farmers in conserving, improving, and making available plant genetic resources, particularly those in the centres of origin/diversity", with the aim of "ensuring full benefits to farmers, and supporting the continuation of their contributions", in order to "assist farmers and farming communities, in all regions of the world, but especially in the areas of origin/diversity of plant genetic resources, in the protection and conservation of their plant genetic resources, and of the natural biosphere" and "to allow farmers, their communities, and countries in all regions, to participate fully in the benefits derived, at present and in the future, from the improved use of plant genetic resources, through plant breeding and other scientific methods". The resolution aimed to balance the rights of the informal innovators, whose crops provide the basic material for modern plant technology, with those of the developers of plant varieties under forms of intellectual property.

Lead department	Activity	Brief description
		On 3 November 2001, after seven years of intergovernmental negotiations in the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to revise the International Undertaking in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the FAO Conference adopted the new binding International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The Treaty, which will enter into force upon ratification by 40 countries, makes specific provision for the recognition of Farmers' Rights in article 9, which reads as follows: 9.1 The Contracting Parties recognize the enormous contribution that the local and indigenous communities and farmers of all regions of the world, particularly those in the centres of origin and crop diversity, have made and will continue to make for the conservation and development of plant genetic resources which constitute the basis of food and agriculture production throughout the world. 9.2 The Contracting Parties agree that the responsibility for realizing Farmers' Rights, as they relate to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, rests with national Governments. In accordance with their needs and priorities, each Contracting Party should, as appropriate, and subject to its national legislation, take measures to protect and promote Farmers' Rights, including: (a) Protection of traditional knowledge relevant to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture; (b) The right to equitably participate in sharing benefits arising from the utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture; and (c) The right to participate in making decisions, at the national level, on matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Lead department	Activity	Brief description
		9.3 Nothing in this article shall be interpreted to limit any rights that farmers have to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seed/propagating material, subject to national law and as appropriate. Moreover, the Treaty, in its preamble, affirms that “the past, present and future contribution of farmers in all regions of the world, particularly those in centres of origin and diversity, in conserving, improving and making available these resources, is the basis of Farmers’ Rights”, and that “the rights recognized in this Treaty to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seed and other propagating material, and to participate in decision-making regarding, and in the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from, the use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, are fundamental to the realization of Farmers’ Rights, as well as the promotion of Farmers’ Rights at national and international levels”.
	Processing and storage	The Agricultural Support Systems Division, through the Information Network on Post Harvest Operations (INPHO), has consolidated, documented and disseminated information on the traditional processing and storage of a number of foods which are locally grown in developing countries (see at http://www.fao.org/inpho). Much of the information presented in INPHO relates to developing and improving traditional practices. The World Intellectual Property Organization has supported this initiative on the principle that it provides a basis for identifying indigenous technologies and protecting them.
Economic and Social	Nutrition and household food security	The Food and Nutrition Division is systematically incorporating the identification and targeting of indigenous groups and the use of indigenous knowledge and resources in its community-based nutrition programme work. A methodology and procedures for documenting traditional food systems of indigenous peoples have been developed in collaboration with the Centre for Indigenous Peoples’ Nutrition and Environment (CINE) of McGill University, Canada. Through this partnership, FAO has worked with indigenous peoples in Thailand, China and Bangladesh on the identification and re-introduction of the consumption of native foods with good potential for alleviating micronutrient deficiencies, and particularly vitamin A.

Lead department	Activity	Brief description
		The Food and Nutrition Division is also collaborating with the Asian Vegetable Research Development Centre through its Africa Branch in Tanzania on the identification and domestication of indigenous vegetables, some of which are traditionally known and used for addressing micronutrient deficiencies. With support from FAO, the INFOODS Regional Data Centres are carrying out work related to analysing foods of indigenous peoples and compiling those data in national food composition databases and printed food tables.
	Food insecurity and vulnerability profiling and mapping	As part of the Food and Nutrition Division's Nutrition Country Profiling work, subnational nutrition and household food security information related to indigenous groups is systematically incorporated in the profiles. In 2001, the Agriculture and Economic Development Analysis Division carried out special vulnerable group profiling exercises in mountain areas of Viet Nam and Guatemala which are largely inhabited by indigenous groups. Vulnerable group profiles are being prepared for Nepal and Ethiopia and a special paper on mountain people has been prepared in the Department in the context of the International Year of Mountains. The Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems (FIVIMS) programme is integrating information on food insecure and vulnerable groups at the national and subnational levels. FIVIMS is designed to capture information on indigenous peoples as they are often amongst the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. Indigenous peoples' organizations are among the various stakeholders involved in the FIVIMS process.

Lead department	Activity	Brief description
Forestry	Sustainable forest management	Participation and empowerment of indigenous people in sustainable forest management is an integral part of the efforts of the Forestry Department. Specific examples include: For agricultural and timber products, certification and benefit sharing mechanisms have been established in order to monitor and evaluate the ecologically friendly, economically viable and/or socially equitable use of these products. Criteria and indicators have been elaborated, against which production and commercialization are assessed. Fair trade schemes and benefit sharing arrangements focus on social aspects of trade and the adequate sharing of benefits among stakeholders, including local and indigenous communities. Non-wood forest products (NWFP) have only recently been incorporated in some of these mechanisms. The relevance of these mechanisms for the sustainable use of NWFP is being analysed and the methods used to assess the sustainable production and commercialization of NWFP are being tested and documented. In forest extension the emphasis is on demonstrating multi-partnership extension models for the forest sector; supply chains for timber and NWFP that demonstrate principles of sustainable forest management, and social and economic equity; and the generation of mechanisms for enhancing market access of tree and forest product users and gatherers. Indigenous peoples being the custodians of much of the physical and intellectual wealth of forests, are the instrumental partner in many such initiatives. In the Forests, Trees and People Programme (FTPP), there is a commitment to the betterment of indigenous/local forest users in Asia, Latin America and Africa through thematic support in conflict management, marketing analysis and development, participatory processes, and gender. FFTP support to partners

Lead department	Activity	Brief description
		includes: alliances to promote the community forestry bill addressing fundamental rights of hill tribes in northern Thailand; the Indigenous, Peasant and Afro-American Co-ordination for Community Agroforestry which facilitates indigenous people's experimentation in community forestry and in Peru supports the development of the guidelines for effective management from indigenous perspective in conjunction with COICAP (Coordinadora Agroforestal Campesina e Indigena del Peru) and the World Wildlife Fund. In Latin America, particularly Honduras, the indigenous communities, through their representatives, have been involved in the participatory mechanisms that enable them to put forward their own demands and expectations in relation to forestry policies, laws and regulations. With regard to support provided to countries in developing status and action plans for forest genetic resources, indigenous peoples are among the local people involved in programmes on forest biological diversity. In addition, the Forestry Department's programmes on genetic resources and forest biological diversity support action under article 8 (j) on traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
Office of the Legal Counsel	Development law	The Development Law Service provides assistance in law reform in the technical areas of the Organization's work to member countries, upon request. Customary rights of access to and use of land, water, forestry and fisheries resources, which are traditionally exercised by rural communities either individually or collectively, are taken into consideration both in the legislative review and the legal reform processes that are supported by the Service. Given their particular relevance to the specific needs and circumstances of local populations and indigenous peoples in many countries, these rights are often formally recognized and guaranteed in national legislation on natural resource management.

Lead department	Activity	Brief description
Sustainable Development	Land tenure	The Land Tenure Service's publication, <i>Land Reform Land Settlement and Cooperatives</i>, frequently includes papers directly relating to indigenous land issues. In 2000, for example, the first volume included "Recognition of ancestral domain claims on Palawan Island, the Philippines: is there a future?" The second volume of 2000 contains a paper entitled "Indigenous highlands in transition: the case of Ha Giang province in Northern Vietnam." The first volume for 2001 includes a paper on indigenous rights in Canada, "Canadian land reform: an overview of Aboriginal rights and land settlement claims." Indigenous land issues are included in the Service's major outputs for 2002-2003: "Assistance to land tenure modifications under indigenous and common property resource management systems, for balanced rural development." This activity focuses on the African Lusophone countries, where the Service also has considerable field involvement; on indigenous pastoralism regimes in the Near East; and on preparing guidelines for negotiated land conflict resolution.
	Rural institutions and participation	The strengthening of customary local institutions for natural resource management and for disaster prevention and coping is at the core of an ongoing programme of the Rural Institutions and Participation Service. In the context of decentralization policies and shrinking resources in remote rural areas, the programme also assesses options and mechanisms for improved local level interaction between customary/indigenous local institutions and local government authorities and/or other non-governmental actors. The programme focuses on Central Asia (including north-west China) and the Near East and on nomadic and pastoral societies. The Service has participated in several activities with the Organization's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. One aim of the project "Apiculture development in Karnataka", 1996-1998, was to develop an ecological and economically sound extension programme for landless and tribal people to reintroduce beekeeping and honey production based income and employment generating activities. The project developed and field tested a field manual on ecologically sound and economically viable practices in bee hunting/keeping and honey gathering, production and processing for landless tribal women's groups.

Lead department	Activity	Brief description
		The Service and the Regional Office are also collaborating with the Federation of Savings and Credit Unions in Thailand to develop adapted training materials and approaches for skills development for community groups and cooperatives established by ethnic minority groups in northern Thailand. Again in Thailand, working also with other partners, support has been given for capacity-building of village level women's groups from an ethnic minority to improve the packaging and marketing of their organic farming produce. A third initiative with the Regional Office has been in field project formulation in Maharashtra, India, to develop an institutional capacity-building programme for small and medium enterprise development in the five poorest districts with ethnic minorities in the State of Maharashtra.
	Gender, population and indigenous knowledge	The Women and Population Division provides technical backstopping in both sociocultural research on population issues, including research on the population aspects of indigenous communities, and how gender-specific local knowledge can offer greater understanding about natural resource management (agricultural biodiversity, land, water, mountains, urban agriculture, forests and drylands). Indigenous knowledge is gender-specific and underpins cultural and resource conservation practices, the associated institutions that support these practices and the strengthening of sustainable livelihoods. The Division's project "Gender, biodiversity and local knowledge systems to strengthen agriculture and rural development in southern Africa" (LinKS) is not specific to indigenous peoples, but touches on indigenous knowledge and its preservation. LinKS is a regional project being implemented in Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Mozambique whose main aim is to strengthen the capacity of key institutions and organizations to understand and apply farmers' knowledge and experience for the sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture. The project builds on partner organizations' existing activities in this area and supports their ongoing work by: Training of field level staff in how to record and document local knowledge and how to use gender analysis and participatory methods for both research and action processes;

Lead department	Activity	Brief description
		Grants and technical assistance for research on gender-based differences in farmers' knowledge related to agro-biodiversity conservation; and Technical assistance to enhance communication and exchange of information about the value of local knowledge in agriculture within and between communities, with institutions that interact with farmers and with policy makers. The project works with a diverse group of partners in each country. These include NGOs, government institutions, universities and training and communications entities. Research is also being undertaken on specific issues of local knowledge and biodiversity conservation.
	Research, extension and training	The Research, Extension and Training Division has been involved in, or is planning to carry out, a range of activities related to indigenous issues: In Bolivia project activities have been carried out to implement intercultural communication. This has included development of communication systems managed by indigenous people and the production of multimedia training packages in local languages (Guaraní, Chiquitano and Quechua). A case study is also under preparation for publication on a communication system managed by indigenous people with FAO support "Yasarekomo. Autodiagnóstico de una experiencia de comunicación para el desarrollo del pueblo Guaraní en Bolivia." A further case study has been prepared on local communication and power relations within Guaraní communities: "La participación entre bastidores - La comunicación y toma de decisiones entre los guaraníes del Izozog, Bolivia."

Lead department	Activity	Brief description
		A study and training exercise on Agricultural and Knowledge Information Systems (AKIS) was carried out in 2001 in sub-Zoba Hagaz in Eritrea with Danida and the University of Reading, United Kingdom. This exercise: Identified the information and technology needs of different categories of farmers in the context of their own indigenous knowledge; and Trained extension staff in a methodology for participatory AKIS assessments to develop farmer-led extension (advisory) services. A study analysing information and knowledge-sharing processes among pastoralists in Eritrea, including innovation and change factors, is under way with the University of Rome's Centre for Development Studies on Indigenous Knowledge and Information Systems (IKIS). A field study on the gender dimensions of AKIS is being developed with the University of Sussex, United Kingdom, to be implemented in 2002 in Eritrea or Kenya. The study will identify gender information needs of pastoralist groups on the basis of their indigenous perspectives. A case study on government programmes and education issues related to livelihood conditions of ethnic minority groups in northern Thailand is being finalized together with the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.