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COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS

Seventieth Session

Rome, 7-9 October 2014

MULTI- YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK (MYPOW) OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS: PROGRESS REPORT

Executive Summary

This document presents the progress report of the CCP Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2012-16, which was approved by the 69th Session of the Committee in 2012. The CCP MYPOW responds to the recommendations contained in the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal (IPA). The development of multi-year programmes of work by the Governing Bodies is meant to serve as an instrument to improve effectiveness of governance.

Suggested action by the Committee

- The Committee is invited to review the progress report of the implementation of the CCP MYPOW and to provide recommendations for further improvement in the future.
- The Committee may also wish to request the Bureau and the Secretariat to develop a draft MYPOW for the period 2016-19 on the basis of the guidance provided in the present session, for consideration and adoption by the 71st Session of the CCP.

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I. BACKGROUND

1. In line with the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal (IPA), the CCP, like other governing bodies and technical committees, prepared in 2012 a Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) for the period covering until 2016. The MYPOW, serving as an instrument to improve accountability and effectiveness of governance, was approved by the CCP at its 69th Session in May 2012 and subsequently endorsed, as part of the Committee's report, by the 145th Session of the Council and 38th Session of the Conference.
2. The MYPOW was developed based on the terms of reference of the Committee. The CCP conducts periodic reviews of commodity problems of international character and prepares factual and interpretative surveys of the world commodity situation, with a view to guiding concerted action by Members and the Organization. It advises the Council on FAO's overall work programme relating to agricultural commodity markets, agricultural and trade policy and related emerging issues. The Committee provides evidence-based advice and action-oriented recommendations to the Conference on global policy and regulatory matters related to its areas of mandate.
3. The CCP MYPOW 2012-2016 is attached as annex to this document.

II. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE MYPOW 2012-2016

4. In line with the approved MYPOW 2012-2016, regular inter-sessional activities were facilitated by the Chairperson and the Bureau, with support from the Secretariat. Five meetings of the CCP Bureau were organized to discuss the follow-up to the last CCP session as well as the preparation for the next session.
5. In considering the needed additional amendments to the Committee's Rules of Procedure, the Bureaus of the CCP and COAG established an informal joint working group with the aim to develop a harmonized and consistent proposal. The informal joint working group met three times to examine various issues related to the Rules of Procedure. The proposed changes agreed by the working group were subsequently reviewed and endorsed by the CCP Bureau. All the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure were prepared in close consultation with the FAO Legal and Ethics Office (LEG).
6. The CCP Bureau has also improved the governance of the Committee by consulting with the regional groups, through the regional Bureau member representatives. This was particularly useful during the revision of the Rules of Procedure and the preparation of the draft agenda of the 70th Session of the Committee.

A. Strategy, priority setting and budget planning

7. The 69th Session of the Committee reviewed the state of commodity markets and policy matters related to markets and trade as well as key issues and work priorities in international commodity markets. The Committee's guidance and recommendations have provided a solid basis for setting work priorities and developing the Organization's work programme in the area of commodity markets and trade within the Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2014-17 and the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2012-13.
8. The Chairperson presented the report of the 69th Session of the CCP to the 145th Session of the Council in December 2012, highlighting the Committee's recommendations regarding the technical priorities to be mainstreamed into the new Strategic Objectives and action plans and programmes for the future work of the Organization. The recommendations were fully endorsed by the Council and included in its final report¹.

¹ Report of the Council of FAO, Hundred and Forty-fifth Session, Rome, 3-7 December 2012

B. Advice on global policy and regulatory matters

9. The Committee, through its Chairperson, presented its recommendations to the 38th Session of the Conference in a timely manner. The recommendations, including those related to the work priority areas, were fully endorsed by, and reflected in the report of, the 38th Session of the Conference (June 2013)².

10. During the 69th Session, the CCP hosted a special event on “FAO-Cooperatives: Working Together for the 2012 International Year of Cooperatives”, with the participation of the President of Costa Rica and FAO Director-General. The special event also saw the participation of several ministers and other stakeholders. Two Special Ambassadors for Cooperatives were nominated on this occasion.

11. An informal seminar for FAO Permanent Representatives on “WTO issues in the run-up to the 9th WTO Ministerial Conference in Bali” was held on 18 November 2013. The objectives of the seminar were to: provide an update to the Permanent Representatives on developments in the negotiations in relation to agriculture; discuss potential food security and development implications of any amendments to the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA); and identify areas for further assessment on trade and food security in the post-Bali agenda. The informal seminar was chaired by the CCP Chairperson and saw the participation of FAO Director-General.

12. As a follow-up to the informal seminar, and at the request of Members, following the 9th WTO Ministerial Conference (Bali, December 2013) the CCP Secretariat produced a document entitled “The Bali Package – implications for trade and food security”. The document was made available to Members through the Members Gateway as well as the Trade and Markets Division (EST) web pages.

13. Relevant to the terms of reference of the CCP, FAO organized three high-level events in 2012-2013, providing a forum for policy dialogue and exchange of views:

- High-level event on food price volatility and the role of speculation (6 July 2012).
- Ministerial Meeting on food price volatility (16 October 2012).
- Ministerial Meeting on international food prices (7 October 2013).

C. Work planning and working methods

14. CCP report: the format of the documents and the deliberations at the 69th Session of the Committee had enabled the formulation of a concise report embodying specific action-oriented recommendations for presentation to the FAO Council and Conference.

15. During that session, and for the first time, the Committee reviewed and approved its MYPOW for the period 2012-2016. This represented an important step in the improvement of the work of the CCP, namely accountability and effectiveness of governance.

16. Furthermore, the Committee endorsed the proposal to enlarge its Bureau membership from three to seven members, with one member by regional group³, contributing to improved working methods and better governance. This has facilitated the interaction with the different regional groups, ensuring a more balanced regional representation.

17. The CCP Bureau, and particularly the Chairperson, has maintained regular and constant contact with the Secretariat, located in the Trade and Markets Division (EST).

² Report of the Conference of FAO, Thirty-eighth Session, Rome, 15-22 June 2013

³ One member each from: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Near East, North America, and South West Pacific.

18. Draft agenda: the draft agenda for the 70th Session of the CCP was prepared through close consultation between the Bureau and the Secretariat.

III. SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE

19. The Committee is invited to:

- i) review the progress report of the implementation of its MYPOW 2012-16, in accordance with its terms of reference and mandate;
- ii) consider the following recommendations for further improvement of the MYPOW in the future:
 - maintain and strengthen the method of preparation of the draft agenda through consultations with Members by the Chairperson of the Committee and the other Bureau members;
 - subject to resource availability, plan and organize more regular inter-sessional activities and events on issues of topical importance to the international community falling within the mandate of the CCP;
 - increase interaction with other relevant organizations and explore options for stronger interactions between the Committee and civil society and the private sector, as appropriate;
 - promote and enhance the visibility of the work of the CCP, including through the possible participation of Bureau members in international meetings and events;
 - work to ensure greater awareness of the results of the work of the Committee.

20. The Committee may wish to request the Bureau and the Secretariat to develop a draft MYPOW for the four-year period 2016-19, on the basis of the guidance provided in the present session, for consideration and adoption by the 71st Session of the CCP.

ANNEX

COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS

Sixty-ninth Session
Rome, 28-30 May 2012

MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK (MYPOW) 2012-16 OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS (CCP 12/INF/10)

Executive Summary

The Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal (IPA), adopted by the Conference in 2008, calls for the development of Multi-year Programmes of Work (MYPOW) for the Governing Bodies, as instruments to improve effectiveness of governance. Specifically, under IPA actions 2.70 and 2.71, the Governing Bodies are required to prepare a MYPOW of at least four years, each biennium, for review by the Council and/or Conference in accordance with the respective reporting lines.

The document contains CCP's draft MYPOW for the period 2012–2016 which was prepared by the Bureau of the Committee, with support from the CCP Secretariat.

Suggested action by the Committee

- The Committee is invited to review the draft MYPOW and amend it as appropriate.
- The Committee may wish to approve the agreed MYPOW for 2012–2016.

I. Overall Objectives for the Committee on Commodity Problems for 2012-2016

1. The Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) conducts periodic reviews of commodity problems of an international character and prepares factual and interpretative surveys of the world commodity situation, with a view to guiding concerted action by Member Nations and the Organization. It advises the Council on the overall work programme of the Organization relating to agricultural commodity markets, agricultural and trade policy and emerging issues related to agricultural markets and trade. The Committee provides evidence-based advice and action-oriented recommendations to the Conference on global policy and regulatory matters, in its areas of mandate.

II. Results for 2012-2016

A. Strategy, priority setting and budget planning

2. Result: The Organization has a clear strategy, well-defined priorities and developed programmes on issues of relevance to the mandate and terms of reference of Committee.
3. Indicators and targets:
 - Summary presentation of developments in the areas of mandate is part of the regular sessions of CCP.
 - Committee's recommendations made on pertinent aspects of the Strategic Framework, the Medium Term Plan (MTP) and the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) are reflected in the Council reports.

4. Output: Clear, precise and consensual recommendations on strategy, priorities, programmes and budget for the Organization are considered by Council, providing a solid basis for its guidance and decision-making.

5. Activities:

- Review the current situation in its areas of mandate, including issues of topical significance to the international community.
- Review implementation of the PWB in areas falling within the Committee's competence.
- Formulate clear, consensual, timely, well-developed and actionable recommendations on strategy, priorities, programmes and budget in areas falling within the Committee's competence.
- Organize side events, as appropriate, in the areas of the Committee's mandate.

B. Advice on global policy and regulatory matters

6. Result: Based on the Committee's recommendations, FAO, through Conference, and taking into consideration regional priorities and specificities, gives clear, relevant and useful advice on major policy and regulatory issues confronting the world, regions and individual Member Nations, within the areas of its competence.

7. Indicators and targets:

- Members obtain value from the deliberations of the CCP, using the resulting advice and recommendations to guide domestic actions and policies.
- Clear and action-oriented recommendations on global policy and regulatory matters are reflected in the Committee's reports.
- Clear and specific recommendations made in a timely manner by CCP to the Conference regarding global policy and regulatory matters in areas of mandate.

8. Output: Clear and consensual recommendations for Conference on policy and regulatory frameworks, mechanisms and instruments.

9. Activities:

- Report to Conference on global policy and regulatory issues arising out of the Committee's deliberations.
- Review the status of relevant international agreements and instruments in areas of competence of the Committee.
- Address new and emerging issues and recommend possible policy and action options for Members, FAO and other relevant stakeholders.

III. Effective work planning of CCP

10. Result: CCP works effectively and efficiently, in an action-oriented, inclusive way.

11. Indicators and targets:

- CCP agendas are prepared in close consultation with the Regional Groups, and are focused.
- CCP reports are concise and contain specific, action-oriented recommendations, and are made available to Members, Council and Conference in a timely manner.
- CCP documents are made available in all FAO languages four weeks before commencement of the session.
- Continuity in terms of inter-sessional activities and work of the Committee.

12. Outputs:

- Multi-Year Programme of Work for CCP adopted in 2012.
- Progress report on CCP's MYPOW in 2014.

13. Activities:

- Pay continued attention to effective arrangements for the formulation of agendas and drafting of the final report.
- Consider ways to improve the conduct of sessions, including more efficient use of the time available.
- Work out clear modalities for the election and operation of the Bureau Members with a view to enhancing continuity between sessions.
- Focus side events on key and emerging issues.
- Facilitate coordination with other FAO technical committees, as appropriate.

IV. Working methods

14. The work of the Committee is based on regular review and analysis of global trends in commodity markets, trade policy and related issues within the areas of its competence. It operates based on the following working methods:

- Regular contacts and consultation with the CCP Secretariat based in the Trade and Markets Division (EST).
- Collaboration with FAO Governing Bodies and relevant statutory bodies under FAO auspices.
- Liaison with the Programme Committee on strategy and priority matters and with the Finance Committee on financial and budgetary matters.
- Interaction with other international organizations active in areas of relevance to the Committee.
- Regular inter-sessional activities facilitated by the Chairperson and the Bureau and with proactive support from the Secretariat.
- Promotion and facilitation of the participation of farmers and civil society organizations and the private sector, within the rules and regulations of the Organization.